

# DENTAL HYGIENE

Associate in Applied Science Degree



## Hands-On Experience in Oral Healthcare

The role of a dental hygienist combines the best of many dental healthcare services. As a licensed oral healthcare professional and member of a dental team, a dental hygienist delivers a wide range of services under the general supervision of a dentist.

Through classroom work, laboratory and clinical experience in the on-campus public dental hygiene clinic, students learn to conduct patient assessments, take medical and dental histories, perform diagnostic tests and examinations, instruct patients in preventive dental health practices, perform various dental procedures and design and implement community and school health programs.

Students should be interested in biology and the health sciences and possess good hand/eye coordination skills. Exceptional communications skills and an attention to detail are necessary.

If you are seeking a profession that provides a variety of duties and enjoy working with a diverse population in an office setting, then this might be the career path for you.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The dental hygiene program is a 2-year, full time program that begins each fall and is designed to prepare students for licensure and employment in the state of Missouri. The program includes a general education component as well as a concentration in dental hygiene. Graduates of this program may transfer to a four-year college or university to obtain a bachelor of science degree. Acceptance of credits earned is at the discretion of the receiving institution.

Students in this program get "real life" hands-on experience at the public dental hygiene clinic at the Forest Park campus. The teaching environment covers classroom work, laboratory experience and actual clinical practice. While enrolled in this program, students will learn how to conduct patient assessments, perform dental diagnostic tests including radiographs, administer local anesthesia, instruct patients in dental disease control procedures, scaling and polishing procedures for the removal of hard and soft deposits, dental health procedures and more.

Program admission requirements and prerequisites are detailed, and must be met prior to consideration for entry into the program. Please review the comprehensive admission requirements listed before considering this program.

Graduates of this program will be eligible to sit for the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam, Regional Clinical exams, Missouri State Board Jurisprudence exam and are eligible for admission to the Missouri Dental Hygienists' Association ([mdha.org](http://mdha.org)) and the American Dental Hygienists' Association ([adha.org](http://adha.org)).

## OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS FIELD

Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow by 38 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Ongoing research linking oral health and general health will continue to spur the demand for preventive dental services, which are often provided by dental hygienists.

Graduates are qualified for positions as dental hygienists and may serve as clinical practitioners in general or specialty dental practice, educators, researchers, administrators, managers, program developers, consultants or dental product sales representatives. Employment is available in the military, health maintenance organizations, community health agencies, private industry and abroad with the Peace Corps or the World Health Organization.

## SALARY INFORMATION

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary for a dental hygienist is \$71,520 in 2014. Individual salaries vary by the geographic location, the extent of the dental hygienist's education, experience and the type and size of the dental practice.

## FEES

Please visit [www.stlcc.edu/fees](http://www.stlcc.edu/fees) for the most current information. Additional fees apply to some courses. Fees are subject to change.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Kim Polk  
associate professor, program director  
314-644-9334  
[kpolk2@stlcc.edu](mailto:kpolk2@stlcc.edu)

YOU CAN EARN THIS DEGREE AT: [Forest Park](#)

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For more information on how to get started on your career go to [www.stlcc.edu/getstarted](http://www.stlcc.edu/getstarted).

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### PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES-Must be completed and on file prior to application.

- Complete and submit college application admission. Students must maintain a regular student status and a cumulative GPA of 2.5. Official transcripts from high school, GED certification and other colleges must be mailed to the Admissions office (hand-carried or faxed transcripts not accepted).
- Science course prerequisites: must be completed prior to filling out the Dental Hygiene Program application. A minimum 2.8 GPA and a grade of C or better (please note if one of the course grades is a C, then the other two course grades must be minimally an A and B to meet the 2.8 GPA requirement) BIO:207 Anatomy and Physiology I; BIO:208 Anatomy & Physiology II; CHM:101 Fundamentals of Chemistry.
- CPR Healthcare provider level certification: completed prior to starting the program and maintained throughout program.
- Observation time: Students must complete a minimum of 20 hours observation time with a practicing dental hygienist at a minimum of two different offices (preferably three) with a statement of hours documented on practice letterhead including dates and number of hours observed. Professional attire is required at all times with no visible tattoos or body piercings other than one earring per lobe. No jeans or open-toed shoes.
- Students must be academically prepared to enroll in ENG:101 and COM:101 prior to admission into this program.
- Recommendation: Students should complete BIO:203 and all required general education requirements prior to enrollment into this program.
- Students must meet with program director and academic advisor prior to applying for entry into this program.
- Prior to registration, students must complete a physical exam, drug test and criminal background check at their own expense. For background check, please visit [www.stlccbackgroundcheck.com](http://www.stlccbackgroundcheck.com). If there are any questions or concerns, call 1-800-200-0853.
- Program Notification of Acceptance--admission reservation form letters are mailed by the second Friday in March for enrollment in the fall semester. Eligible students not admitted to start the program due to space will remain on the wait list. Placement on the entry list and wait list are determined by the date and time of application, which are maintained on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once an application is made, students are required to inform the Program Director of any address, email or phone number changes.
- Students must purchase their own uniforms, equipment and supplies prior to the start of the program. At the Program Orientation, the Director will distribute a list of specific items and their cost, which total approximately \$2,000 for the first semester. Additional semester equipment and supply expenses are approximated at \$3,000 total, excluding fees and books.
- Graduates of this program are eligible to sit for state and national board exams (see previous page for list). Licensure applications include questions regarding criminal history, drug addictions and social security number. Discovery of relevant criminal history or false information may result in denial of your application, conditioned licensure or the filing of a disciplinary action against you.

### CURRICULUM

Course Number	Course Description	AAS Credit Hours
<b>General Education</b>		
___ COM:101	Oral Communications I	3
___ ENG:101	College Composition I	3
___ PSY:200	General Psychology	3
___ SOC:101	Introduction to Sociology	3
___ BIO:203	General Microbiology I	4
___ HST:XXX	Missouri State Requirement	3
___ PE:XXX	Physical Education Activity	2
<b>Total General Education Credit Hours</b>		<b>21</b>

### Area of Concentration

<b>First Semester</b>		
___ DHY:120.	Concepts of Preclinical Dental Hygiene	3
___ DHY:121	Clinical Applications Lab I	1
___ DHY:125	Periodontics I	2
___ DHY:126	Dental Radiology I	2
___ DHY:127	Oral Anatomy	3
___ DHY:128	Biomedical Science for Dental Hygienists	2
___ DHY:129	Dental Medical Emergencies	1
<b>Total First Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
___ DHY:130	Concepts of Clinical Dental Hygiene II	3
___ DHY:131	Clinical Applications Lab II	1
___ DHY:132	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	4

### CURRICULUM (Cont'd)

Course Number	Course Description	AAS Credit Hours
___ DHY:136	Dental Nutrition & Biochemistry	3
___ DHY:137	Anatomy & Embryology of Head & Neck	2
___ DHY:138	General and Oral Pathology	2
<b>Total Second Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Summer Semester</b>		
___ DHY:142	Clinical Dental Hygiene	2
___ DHY:215	Pain Control	2
___ DHY:226	Dental Radiology II	1
<b>Total Summer Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Fourth Semester</b>		
___ DHY:220	Concepts of Clinical Dental Hygiene III	2
___ DHY:221	Clinical Applications Lab III	1
___ DHY:222	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	4
___ DHY:223	Community Public Health	2
___ DHY:225	Periodontics II	2
___ DHY:228	Dental Pharmacology	2
<b>Total Fourth Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Fifth Semester</b>		
___ DHY:230	Transition into Professional Dental Hygiene	2
___ DHY:232	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	4
<b>Total Fifth Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>6</b>

**Total Credit Hours for Program: 74**

[www.stlcc.edu/programs/Dental\\_Hygiene](http://www.stlcc.edu/programs/Dental_Hygiene)