



## Dental Hygiene Program

### I. Introductory Information

- A. A registered dental hygienist is a preventive oral health professional licensed in dental hygiene who provides preventive, educational, and therapeutic services supporting total health through the promotion of optimal oral health.
- B. The Dental Hygiene program is a two-year degree program and includes a summer session. Upon completion of the program, graduating students will receive an Associate in Arts Degree in Dental Hygiene and will qualify to take the National Board Examination and a Regional Clinical Dental Hygiene Examination. Successful passage of these examinations qualifies the graduate to take the California Law and Ethics exam and apply for licensure to practice in the state of California.

For additional information regarding the current Regional Clinical Dental Hygiene Examinations, and what states accept the exams, please visit the following websites:

- Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS) <https://www.crdts.org/>
- Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) <https://wreb.org/>
- Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) [www.cdcaexams.org](http://www.cdcaexams.org)

- C. A career in dental hygiene offers multiple opportunities in a variety of settings. A registered dental hygienist may work in such practice settings as: private dental offices and dental clinics; federal, state and local health departments or associated institutions; hospitals and nursing homes; school districts or departments of education; educational programs for dental, dental hygiene and dental assisting students; private business/industry; correctional facilities; private and public centers for pediatric, geriatric and other individuals/groups with special needs; or health maintenance organizations.
- D. During the training program, all clinical courses are held at outside facilities. These facilities may be located approximately 10 to 30 miles from Cerritos College. The students must provide their own transportation. Carpooling is encouraged whenever possible.

*Although citizenship is not a requirement for Cerritos College, it is a requirement for our outside clinical facilities and badging privileges may be denied without US citizenship and/or a social security number. In this case the student will not be able to complete their clinical experiences and will need to discontinue the program. Clinical facilities accept students with US citizenship or non-US citizenship with active student VISAs.*

- E. The Dental Hygiene program begins in the fall semester (August) of each year. Many courses will be scheduled during the day; however, some of the required courses may extend into the evening hours. All Dental Hygiene courses must be taken in sequence.

- F. See Cerritos College catalog for current tuition and enrollment fees. In addition, the student may expect to spend approximately \$15,000-17,000 for books, instruments, equipment, eye magnification, uniforms and miscellaneous fees and immunizations. Students are required to join the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association (SADHA) (\$65 annually) and the student membership of The California Dental Hygiene Association (\$50.00 for two years). Fees are subject to change. Consult Admissions and Records regarding changes in tuition, enrollment, and lab fees. See the College Financial Aid office for information regarding the many student grants/scholarship/loans available. Once in the dental hygiene program, opportunities for additional student funds are available from various scholarships.
- G. The application packet for the Dental Hygiene Program can be obtained online at <https://www.cerritos.edu/dental-hygiene/application-information.htm>.
- H. To be considered for admission to the Dental Hygiene Program, the application with all supplementary documentation (unofficial transcripts, work-in-progress\* (see below), verification of related work experience, copy of RDA or RDAEF license and registration, Technical Standards), are to be submitted electronically no later than April 1 (of the year of application). Questions, other than those regarding coursework equivalency, should be directed to the Dental Hygiene program. Faxed or mailed application materials will not be accepted. Applications are to be emailed only to the appropriate email address, provided in the instructions.
- I. Physical examinations, immunizations, TB testing and background checks are required prior to patient care and taking the licensure examinations. Health and immunization forms will be issued to those applicants who are admitted into the program. The dental health professional may be exposed to contagious diseases therefore, strict compliance with CDC and OSHA standards is maintained. Policies on bloodborne and infectious diseases can be found on the Dental Hygiene website.
- J. Applicants desiring employment in dental hygiene are required to have good vision and the ability to communicate verbally. In addition, applicants must have the capacity to comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and record in patients' charts, and have the dexterity to use small dental instruments to provide dental hygiene care. Please refer to the *Technical Standards/Essential Functions* found on the dental hygiene website.
- K. Applicants must demonstrate ability to speak, read, comprehend, and write English at a level that meets the need for clear and effective communication with instructors, peers, co-workers, patients/families, and other health care professionals. Please refer to *Technical Standards/Essential Functions* found on the Dental Hygiene website. English support classes are available through the Cerritos College Community Education division to assist students in preparing to meet this requirement: [https://www.cerritos.edu/aed/English\\_Support\\_Classes.htm](https://www.cerritos.edu/aed/English_Support_Classes.htm)
- L. The Cerritos College Dental Hygiene program does not admit transfer students from other dental hygiene programs. Any interested applicant that has previously been in a Dental Hygiene program must apply, meet all necessary and applicable requirements, be admitted, and start the program from the beginning.

## **II. Minimum requirements to be considered as a qualified applicant for the Dental Hygiene Program:**

### **1. Prerequisite course requirements:**

#### **a. Prerequisite courses:**

**CHEM 100** Introductory Chemistry - 4 units

**A&P 200** Human Anatomy - 5 units (or A&P 150 – 4 units)

**A&P 201** Human Physiology - 5 units (or A&P 151 – 4 units)

**MICR 200** Introduction to Microbiology and Bacteriology - 5 units

**HO 152** Norm-Therapeutic Nutrition - 3 units.

Prerequisite courses must be completed with a minimum grade of "C" or better in each course. In order to receive maximum points, all prerequisite courses (CHEM 100, A&P 200/A&P 150, A&P 201/A&P 151, MICRO 200, and HO 152) should be completed BEFORE THE APRIL 1 APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE.

**No points are given for classes in progress.**

- b. \*Any prerequisites in progress at the time of application require verification from the current course instructor. This verification should be on school letterhead and include your name, course in progress, as well as current standing in the course.

### **2. Math, Reading, and English Proficiency Requirements:**

#### **Math:**

##### **PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Pass Math 75, Math 80, Math 80B, a transfer-level math course, or equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher or "Pass"
- b. Pass two semesters of high school Algebra 2 or Integrated Math 3 with a grade of "C" or higher in each semester. Official high school transcript is required.
- c. Receive a score of 3 or better on a Math AP exam (AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC)."
- d. Receive credit by exam in Math 80 at Cerritos College.

#### **Reading**

- a. Completion of READ 54 or READ 97, READ 101, or READ 102 or equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher or "Pass".
- b. For other options, see a Counselor.

#### **English**

- a. Completion of ENGL 100 or ENGL 100S or equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher or "Pass"
- b. Per the Dental Hygiene Board, AP scores in English and Math are accepted for applying to the Dental Hygiene program.

3. Applicability of transfer equivalent course work must be verified by Cerritos College. Where possible, the applicant should contact a Health Sciences & Wellness LCP Counselor prior to taking prerequisite courses to assure that appropriate equivalent courses are selected.

4. Factors such as elapsed time since a course was completed and grades will be used in determining whether previously completed science course(s) can be accepted towards fulfillment of a prerequisite. Five years is the recency time for pre-requisites.

5. Graduates of foreign dental and dental hygiene programs will not be given priority. Equivalency and recency of coursework still applies.

6. In an attempt to increase eligibility by repeating a prerequisite course to obtain a higher grade, the Dental Hygiene department will allow all prerequisite courses to be repeated a maximum of ONE time and will accept the higher of the two grades earned.

7. A Medical Terminology course is strongly suggested, and one point will be given for completion.

8. Completion of a Dental Assisting program awards you points on your application. Points will range from 1-3 according to Dental Assisting education and experience. Cerritos College Dental Assisting graduates will be given priority if the application score is competitive. Please visit and consider the Cerritos College [Dental Assisting Program](#).

### III. Admission Procedure and Requirements

To apply to the dental hygiene program, the applicant **MUST** view the application video located on the dental hygiene website. The video reviews the application process. After watching the video if there are further questions you can attend a “Drop-In Session” with the counseling department. The sessions are operated on a first come, first served basis. Check the dental hygiene website for the drop-in session dates or you can contact the Counseling department for dates.

Requirements:

- A. [Dental Hygiene Application](#) and Supporting Documentation
- B. The [Transcript Evaluation Form/ALL Transcripts](#) must accompany your application, verifying the following:
  1. Prerequisite course requirements with a grade of "C" or better in each course.
  2. General education courses required for the Cerritos College Associate of Arts degree.
  3. *Unofficial transcripts from ALL previously attended colleges.*

(If you are admitted into the Dental Hygiene program, you will need to submit official transcripts to Admissions and Records).

- C. *Documentation of courses in progress.* NOTE: AP scores for Psychology will not be accepted.
- D. Work Experience: For every related work experience listed on the application, a [Verification of Dental Employment](#) form must be included in the application materials. Letters of recommendation are not considered.
- E. [DH Abilities of Skills and Technical Standards form.](#)

The **applicant is responsible** for making sure the documents listed below have been electronically submitted by **April 1, (of the application year) at 11:59 PM** (Pacific Daylight Time). **No application** will be considered after the specified deadline.

- i. Dental Hygiene application.
- ii. The transcript evaluation form along with **ALL** college transcripts (unofficial)
- iii. Verification of all course work-in-progress
- iv. Verification of dental employment form(s), copy of RDA or RDAEF license (if applicable)
- v. DH Abilities of Skills and Technical Standards form.

### F. Selection Procedures

- a. Points will be given for the following criteria:
  1. Grade Point Average in prerequisite courses
  2. Number of units completed up to 60 semester units.
  3. Overall Grade Point Average for all college courses
  4. Additional science courses with a grade of "B" or above
  5. Related dental work experience.
- b. Candidates will be notified of their application status in the month of May.

- c. There is no yearly waiting list. Candidates not selected must reapply each year and resubmit all application materials.

**G. Scholarship, Attendance, Promotion, Graduation.**

- a. Attendance: All students are required to observe the attendance requirements of the college. Due to the nature of the Dental Hygiene program, it is expected that students will attend all classes.

**H. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK/AGENCY REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Clinical placements are a mandatory component of the curriculum and will require clearance of a criminal background check and the following clinical agency requirements:
  - 1. Student is a legal resident of the United States. Although citizenship is not a requirement for Cerritos College, it is a requirement for our outside clinical facilities. Badging privileges may be denied without US citizenship and/or a social security number. In this case the student will not be able to complete their clinical experiences and will need to discontinue the program.

Clinical facilities accept students with US citizenship or non-US citizenship with active student VISAs.

- 2. Students must complete the following:
  - a. Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) booster
  - b. Covid 19 complete vaccine regime
  - c. Proof of Immunity via titer for:
    - 1. Hepatitis B
    - 2. Rubeola
    - 3. Mumps
    - 4. Rubella
    - 5. Varicella

These required vaccinations may not be all inclusive. (The mandated vaccinations may change with CDC recommendations)

- d. Yearly flu immunization is recommended but not mandatory.

**Students who do not clear agency requirements and criminal background checks are not eligible for clinical placement and will, consequently, be ineligible to participate in the program.**

- b. Applicants for examination of licensure in the state of California must be fingerprinted and report information related to illegal use of controlled substances, and any convictions or pleas of nolo contendere even if charges are dismissed. In addition, the application requires specific information related to convictions, misdemeanor, or felony, associated with state or federal action. If there is any concern that may prevent licensure after graduation, direct inquiries to the Dental Hygiene Board of California, 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1350, Sacramento, CA 95815, prior to applying to the program. (dhbcinfo@dca.ca.gov or 916-263-1978).

**I. GOALS AND PROGRAM COMPETENCIES**

The philosophy of the associate degree Dental Hygiene Program was developed to reflect the philosophy of Cerritos College.

The Dental Hygiene Department believes that the program should provide opportunities for the

student to reach their greatest potential in the profession of dental hygiene so that they may achieve a sense of dignity, value, and personal worth in the community and in the world of work regardless of age, gender or ethnicity.

The goals of the dental hygiene program are as follows:

- a. To graduate an individual who is competent in providing preventive, educational, and therapeutic dental health services.
  1. Graduates must be competent in providing dental hygiene care for the child, adolescent, adult, geriatric and medically compromised patient.
  2. Graduates must be competent in providing the dental hygiene process of care which includes assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation.
  3. Graduates must be competent in providing dental hygiene care for all types of classifications of periodontal disease including patients who exhibit moderate to severe periodontal disease.
  4. Graduates must be competent in providing appropriate life support measures for medical emergencies that may be encountered in dental hygiene practice.
- b. To instill within the student a philosophical appreciation of ethical and moral values suited to the laws of the community as outlined by the American Dental Hygienists' Association and the American Dental Association.
  1. Graduates must be competent in applying ethical, legal, and regulatory concepts to the provision and/or support of oral health care services.
    - c. To encourage the student to develop professional behavior that is founded in evidence- based decision making, self-directed learning and self-assessment to enhance professional competence.
      1. Graduates must be competent in the application of self-assessment skills to prepare them for life-long learning.
      2. Graduates must be competent in the evaluation of current scientific literature.
      3. Graduates must be competent in problem solving strategies related to comprehensive patient care and management of patients.
    - d. To graduate an individual who is competent in providing health education programs to the community supporting total health through the promotion of optimal oral health.
      1. Graduates must be competent in interpersonal and communication skills to effectively interact with diverse population groups.
      2. Graduates must be competent in assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating community-based oral health programs including health promotion and disease prevention activities.
  - e. To promote patient satisfaction of the dental hygiene care provided by the student clinician.

\*\* The Program has made every reasonable effort to determine that everything stated in the information sheet is accurate. Matters contained herein, are subject to change without notice by the administration of the department for reasons related to student enrollment, level of financial support or for any reason, at the discretion of the program. The program further reserves the right to add, amend, or repeal any of the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures consistent with applicable laws.

[View the dental hygiene application](#)

