



Higher Education Center

880 National City Boulevard, National City, California 91950, Telephone: (619) 216-6665 Extension 4862
Visit us at: www.swccd.edu/hecn and click on Academic Programs

Dental Hygiene Program Information Packet

Introduction

The Dental Hygiene Program provides basic education and experience, to prepare graduates for licensure as dental hygienists. A class of 36 students will begin each year in the Fall semester and continue for two years with graduation at the completion of the Spring semester. Dental Hygiene classes and clinical practice are conducted at the National City Higher Education Center. Students generally have classes five (5) days per week.

General Description

A dental hygienist is a licensed, preventive oral health professional who provides educational, clinical, and therapeutic services to the public in a variety of settings. As the preventive specialist of the dental healthcare team, the hygienist promotes and maintains oral wellness through such services as oral health assessments, taking x-rays, dental health education, removal of deposits and stains from teeth, and application of sealants and fluorides.

As a healthcare professional, the dental hygienist is responsible for protecting and strictly maintaining the confidentiality of information pertaining to the health status of individuals.

Career Options

The dental hygienist primarily provides preventive and therapeutic services in a dental office setting or clinic. They may also provide their services in public health settings, schools, skilled nursing facilities and mobile clinics. Clinical practice generally requires an associate degree education. The hygienist may also serve as an administrator/manager for community dental health programs or dental product companies; an educator in dental hygiene or dental school programs; or a researcher in a university or corporate setting. Many of these roles may require a baccalaureate or graduate level degree.

Admission Policy

A special admission procedure has been instituted for the Dental Hygiene Program. A separate application is required for this program and is available at the Higher Education Center, National City (619) 216-6665 ext. 4862.

All students are admitted to the Dental Hygiene Program on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students may apply to the Dental Hygiene Program when pre-requisite course work is completed. Work in progress is **not** acceptable.

Prerequisites

Biol 260	Human Anatomy*	5
Biol 261	Principles of Human Physiology*	4
Biol 265	General Microbiology*	5
Chem 100	Introduction to General Chemistry*	4
Chem 110	Elementary Organic and Biological Chemistry*	4
Hlth 204	Fundamentals of Nutrition.....	3
Comm 103 <i>or</i> 174	Oral Communication <i>or</i> Interpersonal Communication.....	3
Psych 101	General Psychology	3
Soc 101 <i>or</i> 110	Introduction to Sociology <i>or</i> Contemporary Social Problems.....	3
Engl 115	Reading Composition: Exposition and Argumentation.....	3
	TOTAL UNITS:	<u>37</u>

*The following criteria must be met for **SCIENCE COURSES** before submitting an application:

- **A cumulative grade point average of 2.70 or higher.**
- **A minimum of 4 units each with a "C" grade or better.**
- **They must have a recency of five years prior to beginning the dental hygiene program.**

Please note: A credit/no credit grade in the science course will not be accepted. All other prerequisite courses must be completed with a "C" grade or better. Quarter units are not equal to semester units. Transfer courses taken in the quarter system must be converted to required semester units and must meet the minimum unit requirements.

Additional Prerequisites

Demonstrate college level **reading proficiency** by means of one of the following:

- a. "proficient" score on the Southwestern College Reading Assessment test.
- b. earn a "C" or better in English 158, English 116 or equivalent reading courses.
- c. the equivalent as demonstrated by an approved petition (petition forms available from the Southwestern College Assessment Office).
- d. a transcript indicating an earned associate or baccalaureate degree from a U.S. accredited institution.

Note: an English composition course may not meet this requirement.

Demonstrate requisite **math proficiency** by means of one of the following:

- a. eligibility for Math 70 from the Elementary Algebra assessment.
- b. earn a "C" or better in Math 60 or higher numbered math course.

- c. the equivalent as demonstrated by an approved petition (petition forms available from the Southwestern College Assessment Office).
- d. a transcript indicating an earned associate or baccalaureate degree from a U.S. accredited institution.

Additional Note: Residents of San Diego County receive priority for the first 12 seats in each class.

Selection Process

Applications are considered in the order in which they are received **AND** after all official transcripts have been received. During the spring semester, applicants will be notified of a position in the program. All applications receive equal priority for admissions. In the event that more than one qualified applicant is received on any one day, a random drawing will be used to select the applicant's priority position that day.

Additional Requirements

Once admitted to the Dental Hygiene Program, you must provide verification of the following:

1. Current CPR Certification. (Professional Rescuer from Red Cross or Healthcare Provider from American Heart Association)
2. Rubella and Rubella Immunity Verification
3. Hepatitis B Immunity Verification
4. Varicella Immunity Verification
5. Tuberculosis Screening
6. Physical Health Examination

Occupational Hazards

Occupational hazards for the field of dental hygiene may include, but are not limited to: exposure to infectious diseases such as AIDS or hepatitis, exposure to hazardous chemicals or substances, accidental injury, neuromuscular problems, exposure to blood borne pathogens, exposure to radiation and allergic reactions to latex, anesthetic agents, or other chemical agents.

Approximate Cost

The cost of the Dental Hygiene Program (for students who meet the California residency requirement) is currently estimated to be approximately eight thousand dollars (\$ 8,000). The greatest direct expense is at the beginning of the first semester. Textbooks, instructional supplies and uniforms are the major cost items. Living expenses and cost of transportation to campus and clinical facilities are not included in this estimated cost nor are the prerequisite courses or the general education courses for the degree.

Some financial assistance is available through the Financial Aid Office. Applications for assistance should be filed early (priority filing is the first week of March). Applications are available at the Financial Aid Office or the Higher Education Center. It is recommended that the student not work more than 20 hours per week.

Course Sequence Policy

First Semester

DH 101	Introduction to Clinical Concepts	2
DH 102	Introduction to Clinic	2
DH 105	Infection Control	1
DH 111A	Dental Radiography	2
DH 111B	Dental Radiography Lab	1
DH 114	Head and Neck Anatomy	2
DH 117	Medical/Dental Emergencies	1
DH 123	Oral Anatomy and Physiology	1
DH 124	Oral Embryology and Histology	2

Second Semester

DH 103	Patient Education	2
DH 112	Clinic I	4
DH 113	Advanced Clinical Concepts	2
DH 115	Periodontics	2
DH 116	Dental Materials	2
DH 121	Pain Control	2

Summer Session

DH 118	Transitional Clinic	1.5
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Third Semester

DH 200A	Community Dental Health I	2
DH 122	Clinic II	4
DH 203	Pathology	2
DH 204	Preventive Dentistry	1
DH 205	Advanced Periodontics	2
DH 206	Dental Pharmacology	2

Fourth Semester

DH 106	Special Need Patient Care	2
DH 111C	Radiographic Interpretation	1
DH 200B	Community Dental Health II	1
DH 211	Ethics and Jurisprudence	2
DH 202	Clinic III	4
DH 214	Seminar	2
		<u>2</u>
		54.50

All Dental Hygiene Courses are offered in the above sequence. Each course builds upon the previous and concurrent courses taken; therefore, courses *cannot* be taken out of sequence. Each Dental Hygiene course is offered only once during the academic year.

Retention Policy

A student is given two attempts within the program to achieve success. Students who fail to earn a 75% ("C") or better in any Dental Hygiene course will be dismissed from the program effective on the last day of that course, and must reapply for admission. Once a properly completed application is received, readmission will be based upon a space-available basis. Students may be readmitted only one time. A second failure to earn 75% ("C") or better in any Dental Hygiene course will result in automatic dismissal from the program with no option for readmission. Failure to earn a 75% ("C") or better in 2 (two) or more Dental Hygiene courses in the same semester will result in automatic dismissal from the program with no option for readmission.

A student who fails to earn a 75% ("C") or better in any Dental Hygiene course must meet with the faculty and the Director of the Dental Hygiene Program within one week. The student may also meet with the Provost of the Higher Education Center, National City. After a second failure to earn a 75% ("C") or better in any Dental Hygiene course, the student is encouraged to meet with a counselor and the Director of the Dental Hygiene Program to discuss alternative educational and career opportunities.

Students who have been out of the program for two semesters or more will be subject to evaluation of skills and knowledge to assess that retention of content is sufficient to ensure safe practice when they re-enter the program. This evaluation may include written testing and/or actual clinical practice. Auditing of some courses may be necessary before readmission.

Grading Policy

The Grading System employed in the Dental Hygiene Program is a grading scale. Courses in the Dental Hygiene Program are not offered credit/no credit.

The Dental Hygiene Program percentages for grades are as follows:

A	93-100%
B	85-92.9%
C	75-84.9%
D	70-74.9%
F	69.9% and below

A grade of 75% ("C") or better is required in all dental hygiene courses for progression in the Dental Hygiene Program and to graduate.

Withdrawal Policy

Students that withdraw from the program for personal reasons must reapply for admission. Once a properly completed application is received the student will be placed in the next available position on the waiting list.

Students who withdraw from the program are encouraged to make an appointment with a counselor and the Director of the program. Personal, academic, and career counseling is always available to the student and may be given at that time.

Graduation Requirements

Please note that Southwestern College graduation requirements need to be met before completion of the program. *It is strongly recommended that you complete the graduation requirements along with the prerequisites of the Dental Hygiene Program.* Students must consult a counselor to assist them in developing a Student Educational Plan (SEP) so that all requirements are met on schedule. The counselor assigned to the Dental Hygiene Program is Dean Aragoza. Call the Higher Education Center in National City at (619) 216-6665 ext. 4851 for an appointment.

Upon completion of all requirements including passage of the National Board Examination during the program, the student will receive an Associate in Science degree from Southwestern College, and be eligible to apply for the state licensure exam to practice as a dental hygienist.

Persons with Disabilities

To request alternate forms of this application or for assistance in requesting accommodations for disabilities, contact Disability Supports Services at (619) 482-6512.



Dental Hygiene Prerequisite Grid/SDSU and San Diego Community Colleges 2009-2010

**THIS GRID IS DESIGNED TO BE AN ADVISEMENT TOOL ONLY,
NOT A GUARANTEE OF COURSE EQUIVALENCY FOR PRIOR COURSEWORK.**

(Prepared By Articulation Office at Southwestern College)

<i>Southwestern</i>	<i>SDSU</i>	<i>Cuyamaca</i>	<i>Grossmont</i>	<i>Imperial Valley</i>	<i>Miracosta</i>	<i>Palomar</i>	<i>*SDCCD</i>
BIOL 260	BIOL 212	BIO 140	BIO 140 **	BIOL 200 & 202 or 204 & 206	BIO 210	ZOO 200	BIOL 230
BIOL 261	BIOL 261	BIO 141 & BIO 141L	BIO 141 & 142 **	BIOL 200 & 202 or 204 & 206	BIO 220	ZOO 203	BIOL 235
BIOL 265	BIOL 211 and 211L	BIO 152	BIO 152	BIOL 220	BIO 230	MICR 200	BIOL 205
HLTH 204	NUTR 107	HED 155	CA/HED 155	NC	HEAL 100	FCS/HE 165	NUTR 150 (M, MIR)
CHEM 100	CHEM 100	CHEM 115 or 120	CHEM 115 or 120	CHEM 100	CHEM 100	CHEM 100	CHEM 100 & 100L
CHEM 110	CHEM 130	CHEM 116	CHEM 116	CHEM 160	CHEM 102	CHEM 105	CHEM 130 & 130L
COMM 103 or 174 or 176	COMM 103 or NC or NC	COMM 122 or 120 or 124	COMM 122 or 120 or 124	SPCH 100 or NC or NC	COMM 101 or 207	SPCH 100 or 115 or 131	SPEE 103 or BLAS 106 (M) or SPEE 135 or 180
ENGL 115	ENGL/RWS 100	ENGL 120	ENGL 120	ENGL 101	ENGL 100	ENG 100	ENGL 101 or 105
PSYC 101	PSY 101	PSY 120	PSY 120	PSY 101	PSYC 101	PSYC 100	PSYC 101
SOC 101 or 110	SOC 101 or 102	SOC 120 or 130	SOC 120 or 130	SOC 101 or 102	SOC 101 or 102	SOC 100 or 110	SOCO 101 or 110
MATH 60 or Higher	GMS 91 or Higher	MATH 103 or 110 or Higher	MATH 103 or 110 or Higher	MATH 090 or Higher	MATH 101 or 101A and 101B or Higher	MATH 60 or Higher	MATH 96 or MATH 98 (City) or Higher
RDG 158 or ENGL 116	NC or ENGL/RWS 200	ENGL 110R or 124	ENGL 110R or 124	ENGL 111 or 201	READ 100 or ENGL 201 or 202	READ 120 or ENG 202 or 203	ENGL 205

NC: No Course

***SDCCD:** San Diego Community College District includes City College, Mesa College, and Miramar College; (M) and (MIR) indicate offered only at San Diego Mesa or Miramar Colleges

**** Southwestern College will also accept Grossmont College's BIO 144 & 145 to satisfy the Anatomy and Physiology requirement. Both courses must be completed to satisfy the requirement.**



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DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION:

1. Complete the application form (pages 9 and 10).
2. Order official transcripts. Transcripts must be ***official*** copies and ***mailed directly from your respective college*** to the Dental Hygiene Program c/o Higher Education Center. Hand carried transcripts or transcripts issued to students are not acceptable. If your course work is from a college outside of San Diego County, please include course descriptions with your application. Applicants cannot be placed on the priority list until the department has received copies of the official transcripts and all prerequisites and grades verified. *If you are Southwestern College student, you do not need to order transcripts.*
3. Provide a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope. This will be used to notify the applicant when space in the next class is being offered.
4. Complete Application Checklist

APPLICATION: Complete the application form as follows:

1. Name - last, first and middle initial. If course work from other colleges is under a different name, please list that name.
2. This should be a permanent address. If you have a change of address, name, and/or phone number from that listed on the application, please notify the Higher Education Center in writing, and, if currently enrolled, the Admissions Office. We are not responsible for information and materials sent, if we have not received information concerning the changes. If we are unable to reach you, you will lose priority for space in the program.
3. External agencies frequently request statistics on the ethnic make-up of our student body. This information is helpful to us, but you are not required to answer this item.
4. *Mail* your application via **certified mail** to:
Dental Hygiene Program
Southwestern College
c/o Higher Education Center
880 National City Blvd.
National City, CA 91950

*All application materials must be complete and accurate.
False or incomplete applications are cause for disqualification.*

Applications will be accepted by mail only and will NOT be accepted in person. Please do not contact the Dental Hygiene Department for application status.

You will be notified by mail.



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APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Date: _____

Applicant's Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

1. Application form completed.
2. Official transcripts showing completion of prerequisites ***ordered from your college(s)***.
3. Application Checklist completed.

Are you a current/previous SWC student? If yes, student I.D.# _____

Pre-Requisite Course	Course No.	College	Grade	Semester & Year
College English Composition	Engl 115			
Anatomy	Biol 260			
Physiology	Biol 261			
Microbiology	Biol 265			
Chemistry	Chem 100			
Organic Chemistry	Chem 110			
Fundamentals of Nutrition	Hlth 204			
Oral Communication <i>or</i> Interpersonal Communication	Comm 103, 174 or 176			
General Psychology	Psyc 101			
Introduction to Sociology <i>or</i> Contemporary Social Problems	Soc 101 or 110			

For Office Use Only

<i>Sciences: 2.7 GPA</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Grade Points</i>
Anatomy			
Physiology			
Microbiology			
Chemistry			
Organic Chemistry			

Average Science G.P.A.: _____

Student Meets Criteria? Yes No

College Reading requisite met? Yes No

Math requisite met? Yes No

Comments: _____