**Dental Hygiene, AS**

Graduates of the Dental Hygiene Program are prepared to become credentialed and licensed as a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) after successful completion of the written National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, a regional clinical examination, and application for state licensure.

Dental hygienists are oral health professionals who focus on preventing and treating oral diseases-both to protect teeth and gums, and also to protect patients' total health. In addition to treating patients directly, dental hygienists may also work as educators, researchers, and administrators.

Each state has its own specific regulations and the range of services performed by dental hygienists varies from one state to another. As part of dental hygiene services, dental hygienists may:

* perform oral health care assessments that include the review of patients' health history, dental charting, oral cancer screening, and evaluation of gum disease / health
* expose, process, and interpret dental radiographs (x-rays)
* remove biofilm (plaque bacteria, tartar) from above and below the gumline using dental instruments
* apply cavity-preventive agents such as fluorides and sealants to the teeth
* administer topical and/or injectable local anesthetic
* administer and/or monitor nitrous oxide analgesia
* educate patients on proper oral hygiene techniques to maintain healthy teeth and gums
* counsel patients about plaque control and developing individualized at-home oral hygiene programs
* administer smoking cessation programs
* counsel patients on the importance of good nutrition for maintaining optimal oral health

Current occupational employment and wages data for Dental Hygienists are published by the United States Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292021.htm>

The Edison State College Dental Hygiene Program admits students once per year and starts each Fall semester. The curriculum includes a combination of classroom, laboratory, and clinical education experiences. General Education and Program Specific coursework may be taken on various campuses but the Dental Hygiene core courses are only offered on the Lee Campus.

**ACCREDITATION:**

The Edison State College Dental Hygiene program is nationally accredited by the:

Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)   
211 E. Chicago, IL 60611-2678   
Telephone: 312-440-4653

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** December 15

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

Dental Hygiene has limited enrollment due to the rigorous clinical education requirements for the program. Acceptance to Edison State College does not imply acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program. Each applicant must meet specific criteria which are listed in the admission policies. The Criteria for Admission Policies are available through the program office or through the School of Health Professions office at (239)489-9255. Admission applications are located at <http://www.edison.edu/academics/asdentalhygiene/dentalhygiene.php>

Admission to the program is determined by admissions points, academic transcript evaluation, and affective skills demonstration. Admissions points are awarded for the completion of General Education coursework and prospective students are encouraged to complete as many courses as possible, prior to starting the Dental Hygiene Core coursework. Pre-admission requirements include satisfactory completion of the following:

* College-approved criminal records check and drug testing at the applicant’s expense
* A minimum of three (3) General Education courses in the Natural Sciences section

After acceptance, students must complete the following:

* Immunization and health report
* TB Skin Test
* Certification in American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (CPR and AED) obtained during the months of June-August, prior to Fall Year 1 semester start

**DENTAL HYGIENE, AS DEGREE PROGRAM OF STUDY:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **GENERAL EDUCATION COURSEWORK:** Courses must be selected from those listed in the **General Education Program Guide** | | **30 CREDIT HOURS** |
| ENC 1101 | Composition I | 3 |
| SPC 1017  **or**  SPC 2023 | Fundamentals of Speech Communication  Introduction to Public Speaking | 3 |
| HUMANITIES | Any Listed Course in Humanities Section | 3 |
| BSC 1093C\* | Anatomy and Physiology I | 4 |
| BSC 1094C | Anatomy and Physiology II | 4 |
| CHEMISTRY | Any Listed CHM in Natural Sciences Section | 3 |
| CHEMISTRY LABORATORY | Any Listed CHM in Natural Sciences Section | 1 |
| SYG 1000 | Introduction to Sociology | 3 |
| PSY 2012 | General Psychology | 3 |
| MATHEMATICS | Any Listed Course in Mathematics Section | 3 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PROGRAM SPECIFIC COURSEWORK** | | **4 CREDIT HOURS** |
| MCB 2010C\* | Microbiology | 4 |

\*BSC 1010/BSC 1010L are required prerequisites for BSC 1093C and MCB 2010C at most institutions.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DENTAL HYGIENE CORE COURSEWORK** | | **54 CREDIT HOURS** |
| DEH 1002 | Dental Hygiene I | 3 |
| DEH 1002L | Dental Hygiene I Preclinical Lab | 3 |
| DES 1020C | Dental Anatomy | 2 |
| DES 1100C | Dental Materials | 2 |
| DEH 1130 | Oral Histology and Embryology | 2 |
| DES 1200C | Dental Radiology | 3 |
| DEH 1602 | Periodontics | 3 |
| DEH 1802 | Dental Hygiene II | 2 |
| DEH 1802L | Dental Hygiene II Clinical | 3 |
| DEH 2300 | Pharmacology | 2 |
| DEH 2804 | Dental Hygiene III | 2 |
| DEH 2804L | Dental Hygiene III Clinical | 5 |
| DEH 2400 | General and Oral Pathology | 2 |
| DEH 2702 | Community Dental Health | 2 |
| DEH 2702L | Community Dental Health Laboratory | 1 |
| DEH 2806 | Dental Hygiene IV | 2 |
| DEH 2806L | Dental Hygiene IV Clinical | 5 |
| DEH 2808 | Dental Hygiene IV | 2 |
| DEH 2808L | Dental Hygiene V Clinical | 5 |
| DES 2832C | Expanded Functions Laboratory | 2 |
| DEH 2930 | Dental Hygiene Seminar | 1 |
| **TOTAL DEGREE PROGRAM, DENTAL HYGIENE, AS** | | **88 CREDIT HOURS** |