Dental Hygiene Program Information Packet

Introduction

The Dental Hygiene Program provides basic education and entry-level experience, to prepare graduates for licensure as dental hygienists. Approximately 36 students are accepted and begin each fall semester for a two-year program. Dental hygiene didactic and clinical courses are conducted at the Higher Education Center at National City. Classes are held five (5) days per week. The program is full time (see page 7 for semester unit load).

General Career Description

A dental hygienist is a licensed, preventive oral health professional providing education, clinical, and therapeutic services to the public in a variety of settings. As the preventive specialist of the dental healthcare team, the dental hygienist promotes and maintains oral wellness through services such as oral health assessments, education, removal of soft and hard deposits from teeth, and use of adjunct services such as sealants, fluorides, and chemotherapeutic agents.

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

Career Options

Dental hygienists can provide preventive and therapeutic services in a dental office or clinic setting. They may also work in public health settings, schools, skilled nursing facilities and mobile clinics. Clinical practice requires a minimum of an associate degree education.

- The dental hygienist may also serve as an administrator/manager for community or state dental health programs; may provide sales and education for dental product companies; may be an educator in a dental hygiene or dental school program; or a researcher in a university or corporate setting. Many of these roles require a baccalaureate or graduate level degree.

Admissions & Application Process

The dental hygiene education curriculum is a post-secondary scientifically oriented program which is rigorous and intensive. Because enrollment is limited by facility capacity, special program admission criteria and procedures are necessary. Applicants for the Dental Hygiene program must be proficient in several subject areas. Prerequisites include courses in Life Sciences, Oral and Written Communication, Psychology, Sociology, Nutrition and Math. All of the required prerequisites are mandated by the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC) and the Commission of Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Important Note: prerequisite coursework must be completed and recency requirements met at time of application. No “In Progress” course(s) will be accepted.
### Dental Hygiene (DH) Program Prerequisites

All DH prerequisites must be completed by the time of application (January-February). It is highly recommended that all general education requirements for the Associate Degree be completed prior to entering the program in August.*

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<td></td>
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<td>CHEM 100 or 170 or equivalent; BIOL 260 or equivalent</td>
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<td>or</td>
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<td>CHEM 170</td>
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<td>CHEM 102</td>
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<td>or</td>
<td></td>
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<td>CHEM 110</td>
<td>ELEMENTARY ORGANIC &amp; BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY</td>
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<td>CHEM 100 or 170 or 200 or equivalent</td>
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**Additional Prerequisites:**

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<tr>
<td>ENGL 115</td>
<td>COLLEGE COMPOSITION: READING &amp; WRITING ANALYTICALLY</td>
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<td>MATH course from the following:</td>
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<td>MATH 60</td>
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<td>MATH 72</td>
<td>ALGEBRA I &amp; II</td>
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<td>or more advanced course with equivalent content; no support courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH 204</td>
<td>FUNDAMENTALS OF NUTRITION</td>
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<td>One COMM course from the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 103</td>
<td>ORAL COMMUNICATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 174</td>
<td>INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION</td>
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<td>COMM 176</td>
<td>INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION</td>
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<td>COMM 104</td>
<td>PUBLIC SPEAKING</td>
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<td>PSYC 101</td>
<td>GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY</td>
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<td>SOC 101</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOC 110</td>
<td>CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*All of the required prerequisites and requirements are mandated by the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC) and the Commission of Dental Accreditation (CODA).*

**For each of these 5 science courses:**

- Must be at least 4 semester units with an in-class lab component (quarter and semester units are not equivalent; 6 quarter units = 4 semester units)
- Must be taken for a letter grade, “C” or better. Pass/No Pass and Credit/No Credit grades are not accepted.
- Exam scores of any kind will not be accepted for substitution.
- Must meet a five year recency requirement at the time of application to the program
- Together they must have a cumulative minimum GPA of 2.7

Southwestern College limits the number of times a student can repeat courses for credit and/or to improve GPA.
**Additional Details on Satisfying Prerequisites**

1. Students must demonstrate requisite **math proficiency** by means of one of the following:
   a. earn a “C” or better in Math 60 or Math 72 or more advanced course with equivalent content; no support courses.
   b. a transcript indicating an earned associate or higher degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college/university and completion of a Math course with equivalent or more advanced content, indicating a grade of “C” or better.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Exams**

If you are using Advanced Placement exams to satisfy a DH prerequisite, official AP scores must be sent directly to SWC Admissions office and must be evaluated for equivalency by the evaluations office prior to the application filing period. **You must petition to receive credit by completing and returning a Student Petition to the Evaluations Office.** *Approved petition for AP credit must be included with DH application for admission as supporting documentation.*

**Student Petition Form:**

**For DH Prerequisites taken at another college/university:**

The Dental Hygiene Program only does an informal evaluation of your transcript if/when you apply to the program and cannot make any pre-determination via email or phone.

DH prerequisites taken at another college/university NOT LISTED on the DH prerequisite equivalency grid (page 8 of this packet), can be reviewed in advance to confirm that the course will be accepted by the DH program. Courses listed on the grid do not require a petition, as they have already been determined as equivalent.

Submit a Petition for Major Substitution for each course along with supporting documentation (course descriptions from the catalog year in which the course was taken, or course syllabus and copy of transcript). A Petition for Major Substitution will only be reviewed **after** the course has been completed, not before.

Petitions should be submitted by the summer prior to applying (or sooner) in case a course is not approved, allowing the student to take a course during the fall semester.

**Petition for Substitution of Major Requirement Form:**
General Education and Graduation Requirements

Please note that general education and Southwestern College graduation and proficiency requirements need to be met before completion of the dental hygiene program. *It is strongly recommended that you complete these requirements along with the prerequisites for the Dental Hygiene Program prior to entering the program.* Students must consult with a counselor to assist in developing a Student Educational Plan (SEP) to ensure requirements are met on schedule.

The Dental Hygiene Program counselor is Antoinette Nagai. To schedule an appointment, contact the Higher Education Center in National City at (619) 216-6665 Ext. 4851 or 4862.

*IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO MEET WITH A COUNSELOR TO REVIEW ALL PREREQUISITES AND TO COMPLETE A STUDENT EDUCATION PLAN (SEP), PREFERABLY BY THE EARLY SUMMER, PRIOR TO APPLYING.*
**Admissions Process**

The dental hygiene program accepts 36 students who begin the program in the fall (August). In order to be considered a qualified candidate the applicant must:

1. Complete all dental hygiene prerequisite coursework. **No “In Progress” work is accepted.**
2. Obtain a SWC student identification number.
3. Submit a complete dental hygiene online application prior to the deadline.**
4. Official transcripts that confirm completion of prerequisites must be received at SWC Admissions by the application deadline.

**A separate application is required for this program and is available online during the application filing period.** Filing period dates and the application process is detailed online at [http://www.swccd.edu/index.aspx?page=3290](http://www.swccd.edu/index.aspx?page=3290).

**Selection Process**

Dental hygiene applications are verified by April 30 of each year. Eligible applicants are then placed into the incoming fall class. **Applicants are placed into position based on the date and time that the complete and eligible application was received by the Dental Hygiene Program.** In the case of ‘ties’ the department will use the applicants’ science GPA to break the tie. Once 36 positions are filled, 10 alternates are placed into position using the same criteria (submission date & time and/or GPA).

**IF NOT ACCEPTED**

Applicants not selected are required to complete a NEW application in the next application period (January-February). **There is no waiting list.**

**ALTERNATES**

Candidates placed on the alternate list are not guaranteed a position in the incoming class. Alternates who are not offered a permanent position in the class are required to complete a NEW application in the next application period (January-February).

**Applicants will be selected for a position to start the program only after verification of:**

1. Complete application is received by deadline with **ALL** required documentation.
   
   An application with missing documentation or errors of any kind will be deemed as incomplete and consideration for admission will be forfeited.

2. Confirmation of prerequisites and requirements met and verified as such by the Dental Hygiene Program.

This process will be adhered to for any available position for the program, including an alternate position.
Additional Requirements

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

1. Student Education Plan (SEP)
2. Current CPR Certification: must be Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers. Must include training with the AED. *Certification from an online CPR course not accepted.*
3. Rubeola and Rubella Immunity Verification
4. Hepatitis B Immunity Verification
5. Varicella Immunity Verification
6. Tuberculosis Screening
7. Physical Health Examination

Notice of Occupational Hazards

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

Estimated Program Cost

The cost of the two year Dental Hygiene Program (for students who meet the California residency requirement) is currently estimated to range between $11,000 – 12,000. *The greatest direct expense occurs in the first semester.* Instruments, instructional supplies, textbooks and uniforms are the major cost items. *An estimated cost of $6000 will be needed prior to the start of classes (July 1st approximately).* Living expenses and transportation costs are not included nor is the cost to complete prerequisite/general education courses for the degree.

Financial Aid may be available to those who qualify. Funds are provided by the federal government and the state of California in the form of loans, grants, on-campus jobs and scholarships. Visit the SWC Financial Aid webpage for more information.

Due to the commitment of class and study time, it is recommended that students limit outside employment to no more than 20 hours per week.

Persons with Disabilities

To request alternate forms of this information packet or for assistance in requesting accommodations for disabilities, contact Disability Support Services at (619) 482-6512.
## Program Course Sequence

### First Semester
- **DH 101** Introduction to Clinical Concepts 2
- **DH 108** Introduction to Clinical Principles 2.5
- **DH 109** Dental Radiography and Interpretation 3
- **DH 114** Head and Neck Anatomy 2
- **DH 123** Oral Anatomy and Physiology 1
- **DH 124** Oral Embryology and Histology 2
- **DH 125** Oral Health 2

**Total 14.5**

### Second Semester
- **DH 112** Clinic I 4
- **DH 113A** Clinical Concepts 1
- **DH 115** Periodontics 2
- **DH 121** Pain Control 2
- **DH 203** Pathology 2
- **DH 206** Dental Pharmacology 2

**Total 13**

### Summer Session
- **DH 118** Transitional Clinic 1.5

### Third Semester
- **DH 106** Special Need Patient Care 2
- **DH 113B** Clinical Concepts 1
- **DH 116** Dental Materials 2
- **DH 122** Clinic II 4
- **DH 200A** Community Dental Health I 2
- **DH 205** Advanced Periodontics 2

**Total 13**

### Fourth Semester
- **DH 113C** Clinical Concepts 1
- **DH 200B** Community Dental Health II 2
- **DH 202** Clinic III 4
- **DH 211** Ethics and Jurisprudence 2
- **DH 214** Seminar 2

**Total 11**

**TOTAL PROGRAM UNITS: 53**

*Students receiving financial aid will be required to take one additional unit. See academic counselor for recommendations.

Each course in the Dental Hygiene program builds upon the previous course in the previous semester. To successfully progress through the two-year program, students are required to pass dental hygiene courses at 75% or better. Each Dental Hygiene course is offered only once during the academic year. Please meet with your counselor for correct and current information on policy.
**Dental Hygiene Prerequisite Grid/SDSU and Region X Community Colleges**

**2019-2020**

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

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<th>SDSU</th>
<th>*GCCCD</th>
<th>Imperial Valley</th>
<th>Miracosta</th>
<th>Palomar</th>
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<td>MATH 103 or MATH 108 or MATH 110 or more advanced course with equivalent content</td>
<td>MATH 091 or MATH 098 or more advanced course with equivalent content</td>
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<td>MATH 56 or MATH 60 more advanced course with equivalent content</td>
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*GCCCD: Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District includes Cuyamaca and Grossmont. **SDCCD: San Diego Community College District includes City College, Mesa College, and Miramar College. ***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. ^All science courses used to substitute science pre-requisites must include a laboratory component. All science courses need 2.7 GPA, minimum of 4 units each, “C” grade or better and five-year recency.

Updated by Deanna Reinacher, MLT/MedOp Program Director
Reviewed by Martina Peinado, Articulation Officer, 9/12/2019 (mp)