

# Dental Hygienist

69-credit Associate of Applied Science Degree

## About the Program

Dental hygienists remove soft and hard deposits from teeth, teach patients how to practice good oral hygiene and provide other preventative dental care. In this statewide set program, students will learn to provide therapeutic and preventive services with a dentist and to become involved in dental health counseling. The WCTC Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the American Dental Association Committee on Dental Accreditation.

## Potential Job Titles

- Dental Hygienist
- Registered Dental Hygienist

## Credit Transfer

Credits earned in the Dental Hygienist program may be transferable to institutions offering baccalaureate degrees. Visit [www.wctc.edu/transfer](http://www.wctc.edu/transfer) for specific information. Since the details of credit transfers change from time to time, be sure to contact the intended college or university to verify credit transferability.

## Admission Process

- Fill out a WCTC application
- Send \$30 non-refundable application fee
- View online informational meeting
- Send high school transcript or GED/HSED
- Send any previous college transcripts
- Complete Skills Assessment test (COMPASS)
- Schedule a Program Planning Session (PPS) with a counselor
- Begin pursuing Financial Aid options

For more information, call 262.691.5200.

## Dental Hygienist Required Courses

- 508-101 Dental Health Safety** 1  
Prepare to respond proactively to dental emergencies, control infection, prevent disease, adhere to OSHA standards and safely manage hazardous materials. Take patient vital signs and collect patient medical/dental histories. WTCS aligned course required in both the Dental Hygienist and Dental Assisting programs.
- 508-102 Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology** 4  
Apply detailed oral anatomy knowledge to

Required General Education Courses		Credits
801-195	Written Communication	3+
801-196	Oral/Interpersonal Communication	3+
806-177	Gen Anatomy & Physiology	4
806-186	Intro to Biochemistry	3
806-197	Microbiology	4+
809-195	Economics	3+
809-196	Introduction to Sociology	3+
809-199	Psychology of Human Relations	3
	Elective	2
<b>Total semester credits</b>		<b>28</b>
<i>Note: General Education Coursework must be completed or "in-progress" before petitioning into Core/Clinical Coursework. When transferring a required science course from another college, the course will only be accepted if the grade meets the identified grade requirement of the transferring college's dental hygienist program.</i>		
Required Core/Clinical Courses		Credits
<b>First Semester</b>		
508-101	Dental Health Safety	1
508-102	Oral Anat/Embryology/Histology	4
508-103	Dental Radiography	2
508-105	Dental Hygiene Process I	4
<b>Total semester credits</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
508-106	Dental Hygiene Process II	4
508-107	DH Ethics & Professionalism	1
508-108	Periodontology	3
508-109	Cariology	1
508-110	Nutrition and Dental Health	2
508-111	General and Oral Pathology	3
<b>Total semester credits</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Third Semester</b>		
508-112	Dental Hygiene Process III	5
508-113	Dental Materials	2
508-114	Dental Pharmacology	2
508-115	Community Dental Health	2
508-116	Dental Pain Management	1
<b>Total semester credits</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Fourth Semester</b>		
508-117	Dental Hygiene Process IV	4
<b>Total semester credits</b>		<b>4</b>
<i>+ Proficiency exam available</i>		
<i>A grade point of 2.0 (C) or better is required in all courses to complete the program. Curriculum is current as of catalog printing. The most current curriculum requirements for graduation will be provided upon admission to program, or review at <a href="http://www.wctc.edu">www.wctc.edu</a>.</i>		

- planning, implementing, assessing, and evaluating patient care. Identify distinguishing characteristics of normal and abnormal dental, head, and neck anatomy and its relationship to tooth development, eruption, and health.  
Prerequisites: 806-177 Gen Anatomy & Physiology
- 508-103 Dental Radiography** 2  
Learn to operate x-ray units and expose bitewing, periapical, extra oral, and occlusal radiographs with an emphasis on protection against x-ray hazards. Process, mount, and evaluate radiographs for

diagnostic value. Demonstrate competency on manikin, expose bitewing radiographs on a peer, role-play patient and expose radiographs on patients in clinical portion of program. Provides background in radiographic theory required to make informed decisions and adjustments.  
Prerequisites: 508-101 Dental Health Safety; and 508-304 Dental & General Anatomy (or concurrent) or 508-102 Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology (or concurrent); and 806-177 Gen Anatomy & Physiology or 806-131 Anatomy and Physiology; and High School chemistry

<p><b>508-105 Dental Hygiene Process 1</b> 4 Gain an overview of the basic Dental Hygienist technical/clinical skills including the use of basic dental equipment, examination of patients and procedures within the dental unit. Under the direct supervision of an instructor, integrate hands-on skills with entry-level critical thinking and problem solving skills. Dental health safety skills are also reinforced. Prerequisites: 508-101 Dental Health Safety and 508-102 Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology (or concurrent)</p>	<p>perio case type 0, 1, 2, and 3 patients. Introduces root detoxification using hand and ultra-sonic instruments, manipulation of files, use or oral irrigators, selection of dental implant prophylaxis treatment options, and administration of chemotherapeutic agents. Practice adapting care plans in order to accommodate patients with special needs. Prerequisites: 508-106 Dental Hygiene Process 2 and 508-108 Periodontology and 508-109 Cariology and 508-110 Nutrition and Dental Health</p>	<p>making and professional communication with colleagues and patients. Prerequisites: 806-124 Introduction to Chemistry or 806-178 Life Science Chemistry or High School chemistry or College Chemistry; and COMPASS-Reading Skills or 858-775 Reading-Program Readiness or 838-105 Intro Reading &amp; Study Skills or TABE Advanced Reading or Accuplacer Reading Comprehensi or College Proficiency - Reading or Grandfathered Rdg Requirement or ACT-Reading</p>
<p><b>508-106 Dental Hygiene Process 2</b> 4 Under direct instructor supervision, apply patient care assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation skills to provide comprehensive care for calculus case type 1 and 2 patients and perio case type 0, 1 and 2 patients. Introduction of the application of fluoride and desensitizing agents, whole mouth assessment, comprehensive periodontal exams, application of sealants and patient classification. Removal of supragingival stain, dental plaque, calcified accretions, and deposits is also covered. Gain additional experience in exposing radiographs on patients and reinforce the application of dental health safety skills. Prerequisites: 508-102 Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology and 508-103 Dental Radiography and 508-109 Cariology (or concurrent)</p>	<p><b>508-113 Dental Materials</b> 2 Practice handling and preparing liners, bases, cements, amalgam, resin restorative materials, gypsum products, and impression materials. Learn to take alginate impressions on manikins and clean removable appliances. Prerequisites: 508-101 Dental Health Safety (or concurrent) or 508-300 Dental Theory; and 508-304 Dental &amp; General Anatomy (or concurrent) or 508-102 Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology</p>	<p><b>806-186 Intro to Biochemistry</b> 3 Develop the skills and knowledge of organic and biological chemistry that are needed for nursing and other allied health careers. Learn how to recognize the structure, physical properties, and chemical reactions of organic molecules, body fluids, and acids. Study biological functions and their relationships to enzymes, proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, and DNA. Prerequisites: 806-124 Introduction to Chemistry or 806-178 Life Science Chemistry or High School chemistry or College Chemistry</p>
<p><b>508-107 Dental Hygiene Ethics &amp; Profes</b> 1 Develop and apply high professional and ethical standards and laws that govern the practice of dental hygiene to patients, other members of a dental team and the community. Emphasis on maintaining confidentiality and obtaining informed consent. Enhance ability to present a professional appearance.</p>	<p><b>508-114 Dental Pharmacology</b> 2 Understand how to select safe, effective patient pre-medication, local anesthetic, chemo therapeutic, and anti-microbial agents within the scope of dental hygiene practice. Learn to recognize potential pharmacological contraindications for specific patients and take measures to avoid negative impact or alert other members of the dental team to possible negative impact. Prerequisites: 806-186 Intro to Biochemistry and 806-197 Microbiology and 508-106 Dental Hygiene Process 2 (or concurrent) or 508-112 Dental Hygiene Process 3 (or concurrent)</p>	<p><b>806-197 Microbiology</b> 4 Examine various concepts in microbiology such as microbial structure, metabolism, genetics, and growth. Investigate the relationship that exists between humans and microorganisms. Discuss additional topics such as disease production, epidemiology, host defense mechanisms, and the medical impact of microbes. Explore the role of microbes in the environment, industry, and biotechnology. Prerequisites: 806-177 Gen Anatomy &amp; Physiology; or 806-195 Anatomy and Physiology I; or 806-131 Anatomy and Physiology; and COMPASS-Reading Skills or 858-775 Reading - Program Readiness or 838-105 Intro Reading &amp; Study Skills or TABE Advanced Reading or Accuplacer Reading Comprehensi or College Proficiency - Reading or Grandfathered Rdg Requirement or ACT-Reading</p>
<p><b>508-108 Periodontology</b> 3 Assess the periodontal health of patients, plan prevention and treatment of periodontal disease and evaluate the effectiveness of periodontal treatment plans. Learn to recognize the signs and causes of periodontal disease and explore the selection of treatment modalities that minimize risk and restore periodontal health. Prerequisites: 806-197 Microbiology and 806-186 Intro to Biochemistry and 508-102 Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology and 508-103 Dental Radiography and 508-106 Dental Hygiene Process 2 (or concurrent) and 508-111 General &amp; Oral Pathology (or concurrent)</p>	<p><b>508-115 Community Dental Health</b> 2 Perform and interpret dental health research to determine community dental health needs. Participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of a community dental health program. Prerequisites: 508-112 Dental Hygiene Process 3 (or concurrent)</p>	<p><b>809-195 Economics</b> 3 Discuss the major institutions and principles that underlie the contemporary American economic system, and consider topics such as the free enterprise system, supply and demand, circular flow, government involvement, the Federal Reserve System, economic growth and development, the effects of international trade, comparative economic systems, and global economics. Prerequisites: COMPASS-Reading Skills or 858-775 Reading - Program Readiness or 838-105 Intro Reading &amp; Study Skills or TABE Advanced Reading or Accuplacer Reading Comprehensi or College Proficiency - Reading or Grandfathered Rdg Requirement or ACT-Reading</p>
<p><b>508-109 Cariology</b> 1 Determine the characteristics and contributing factors of dental decay. Help patients minimize caries risk by developing treatment plans, communicating methods to patients, and evaluating treatment results. Prerequisites: 806-186 Intro to Biochemistry and 806-197 Microbiology and 508-106 Dental Hygiene Process 2 (or concurrent)</p>	<p><b>508-116 Dental Pain Management</b> 1 Learn how to manage pain for dental patients and prevent and manage common emergencies related to administration of local anesthesia. Preparing the armamentarium, administering local anesthesia and recommending alternative pain control measures are also covered. Prerequisites: 508-102 Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology and 508-114 Dental Pharmacology (or concurrent) and 508-112 Dental Hygiene Process 3 (or concurrent)</p>	<p><b>809-196 Introduction to Sociology</b> 3 Learn the basic concepts of sociology: culture, socialization, social stratification, multiculturalism, and the five institutions, including family, government, economics, religion, and education. Other topics include demography, deviance, technology, environment, social issues, social change, social organization, and workplace issues. Prerequisites: COMPASS-Reading Skills or 858-775 Reading - Program Readiness or 838-105 Intro Reading &amp; Study Skills or TABE Advanced Reading or Accuplacer Reading Comprehensi or College Proficiency - Reading or Grandfathered Rdg Requirement or ACT-Reading</p>
<p><b>508-110 Nutrition and Dental Health</b> 2 Discover how to counsel patients about diet and its impact on oral health. Learn to distinguish between balanced and unbalanced diets and to construct diets that meet patient needs with compromised dental/oral health. Students also learn to counsel patients about the effect of eating disorders on dental health. Prerequisites: 806-186 Intro to Biochemistry (or concurrent)</p>	<p><b>508-117 Dental Hygiene Process 4</b> 4 With feedback from the instructor, manage all aspects of cases in providing comprehensive care for calculus case type 0, 1, 2 and 3 patients and for perio case type 0, 1, 2, and 3 patients. Maximization of clinical efficiency and effectiveness is emphasized. Gain preparation in demonstration of clinical skills in a formal exam situation.</p>	<p><b>809-199 Psychology of Human Relations</b> 3 Examine the principles of interaction as applied to human relations at home and on the job. Explore topics such as, self concept personality development, learning, motivation, emotions, stress, human relations processes, and special relationships. Prerequisites: COMPASS-Reading Skills or 858-775 Reading - Program Readiness or 838-105 Intro Reading &amp; Study Skills or TABE Advanced Reading or Accuplacer Reading Comprehensi or College Proficiency - Reading or Grandfathered Rdg Requirement or ACT-Reading</p>
<p><b>508-111 General &amp; Oral Pathology</b> 3 Determine when to consult, treat or refer clients with various disease, infection or physiological conditions. Recognize the signs, causes and implications of common pathological conditions including inflammatory responses, immune disorders, genetic disorders, developmental disorders of tissues and cysts, oral tissue trauma, and neoplasm of the oral cavity. Prerequisites: 508-102 Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology and 508-103 Dental Radiography</p>	<p><b>801-195 Written Communication</b> 3 Study and practice the transfer of information, ideas, and experiences in written form through reports, letters, memoranda, and other documents. Gain proficiency in the areas of organization, clarity, accuracy, and directness. Prerequisites: COMPASS-Writing Skills or ACT-English or ASSET-Writing Skills or Accuplacer Sentence Skills or TABE Advanced Language or 831-103 Intro to College Writing or 851-771 Writing-Program Readiness</p>	<p><b>Elective Options</b> Any course at the associate degree level will meet the elective requirement.</p>
<p><b>508-112 Dental Hygiene Process 3</b> 5 In consultation with an instructor, apply independent problem solving skills to provide comprehensive care for calculus case type 1, 2, and 3 patients and</p>	<p><b>801-196 Oral/Interpersonal Comm</b> 3 Practice the necessary skills for effective speech delivery, listening, assertiveness, conflict resolution, teamwork, and general interpersonal communication.</p>	
	<p><b>806-177 Gen Anatomy &amp; Physiology</b> 4 Examine basic concepts of human anatomy and physiology as they relate to the health sciences. Use a body systems approach to discover the interrelationships between structure and function at the gross and microscopic levels of organization in the entire human body. Develop the ability as a health care professional to apply the basic concepts of whole body anatomy and physiology to decision</p>	