

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.*



BIOL 260 HUMAN ANATOMY 4 UNITS
(Prerequisite: BIOL 100 & 101 or equivalent)

BIOL 261 PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY 4 UNITS
(Prerequisite: CHEM 100 or 170 or equivalent; BIOL 260 or equivalent)

BIOL 265 GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY 4 UNITS
(Prerequisite: BIOL 100 & 101, or equivalent; CHEM 100 or 170 or equivalent)

CHEM 100 INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL CHEMISTRY 4 UNITS
(Prerequisite: MATH 45 or MATH 48 or equivalent)
or

CHEM 170 PREPARATION FOR GENERAL CHEMISTRY 4 UNITS
(Prerequisite: MATH 62 or MATH 70 or MATH 72 or equivalent)

CHEM 102 GENERAL, ORGANIC & BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY 5 UNITS
(Prerequisite: MATH 45 or MATH 48 or equivalent)
or

CHEM 110 ELEMENTARY ORGANIC & BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY 4 UNITS
(Prerequisite: CHEM 100 or 170 or 200 or equivalent)

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

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

Additional Prerequisites:

ENGL 115 COLLEGE COMPOSITION: READING & WRITING ANALYTICALLY

One MATH course from the following:

MATH 60 INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA I
MATH 72 ALGEBRA I & II

or more advanced course with equivalent content; no support courses

HLTH 204 FUNDAMENTALS OF NUTRITION

One COMM course from the following:

COMM 103 ORAL COMMUNICATION
COMM 174 INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
COMM 176 INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION
COMM 104 PUBLIC SPEAKING

PSYC 101 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
SOC 101 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
or **SOC 110** CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS

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:

<http://www.swccd.edu/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1271>

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:

<http://www.swccd.edu/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=13244>

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>.

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. Rubella 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
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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.

Southwestern	SDSU	*GCCCD	Imperial Valley	Miracosta	Palomar	**SDCCD
BIOL 260^	BIOL 212	BIO 140***	BIOL 200 & BIOL 202 or BIOL 204	BIO 210 or BIO 210H	BIOL 210	BIOL 230
BIOL 261^	BIOL 261	BIO 141 & BIO 141L***	BIOL 200 & BIOL 202 or BIOL 206	BIO 220	BIOL 211	BIOL 235
BIOL 265^	BIOL 211 & BIOL 211L	BIO 152	BIOL 220	BIO 230	BIOL 212	BIOL 205
CHEM 100^ or CHEM 170^	CHEM 100	CHEM 115 or CHEM 120	CHEM 100	CHEM 115 or CHEM 115H	CHEM 100	CHEM 100 & CHEM 100L or CHEM 152 & CHEM 152L
CHEM 102^ or CHEM 110^	CHEM 102	CHEM 102 or CHEM 116	CHEM 160	CHEM 112 or CHEM 116	CHEM 104	CHEM 130 & CHEM 130L
COMM 103 or COMM 104 or COMM 174 or COMM 176	COMM 103 or COMM 245	COMM 120 or COMM 122 or COMM 124	COMM 100	COMM 101 or COMM 207	SPCH 100 or SPCH 115 or SPCH 131	COMS 103 or COMS 135 or COMS 180
ENGL 115 or ENGL 115H or ADN 140	ENG 100 or RWS 100	ENGL 120	ENGL 110	ENGL 100 or ENGL 100H	ENG 100	ENGL 101 or ENGL 105
HLTH 204	No Course	NUTR 155	No Course	NUTR 100 or NUTR 100H	FCS/HE 165	NUTR 150
PSYC 101	PSY 101	PSY 120	PSY 101	PSY 101/101H	PSYC 100	PSYCH 101
SOC 101 or 110	SOC 101 or SOC 102	SOC 120 or SOC 130	SOC 101 or SOC 102	SOC 101/101H or SOC 102	SOC 100 or SOC 110	SOC 101 or SOC 110
MATH 60 or MATH 72 or more advanced course with equivalent content; no support courses	MATH 105 or more advanced course with equivalent content	MATH 103 or MATH 108 or MATH 110 or more advanced course with equivalent content	MATH 091 or MATH 098 or more advanced course with equivalent content	MATH 64 more advanced course with equivalent content	MATH 56 or MATH 60 or more advanced course with equivalent content	MATH 96 or more advanced course with equivalent content

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)