



Dental Hygiene (DHY)



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Associate in Applied Science Degree (5 Semesters)

At a Glance

As a practicing member of the dental health team, the dental hygienist acts as an educator and motivator in maintenance of oral health and the prevention of dental disease. The practice of dental hygiene directly affects the health of the public and requires mastery of a complex body of knowledge and specialized skills requiring both formal education and clinical experience that serve as standards for entry into the profession. There are many professional roles, which the dental hygienist may assume: participation in community health programs, dental research, or as an active participant in the dental office.

Program Description

The overall goal of the Dental Hygiene Program is to provide students with an educational opportunity to acquire skills, knowledge and professional attitudes necessary for successful employment as competent entry-level, state licensed and nationally certified dental hygienists.

The Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, which qualifies graduates to take the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination. Graduates who successfully complete the National Board Exam are qualified to take any State or Regional licensing examination.

Admission Requirements

1. Unconditional admission to the college – College application must be submitted by the program application deadline of June 1.
2. Student must be in good standing with the college.
3. Receipt of complete program applications accepted between March 1 and June 1 for Fall entry. Applications received after the deadline will be considered on a space available basis.
4. The online application is located at www.wallacestate.edu. Online application instructions are under the Program Application tab. Upon completion of the online application, all applicants are required to submit a General Education Worksheet with all necessary

documentation attached. The General Education Worksheet, along with full instructions, can be found in Online Application Instructions.

5. Official transcripts from each college attended must be provided to the Admissions Office and all unofficial transcripts must be attached to the program application General Education Worksheet.
6. Student must meet the essential functions and technical standards required for the program as documented on the required WSCC physical form at www.wallacestate.edu-see Physical Form Essential Functions.
7. A minimum of 18 ACT composite score (National or Residual is required for admission consideration. Proof of score must be submitted with the application General Education Worksheet.
8. Possess a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Selection and Notification

1. The Dental Hygiene program admits annually each fall semester with a maximum of 30 students.
2. Students must complete all requirements for admission to be considered for selection. Program prerequisites must be completed prior to time of application to the program.
3. The selection process involves the applicant's GPA of program prerequisites excluding ORI 110, high school GPA or college GPA if 12 or more credit hours are completed prior to application and ACT score.
4. Applicants who have completed a Dental Assisting Program from an ADA accredited institution will receive bonus points according to their dental assisting GPA. Applicants who have taken general education courses (in addition to the program prerequisite) for the program will receive bonus points according to the number of general education courses completed at the time of application.
5. Students must respond in writing or e-mail confirming their intent to enroll within 7 days after receipt of their acceptance letters. A student who fails to respond will forfeit their place in the class. A signed consent to drug testing and background screening must accompany the acceptance confirmation.
6. Students accepted must attend a mandatory orientation

session. Failure to do so could result in forfeiture of their place in the class.

Program Expectations

Students admitted into the Dental Hygiene program are expected to comply with the Health Science Program Regulations and Expectations as published in the Programs of Study section of the Wallace State College Catalog.

Upon Admission

1. Upon acceptance into the program students must submit a physical examination form (current within one year), which includes documentation of immunizations along with evidence of having begun the Hepatitis B vaccinations.
2. Upon acceptance to the program, students are required to submit proof of current CPR certification. Only CPR courses for Health Care providers will be accepted. Current CPR certification must be maintained throughout the program
3. While enrolled in the program, students are required to have accident and liability insurance, available through the College.
4. Students are required to undergo background screening and drug testing according to Health Science Division policy.
5. Students are required to have health insurance while enrolled in the program.

Progression

1. Individuals who have received a certificate or degree in Dental Assisting from an ADA accredited institution may receive advanced standing for previously completed courses including DHY 120-Dental Materials and DHY 114-Dental Radiology (If these courses were completed no more than two years prior to enrollment in the program).
2. Students must attain a "C" in general and major required courses. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.
3. Students selected for admission to the dental hygiene program must maintain a minimum grade of 75% or higher in major required courses. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.
4. A student who withdraws or is dismissed from the program may re-apply for admission one time only.

Career Path

The Dental Hygiene curriculum prepares students to function as dental hygienists in private dental offices. Other career

opportunities include teaching, research, community service and public health.

Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2020, in response to increasing demand for dental care and the greater utilization of hygienists to perform services previously performed by dentists. Median hourly earnings of dental hygienists were \$35.97 per hour in May 2018 with the highest 10 percent earning more than \$48.95 an hour. Earnings vary by geographic location, employment setting, and years of experience. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics)

The WSCC Dental Hygiene Program courses will be accepted for transfer to Athens State and the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the Bachelor Degree in Health Science. Degree completion programs are available nationally for those interested in obtaining advanced degrees in Dental Hygiene.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE:

AAS DENTAL HYGIENE – Guided Pathway/Map

Program Prerequisites

MTH 100** (or higher)	Intermediate College Algebra	3
BIO 201*	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 220*	General Microbiology	4
ORI 110	Freshman Seminar	1
Total Prerequisite Hours		12

1st Semester

DHY 110	Dental Hygiene Theory	2
DHY 112	Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene	3
DHY 114	Dental Radiology	3
DHY 116	Dental Anatomy, Histology & Embryology	2
DHY 118	Anatomy, Embryology, & Histology of the Head and Neck	2
BIO 202*	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
Total Semester Credit Hours		16

2nd Semester

DHY 120	Dental Materials	2
DHY 122	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	3
DHY 124	Dental Hygiene Theory II	2
DHY 126	Periodontology	2
DHY 128	Pharmacology/Medical Emergency	2
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
Total Semester Credit Hours		14

3rd Semester

DHY 130	Biological Chemistry/App Nutrition	1
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DHY 132	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	2
DHY 134	Dental Hygiene Theory III	1
DHY 216	Dental Research	1
PSY 200	General Psychology	3
CHM 104	Intro to Inorganic Chemistry	4
Total Semester Credit Hours		12

4th Semester

DHY 210	General and Oral Pathology	2
DHY 212	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	4
DHY 214	Dental Hygiene Theory IV	1
DHY 217	Community Dental Health	1
SOC 200	Introduction to Sociology	3
Total Semester Credit Hours		11

5th Semester

DHY 218	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	4
DHY 220	Dental Hygiene Theory V	1
HUM 101	Intro to Humanities	3
SPH 106 or SPH 107	Fundamentals of Oral Comm or Introduction to Public Speaking	3
Total Semester Credit Hours		11

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS **76**

**Biology 103 is a prerequisite to these courses. This is a college requirement not a program requirement.*