

Dental Hygiene Department

Purpose and Goals

The mission of the Dental Hygiene Department is to 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 regardless of age, gender, or ethnicity. The department's focus is on student success through effective teaching practices, in both the didactic and clinical areas. We promote student engagement in the broader community through experiential activities and utilize current scientific knowledge to design and implement learning opportunities based on current professional trends.

Student Population Served

The demographics of the dental hygiene program are consistent with the demographics of Cerritos College as a whole, with the exception of gender. The percentage of males in the Dental Hygiene program remains below 15% over the last 5 years while the college is much higher at 40-45%.

Approximately 45% of Dental Hygiene students are Latinx, approximately 41% of students are Asian, approximately 12% of students are White and about 2% are of unknown race.

The majority of dental hygiene students have been within the age range of 25-34. Individuals aged 50 and older represent the lowest age group among dental hygiene students.

Number of Students Served Annually and Capacity

Students must apply for and be selected for admission to the Dental Hygiene program. The program receives approximately 250 applicants every year for 24 spots.

48 Students is the maximum capacity, with 24 in year 1 of the program, and 24 in year 2, which is the number approved by our accreditor, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

High-Impact Interventions

- Application-based enrollment
- Student Cohorts
- Intensive wraparound support – tutoring, referrals to basic needs and mental health support
- Work-based learning (clinical internships)

Intended Impacts and Measured Outcomes

- Course success rates range from 88% - 100%
- Retention rates range from 98% - 100%
- 100% National board exam pass rate
- 100% practical board pass rate

Did You Know?

We will begin offering Cerritos College's first bachelor's degree, a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene, in Fall 2025!



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