

## **DH13: Dental Hygiene Degree (replaces DH03: Dental Hygiene in the Quarter System)**

The Dental Hygiene associate degree program is a sequence of courses that prepares students for positions in the dental profession. Learning opportunities develop academic, technical, and professional knowledge and skills required for job acquisition, retention, and advancement. Registered dental hygienists work in a variety of professional settings. The public is most familiar with dental hygienists in the private dental office, where they perform numerous critical services designed to detect and prevent diseases of the mouth. These include oral prophylaxis; examining the head, neck, and oral areas for signs of disease; educating patients about oral hygiene; taking or developing radiographs; and applying fluoride or sealants. In this setting, registered dental hygienists play a vital role in protecting the oral health of the American public. The Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, 211 East Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-2678, 312.440.7494, [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org). This accreditation enables graduates to take any regional or state board in the nation.

**NOTE:** Only one class is accepted into the Dental Hygiene program each year, beginning fall semester.

### **Career Opportunities**

*Most dental hygienists work as part of a dental team in private dental practices. Other employment opportunities exist in Health Management Organizations, hospitals, military bases, and community clinics. Further career choices include working for dental supply companies, dental product or pharmaceutical companies, various government agencies or insurance companies. Many dental hygienists continue their education and complete advanced degrees that will allow them to teach dental hygiene or dental assisting, or become dental practice consultants, researchers, editors, dentists or professional writers.*

### **Transfer of Credit for Dental Hygiene**

Due to the nature of dental hygiene, the admissions requirements and transfer of credit policy for the program require testing a student's level of knowledge when a transfer of any dental hygiene course is considered. According to West Georgia Technical College's policy, if a DHYG course request for transfer credit is received for a course completed with a grade of C or above from another accredited college, a student must take an equivalency examination and in some situations, such as Dental Materials and Radiology, a laboratory competency examination. The didactic and laboratory competency grade must be an 80 or above to consider the transfer of credit. The time limitations for considering these credits are the same as for science courses; the course must have been within the previous seven years. Clinical and preclinical courses will not be considered for transfer due to the uniqueness of each dental hygiene program.

### **Competitive Selection Process**

#### **Level I: Dental Hygiene Preparatory/Core Courses**

The annual Level I deadline is June 1.

To be eligible for the Dental Hygiene program selection, the student must complete the following requirements by the applicable Level I deadline. The student:

- Must complete the WGTC student application process and achieve regular status program.
- Must be in good academic standing with the College.
- Must complete the following courses with a minimum grade of C: BIOL 2113/BIOL 2113L, BIOL 2114/BIOL 2114L, ENGL 1101, MATH 1101 or MATH 1111, and COMP 1000. CHEM 1211 must be completed with a C or higher prior to entering the program but the grade for this course is not calculated in the GPA for the Competitive Selection Process.

- Must possess certification in CPR by the American Heart Association/BLS for the Healthcare Provider.
- Must complete the Psychological Services Bureau (PSB) Health Occupations Aptitude Exam. Students may schedule a testing date by calling the Continuing Education Department at 770.836.6615. There is a fee for each attempt at taking this exam. Students are allowed to attempt the exam twice in an effort to improve their scores.
- Must submit a Health Services Competitive Selection File Review Request to the Office of Student Affairs upon completion of the required courses. Students must also attach a copy of their CPR certification card and a copy of the PSB Health Occupations Aptitude Exam score report.

### **Level II: Dental Hygiene Competitive Selection**

The competitive selection is based on the following scoring process:

- Students must achieve a cumulative minimum grade point average of 3.0 on the Level I core courses required for eligibility to the selection process. The academic performance demonstrated in the required Level I courses will comprise 50 percent of the overall score.
- Students must achieve a minimum raw score of 200 on the Psychological Service Bureau (PSB) Health Occupations Aptitude Examination Edition 3 or a minimum raw score of 250 on other Editions of the PSB. The score on the PSB will comprise 50 percent of the overall score.
- Students will receive an additional one (1) point in the competitive selection process for any health care clinical work. Previous work experience of any type in a dental related field such as lab technician or front office will give an additional two (2) points in the competitive selection process. More than one year equivalent of full-time experience as a dental assistant will give three (3) points in the competitive selection process.
- Students with the highest overall scores will be selected for program admission.

### **Level III: Dental Hygiene Occupational and Clinical Courses**

Students selected for admission to the Dental Hygiene program will complete the occupational and clinical program courses in a prescribed sequence as a class unit. A class is admitted beginning each fall semester.

***Credit Required for Graduation: Minimum of 85 credit hours***

### ***Curriculum***

The requirements for general core curriculum of all associate degree programs are a minimum 15 credit hours using the curriculum structure outlined in the beginning of this degree program section. **The Dental Hygiene associate degree program requires an additional 3 credit hours in Area I, an additional 3 credit hours in Area II, and an additional 4 hours in Area III, for a total of 22 credit hours.** All course prerequisites must be met. Please see Associate Degree General Education Requirement Section for Area I, Area II, Area III, and Area IV requirements.

_____	General Core Courses	
_____	Area I requirements (minimum 6 hours; must include ENGL 1101 and SPCH 1101)	
_____	Area II requirements (minimum 6 hours; must include PSYC 1101 and SOCI 1101)	
_____	Area III requirements (minimum 7 hours; must include MATH 1101 or MATH 1111 and CHEM 1211/ CHEM 1211L)	
_____	Area IV requirements (minimum 3 hours)	
	<b>Program Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>

<i>Occupational Courses</i>			
_____	BIOL 2113	Anatomy and Physiology I	3
_____	BIOL 2113L	Anatomy and Physiology Lab I	1
_____	BIOL 2114	Anatomy and Physiology II	3
_____	BIOL 2114L	Anatomy and Physiology Lab II	1
_____	BIOL 2117	Introductory Microbiology	3
_____	BIOL 2117L	Introductory Microbiology Lab	1
_____	COMP 1000	Introduction to Computers	3
_____	DHYG 1000	Tooth Anatomy and Root Morphology	2
_____	DHYG 1010	Oral Embryology and Histology	1
_____	DHYG 1020	Head and Neck Anatomy	2
_____	DHYG 1030	Dental Materials	2
_____	DHYG 1040	Preclinical Dental Hygiene Lecture	2
_____	DHYG 1050	Preclinical Dental Hygiene Lab	2
_____	DHYG 1070	Radiology Lecture	2
_____	DHYG 1090	Radiology Lab	1
_____	DHYG 1110	Clinical Dental Hygiene I Lecture	1
_____	DHYG 1111	Clinical Dental Hygiene I Lab	3
_____	DHYG 1206	Pharmacology and Pain Control	3
_____	DHYG 2010	Clinical Dental Hygiene II Lecture	2
_____	DHYG 2020	Clinical Dental Hygiene II Lab	2
_____	DHYG 2050	Oral Pathology	3
_____	DHYG 2070	Community Dental Health	3
_____	DHYG 2080	Clinical Dental Hygiene III Lecture	2
_____	DHYG 2090	Clinical Dental Hygiene III Lab	4
_____	DHYG 2110	Biochemistry and Nutrition Fundamentals for the Dental Hygienist	3
_____	DHYG 2130	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV Lecture	1
_____	DHYG 2140	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV Lab	4
_____	DHYG 2200	Periodontology	3