

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 Summer 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.

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

Due to a need for a technical and science foundation for dental hygienists, a special admission procedure has been instituted for the Dental Hygiene Program. Applicants for the Dental Hygiene program must be proficient in several subject areas. Prerequisites include courses in life sciences, reading and composition, speech and oral communication, psychology, sociology and college level math.

Required Prerequisites

Biol 260	Human Anatomy*	5
Biol 261	Principles of Human Physiology*	4
Biol 265	General Microbiology*	5
Chem 100	Introduction to General Chemistry*	4
Chem 110	Elementary Organic and Biological Chemistry*	4
Hlth 204	Fundamentals of Nutrition.....	3
Comm 103 <i>or</i> 174	Oral Communication <i>or</i> Interpersonal Communication.....	3
Psych 101	General Psychology	3
Soc 101 <i>or</i> 110	Introduction to Sociology <i>or</i> Contemporary Social Problems.....	3
Engl 115	Reading Composition: Exposition and Argumentation.....	3
TOTAL UNITS:		<u>37</u>

*The following criteria must be met for ALL SCIENCE COURSES before submitting an application:

- **A cumulative grade point average of 2.70 or higher.**
- **Science Courses must be a minimum of 4 units each resulting in a “C” grade or better.**
- **Science courses must have a recency of five years.**

Please note: *A credit/no credit grade in the science courses is not accepted. All other prerequisite courses must be completed with a “C” grade or better. Quarter units are not equal to semester units. Transfer courses taken in the quarter system must be converted to required semester units and must meet the minimum unit requirements (a meeting with an academic advisor is recommended).*

REPEATING CLASSES: Southwestern College limits the number of times a student can repeat courses for credit or to improve GPA. 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. Please meet with your academic advisor/counselor for correct and current information on policy.

Additional Prerequisites

1. Students must demonstrate college level **reading proficiency** through one of the following:
 - a. a “proficient” score on the Southwestern College Reading Assessment test.
 - b. earn a “C” or better in Reading 158, English 115 or equivalent reading/english courses.
 - c. the equivalent as demonstrated by an approved petition (petition forms available from the Southwestern College Assessment Office).
 - d. a transcript indicating an earned associate or baccalaureate degree from an accredited U.S. College or University.
2. Students must demonstrate requisite **math proficiency** by means of one of the following:
 - a. **eligibility** for Math 70 from the Elementary Algebra assessment.
 - b. earn a “C” or better in Math 60 or a higher numbered math course.
 - c. the equivalent as demonstrated by an approved petition (petition forms available from the Southwestern College Assessment Office).
 - e. a transcript indicating an earned associate or baccalaureate degree from an accredited U.S. College or University.

Please Note: It is the policy of SWC to require all prerequisite course work be completed and recency requirements met and proof of such received by the application deadline. No “In Progress” work is accepted.

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 an academic advisor/counselor to assist in developing a Student Educational Plan (SEP) to insure requirements are met on schedule.

The Dental Hygiene Program academic advisor/counselor is Dean Aragoza. To schedule an appointment, contact the Higher Education Center in National City at (619) 216-6665 Ext. 4851 or 4862.

Admissions Process

The dental hygiene program accepts 36 students who begin the program in the summer (June). 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 application prior to the deadline.
4. Request official college transcripts to be sent to SWC.

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 www.swccd.edu/dentalhygiene.**

Selection Process

Dental hygiene applications are verified by March 30 of each year. Eligible applicants are then placed into the incoming fall class. **Applicants are placed into position based on the date that the complete and eligible application was received by the dental hygiene department.** In the case of 'ties' the department will use the applicants' science GPA to break the tie. Once 36 positions are filled, 15 alternates are placed into position using the same criteria (postmark/GPA).

IF NOT ACCEPTED

Applicants not selected are required to complete a NEW application in the next application period (January-February).

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 with ALL required documentation.
2. Prerequisites/Requirements are met and verified as such by the Dental Hygiene Program

This 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. Current CPR Certification. (Healthcare Provider / Professional Rescuer from Red Cross or Healthcare Provider from American Heart Association) must include training with the AED.
2. Rubeola and Rubella Immunity Verification
3. Hepatitis B Immunity Verification
4. Varicella Immunity Verification
5. Tuberculosis Screening
6. 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 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.** Textbooks, instruments, instructional supplies and uniforms are the major cost items. 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 Supports Services at (619) 482-6512.

Program Course Sequence

Summer Session

DH 114	Head and Neck Anatomy	2
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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 123	Oral Anatomy and Physiology	1
DH 124	Oral Embryology and Histology	2
DH 125	Oral Health	2
Total		12.5

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 208	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.

All Dental Hygiene Courses are offered and taken in the above sequence. Each course builds upon previous and concurrent courses; therefore, courses *cannot* be taken out of sequence. Each Dental Hygiene course is offered only once during the academic year.

**Dental Hygiene Prerequisite Grid/SDSU and San Diego Community Colleges
 2012-2013**

THIS GRID IS DESIGNED TO BE AN ADVISEMENT TOOL ONLY, NOT A GUARANTEE OF COURSE EQUIVALENCY FOR PRIOR COURSEWORK.

(Prepared by the Articulation Officer at Southwestern College)

<i>Southwestern</i>	<i>SDSU</i>	<i>Cuyamaca</i>	<i>Grossmont</i>	<i>Imperial Valley</i>	<i>Miracosta</i>	<i>Palomar</i>	<i>*SDCCD</i>
BIOL 260	BIOL 212	BIO 140	BIO 140 **	BIOL 200 & 202 or 204 & 206	BIO 210	ZOO 200	BIOL 230
BIOL 261	BIOL 261	BIO 141 & 141L	BIO 141 & 141L or 142 **	BIOL 200 & 202 or 204 & 206	BIO 220	ZOO 203	BIOL 235
BIOL 265	BIOL 211 and 211L	BIO 152	BIO 152	BIOL 220	BIO 230	MICR 200	BIOL 205
HLTH 204	NUTR 107	HED 155	CA/HED 155	NC	NUTR 100	FCS/HE 165	NUTR 150 (M, MIR)
CHEM 100	CHEM 100	CHEM 115 or 120	CHEM 115 or 120	CHEM 100	CHEM 100	CHEM 100	CHEM 100 & 100L
CHEM 110	CHEM 130	CHEM 116 or 102	CHEM 116 or 102	CHEM 160	CHEM 102	CHEM 104 or 105	CHEM 130 & 130L
COMM 103 or 174 or 176	COMM 103 or NC or NC	COMM 122 or 120 or 124	COMM 122 or 120 or 124	SPCH 100 or NC or NC	COMM 101 or 207	SPCH 100 or 115 or 131	COMS 103 or COMS 135 or 180
ENGL 115	ENGL/RWS 100	ENGL 120	ENGL 120	ENGL 101	ENGL 100	ENG 100	ENGL 101 or 105
PSYC 101	PSY 101	PSY 120	PSY 120	PSY 101	PSYC 101/101H	PSYC 100	PSYC 101
SOC 101 or 110	SOC 101 or 102	SOC 120 or 130	SOC 120 or 130	SOC 101 or 102	SOC 101/101H or 102	SOC 100 or 110	SOCO 101 or 110
MATH 60 or Higher	GMS 91 or Higher	MATH 103 or 110 or Higher	MATH 103 or 110 or Higher	MATH 090 or Higher	MATH 64 or Higher	MATH 60 or Higher	MATH 96 or MATH 98 (City) or MATH 115 (City) or Higher
RDG 158 or ENGL 115	NC or ENGL/RWS 100	ENGL 110R or 120	ENGL 105 or 106 or 107 or 110R or 120	ENGL 111 or 101	READ 100 or ENGL 100	READ 120 or ENG 100	NC or ENGL 101 or 105

NC: No Course

*** SDCCD:** San Diego Community College District includes City College, Mesa College, and Miramar College; (M) and (MIR) indicate offered only at San Diego Mesa or Miramar Colleges

**** 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.**