



****Dental Hygiene****

Program Information

Revised 7/2025

Dear Prospective Dental Hygiene Applicant:

Thank you for inquiring about Stark State College's Dental Hygiene Program. This packet represents the most up to date information in print, but please note that it is subject to change as needed to maintain a high-quality program. Currently students are enrolled each year beginning fall semester.

The Dental Hygiene Program is a limited enrollment program; therefore, students must apply and be accepted into the program *separately* from being accepted/enrolled into the college. The program uses a "rolling admissions" process which means there is no specific application deadline for each class. Students become "eligible" to apply when they meet specific admission criteria (see the ***Checklist/Application*** on the Stark State College website). Once students successfully complete the application process, they are accepted on a first-come, first-placed basis.

All students considering the **Dental Hygiene Program** must:

- 1. Apply to Stark State College** (if new to the college).
- 2. CCP students can apply to the program before graduation from high school, but must have submitted a high school diploma prior to the Program Orientation.**
- 3. Take the Accuplacer exam** (if not taken previously).
 - a. The exam will determine whether or not you will need to enroll in any prerequisite course **BEFORE** you begin the four courses required to apply for the dental hygiene program.
 - b. The exam can be taken any time after you apply to the College, but it is strongly recommended that you complete it before your first advising appointment. This will allow your advisor to give you the best advice towards scheduling other courses.
 - ◆ **Note:** *Transfer and/or students who have taken the ACT test within the last two calendar years may not be required to take the Accuplacer exam. An admissions counselor can discuss the details with you.*
 - c. Go to: <https://www.starkstate.edu/admissions/placementtesting/> to schedule your exam.
 - d. There is no fee for this exam and you do not need to study for it.
- 4. Complete BCI/FBI Background Checks**

Go to: <https://www.starkstate.edu/about/security/background-check-information/> to schedule your appointment. You will receive an email of verification of eligibility and complete background check reports through your Stark State email. You will need a complete background check report prior to starting the Dental Hygiene Program. Please direct all background questions to the security office.
- 5. Make an Academic Advising Appointment**
 - a. If you have never taken a credit course at Stark State College, make an appointment with a Gateway Admissions Counselor at 330-494-6170 or 800-797-8275.
 - b. If you are a current student at the college, make an appointment with your assigned advisor. To identify your advisor, log on to MySSC and click on "**Student Tools**" tab, then "**My Student Profile**" tab. (For additional assistance, contact the Allied Dental Health Professions Department Chair by calling 330-966-5458, ext. 4942).

Sincerely,

The Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator/Allied Dental Health Professions Department Chair

Dental Hygiene Program Philosophy

The Dental Hygiene Program will prepare students to demonstrate the knowledge and clinical skills essential for the delivery of quality dental hygiene services. Students will understand the value of collaboration with patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers to deliver equitable and inclusive oral healthcare.

The Program seeks to develop dental hygienists who pursue academic excellence, understand the scope of dental hygiene practice, and are able to influence the factors that affect the advancement of the profession through evidence-based practice and innovation to meet the needs of diverse communities.

Dental Hygiene Program Goals

1. Graduates will provide high-quality dental hygiene services based on individual patient needs.
2. Graduates will demonstrate professionalism and ethics in all aspects of dental hygiene care.
3. Graduates will effectively communicate the importance of oral health with patients, healthcare providers and the public.
4. Graduates will be prepared to collaborate with local communities to address oral health needs.
5. Graduates will pursue advancements in their profession and further develop their skills through innovation and evidence-based knowledge.

**Stark State College (SSC)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for
PROSPECTIVE DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS**

Q1. If after reading this information, I still have questions, who should I contact?

A1. *If you are new to Stark State College, call the Admissions Office (330) 494-6170 or 800-797-8275 to schedule an appointment with an admissions counselor. If you are a current student at the College, make an appointment with your assigned advisor. To identify your advisor, log on to MySSC and click on “Student Tools” tab, then “My Student Profile” tab. For specific dental hygiene questions, you may also call the Allied Dental Health Professions Department Chair at (330) 966-5458 x 4942.*

Q2. Is the program accredited?

A2. *Yes. It is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation may be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.*

Q3. What resources can I use to assist me in exploring the Dental Hygiene profession?

A3. *Visit www.adha.org or www.state.oh.us/den to learn much more about the dental professions. You may also visit Stark State College’s Career Services Office located in the Gateway Center main campus.*

Q4. What is a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)?

A4. *A licensed professional who works under the direction of a dentist to promote optimal oral health, prevent oral diseases, and intervene with therapeutic services. Typical responsibilities include: instructing patients in oral health education, managing patient record systems, scaling and polishing of teeth, administering local anesthetic, applying sealants, taking impressions, applying fluoride treatments, assisting the dentist, collecting medical/dental history information, obtaining vitals, gathering extra/intra oral health assessment data, exposing, processing & mounting dental images (x-rays), and more.*

Q5. Do I have to be licensed to practice dental hygiene?

A5. *Yes. To apply for a dental hygiene license in Ohio, a graduate must pass the written National Board Exam, the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) clinical and computer-simulated exams, and a jurisprudence (state law) exam. Each state has its own requirements although they are similar.*

Q6. Will I get a degree upon completion of the program?

A6. *Yes. The Associate of Applied Science degree is awarded.*

Q7. Is dental hygiene a field for women only?

A7. *No. Although the majority of practicing dental hygienists are women, men are very successful in this field, too. Always welcome in the workplace, the numbers of male dental hygienists are increasing. There are several male alumni of this program.*

Q8. Where are most dental hygienists employed?

A8. *Most dental hygienists are employed by private and corporate dental offices, but opportunities exist in public health settings, dental hygiene education programs, public schools, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, and private industry.*

Q9. Can I expect to find a job once graduated?

A9. *Yes. The employment picture is good and is predicted to be for the coming years. There may be more part-time than full-time positions available but graduates are usually able to get the number of hours or work they desire. SSC’s Career Services Office, located in the Gateway Center main campus, can assist students in their job search before and after graduation.*

- Q10. Are there personal attributes I should consider if thinking about dental hygiene as a career?**
A10. **Yes.** Prospective students should have the ability to succeed in a science-based curriculum, relate well to people on a one-on-one basis, feel comfortable working in close proximity with people of all ages and backgrounds, be patient, and have good time management skills.
- Q11. Do I need to complete Stark State College's Student Success Course (SSC101)?**
Q11. **Yes.** All students must complete the course prior to graduating. (effective summer 2015)
- Q12. If I am past the traditional college age, am I too old to enter dental hygiene?**
A12. **No.** There is a growing trend for people to change careers or to choose to enter the dental hygiene field later in life. Students can be successful in this program and career field no matter their age.
- Q13. How long is the program?**
A13. A minimum of two years is required to complete the 65-credit hour program. The four eligibility {pre-application} courses are part of the Dental Hygiene Program but are taken before admission into the program.
- Q14. Can I attend part-time?**
A14. **No.** Students must enroll in all courses scheduled for each semester. However, students who complete all or most of their non-dental hygiene courses prior to enrolling will have reduced credit hour loads roughly equivalent to part-time study. It is important to note that most of the dental hygiene courses are lab or clinical based. For this reason, students registered for DHY courses should expect to attend classes five to eight hours a day, Monday through Friday and day and evening clinic sessions should be expected.
- Q15. In addition to college tuition/fees, what expenses can I expect related to my dental hygiene education?**
A15. Expenses include, but may not be limited to: special dental hygiene course fees, instrument kits (students should purchase new equipment and instruments only), textbooks, supplies, liability insurance, physical examination/immunization, uniforms, background checks, transportation to/from off-campus clinical experiences, campus fees, and membership fees. In addition, licensing board exams and state license application related fees should be expected. **NOTE:** Students should expect fees to be greater than some other SSC programs. There is detailed information about costs later in this packet.
- Q16. Is financial aid available?**
A16. **Yes, if you are eligible.** SSC's financial aid office can provide information concerning available grants, loans and scholarships. To make an appointment with a financial aid counselor call 330-494-6170 ext. 4301 or go to: studentservices@starkstate.edu
- Q17. Can I visit the program facilities?**
A17. **Yes.** Please call the Gateway Center ahead to plan. Also, students are welcome to experience the clinic more directly by becoming a patient. Contact the clinic at 330-305-6610 for exact times or to schedule an appointment.
- Q18. Is experience as a dental assistant helpful?**
A18. **Yes, and No.** Familiarity with the dental work setting and terminology is helpful. There is no advantage, however, in admissions or in course work. All students, including dental assistants, must meet the same admission criteria and must complete all coursework listed on the curriculum plan.
- Q19. Are there any specific technical standards (physical requirements) necessary to perform dental hygiene functions?**
A19. **Yes.** A dental hygienist must have use of both hands, dexterity in the fingers and tactile sensitivity to manipulate dental instruments, materials, dental hand pieces, and to operate dental equipment. The use of feet is necessary to manipulate a rheostat for hand pieces and other adjunct dental equipment. The body must be able to work from a dental operator stool in order to perform dental hygiene procedures. The ability

to sit and stand for a duration of time is also necessary. Other specific requirements include ability to wear industry-determined face masks; color discrimination (differentiation of various shades of color and gradations from black to white); manual dexterity/motor coordination (discern changes in surface textures by manipulating dental instruments, control exertion of hand/finger pressure); hand-eye coordination (transfer of visual input into motor output); physical communications (perceive sound through telephone, hear commands through operator's face mask, discern blood pressure sounds); visual acuity (identify the working ends of various dental instruments and implements at a two foot distance); form/spatial ability (view in three- dimensional relationships, distinguish subtle changes from one form or shape to another, discriminate intricate measurements); and language development (speak clearly so that a patient understands his/her dental condition).

Q20. Can credits earned in the program be transferred or applied to a bachelor's degree?

A20. Yes. Arts and sciences courses included in the curriculum are transferable. Technical courses must be evaluated by the institution where a student wishes to transfer. Contact the Allied Dental Health Professions Department Chair for information about degree completion (Bachelor's degree) options.

Q21. When do classes begin?

A21. Students are admitted once per year, in the fall semester. Details are provided to program applicants.

Q22. What hours will I attend school while enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Program?

A22. The schedule varies during the year. Lecture and lab classes are generally scheduled between 8:00 am-5:00 pm (M-F) and all students have day and evening clinic sessions. Students are encouraged not to schedule other activities, including employment, until the semester schedules are posted.

Q23. Can I work while going to dental hygiene school?

A23. Yes, with limits encouraged. It is recommended that part-time employment be limited to 8-10 hours per week. However, the actual number will vary depending on individual student circumstances.

Q24. Are there any special requirements for enrolling in the Dental Hygiene Program?

A24. Yes. Enrollment is limited. Therefore, acceptance into SSC does not automatically mean acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program. Candidates must become eligible by meeting specific requirements and must apply to the program. Formal notification of acceptance into the program is required.

Q25. Is there an application deadline?

A25. No. Applications will be accepted when a candidate completes all eligibility {pre-application} requirements.

Q26. What must I do to become eligible? What steps should I follow?

A26. Please go to the sections of this packet titled, "What must I do to be accepted into the Program?" and "How do I Apply for Admission?"

Q27. What does 'eligibility' mean?

A27. A student has met the special pre-application requirements and is ready to apply for admission to the program.

Q28. Do all eligible applicants get into the program?

A28. Yes. Acceptance to the Program is based solely on meeting the special requirements and submitting a complete application. Applicants are not placed in competition with one another. However, because the number of eligible applicants often exceeds the number of openings for a class, admission is granted on a space available basis. Eligible applicants are guaranteed admission but may be admitted to a succeeding class.

Q29. Can individuals with a felony or misdemeanor conviction be admitted into the program?

A29. Maybe. Criminal background checks are required for all students prior to applying to a Health Sciences

program. If one or more disqualifying offenses appear on a student's background check, he/she may be ineligible to make application to a health sciences program at that time and/or may be unable to meet professional certification or licensure requirements. For more information, please refer to the Health home page (click on "Background Checks") or contact Stark State College's Security Offices (located in the S Building-1st Floor) or the Allied Dental Health Professions Department Chair.

Q30. How long might I wait to begin classes after being accepted?

A30. *The start of Dental Hygiene courses may be delayed one or more years depending on the number of applicants. When a student is accepted, he/she will be informed of his/her start date. If spaces open earlier, the applicant will be notified. Students are encouraged to apply as soon as they are eligible and to use the waiting period to complete the non-dental hygiene courses.*

Q36. How many students are in each dental hygiene class?

A36. *A full class includes 24 students. However, the actual number of applicants admitted to a class may be fewer if circumstances necessitate the return of a previously enrolled student.*

Q37. Do most students complete the program within two calendar years?

A37. *Yes, and no. Almost all students complete the technical courses (DHY) in two years. However, most students take some or all of the required arts and sciences courses (non-dental hygiene) before starting the dental hygiene two-year sequence. This strategy is highly recommended to strengthen academic background and lighten the load to allow for full focus on the dental hygiene courses.*

Q38. Are there any non-Dental Hygiene courses that should not be taken too far in advance?

A38. *Yes. BIO221 Principles of Microbiology, must not be taken earlier than three (3) years prior to enrolling in the Dental Hygiene course (DHY121). In general, the eligibility courses have specific timelines. Refer to the section titled, "What special rules apply to the eligibility courses?"*

Q39. Do I have to take the four eligibility {pre-application} courses during the summer semester as shown on the curriculum sequence?

A39. *No. Eligibility courses may be taken during one or more semesters and at any time as long as the eligibility course time limitations and rules are met.*

Q40. Are there any prerequisites for the four eligibility courses?

A40. *Yes. Prerequisites are established for each of the four courses. Your ACT or Accuplacer exam scores and if applicable, high school/college course records will determine which prerequisite courses you will need to take.*

Q41. Exactly what courses are included in the curriculum?

A41. *Students will follow the sequence listed on the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Plan. Non-dental hygiene courses may be taken before beginning the Dental Hygiene course sequence, but no later than as shown on the plan.*

Q42. Will I be required to learn local anesthesia injection (how to give shots) and nitrous oxide administration?

A42. *Yes. Dental Hygienists in the State of Ohio are allowed to administer local anesthesia (give shots). Students in this program will learn and practice local anesthesia injections and will sit for the CDCA Local Anesthesia Exam. Students will also learn how to administer nitrous oxide.*

Q43. Are Dental Hygienists at risk for infectious diseases such as AIDS?

A43. *Maybe. Dental Hygienists who practice according to infection control guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are at no greater risk than any other health care professional. They are, however, at a slightly greater risk than the general population.*

Q44. If I have an infectious disease, can I still apply to the Program?

A44. *Maybe. To view Stark State College's Bloodborne Pathogen policy click on this link: <https://www.starkstate.edu/about/policies/> or call the Clinic at 330-305-6610 to request a copy.*

Q45. Can out of state students apply and be accepted?

A45. Yes. *The same criteria and procedures apply.*

Q46. If I am currently enrolled in Dental Hygiene at another college, is transfer to SSC possible?

A46. Maybe. *SSC's program may or may not be able to accept in-progress Dental Hygiene students depending on space availability and the curriculum match between the two colleges. Please contact the Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator/Allied Dental Health Professions Department Chair for a review of your academic record.*

Q47. Do I need to be certified in Basic Life Support (BLS)?

A47. Yes. *All students in the Allied Dental Health Professions at SSC are required to hold BLS certification. Additionally, because of direct contact with dental patients in a clinical setting, it is required that you participate in a face-to-face delivery of the **Healthcare Provider BLS** training program.*

Q48. Do I need health insurance to participate in service learning activities?

A48. Yes. *You will need health insurance to participate at designated service learning sites.*

Q49. Do I need to have a flu shot to participate in service learning activities?

A49. Yes. *Flu shots are required to participate in service learning activities.*

Q50. Can I graduate with Honors from the Dental Hygiene Program?

A50. Yes. *You must be accepted into the SSC Honors Program and fulfill the Honors Experience criteria. For more information about the Honors program here at Stark State College please visit the following link:*
<https://www.starkstate.edu/admissions/honors/>

Q51. Are there any specific Honors courses in Dental Hygiene Program?

A51. Yes. *An "H" designation means that the course has been approved for Honors credit. For a complete list of Honors courses and approved instructors please visit the following link:*
<https://www.starkstate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/List-of-honors-courses-and-approved-Instructors.pdf>

Q52. Can I take Honors courses for credit without being enrolled in the SSC Honors Program?

A52. Yes. *You may do so by submitting an Honors Program application and selecting the "applying to take an honors course only" option.*

NOTE:

- The College reserves the right to change, without notice, statements concerning rules, policies, fees, curricula, courses, or other matters.
- Stark State College is committed to equal opportunity for all and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, military status, pregnancy, disability, age, genetic information, or sexual orientation.
- SSC strives to enroll a diverse representation of students within the Health Sciences programs. Members of underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

Dental Hygiene Program Course Descriptions

In addition to the courses listed below, the current full-time and part-time program curriculum sheets can be referenced by going to the following link:

<https://www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/dental-hygiene/>

DHY121 (Lec 1, Lab/Clinic 2) *This course addresses orofacial embryological development, histologic characteristics of the orofacial organs, gross anatomy and physiology of the head, neck, and oral regions, and tooth morphology.*

DHY123 (Lec 2, Lab/Clinic 3) *This course is designed to introduce the student to fundamental knowledge of radiographic principles and safety considerations. Skill development in image production, mounting techniques and radiographic interpretation is emphasized.*

DHY124 (Lec 2, Lab/Clinic 0) *Introduction to the etiology, diagnosis, and prevention of diseases affecting the tissues that support, attach, and surround the teeth. Basic periodontic terminology and concepts utilized for dental hygiene care to include patient periodontal assessment and treatment modalities. Term and concepts applied in the clinical setting in DHY133.*

DHY125 (Lec 2, Lab/Clinic 3) *Course design covers fundamental knowledge of the dental materials commonly used in contemporary dental practice including their physical, chemical and manipulative characteristics. Skill development in correctly using these materials is emphasized.*

DHY126 (Lec 1, Lab/Clinic 2) *Diseases of development and growth including neoplasms, diseases of microbial origin, injury and repair, disturbances of metabolism and diseases of specific systems is presented.*

DHY131 (Lec 1, Lab/Clinic 8) *An introduction to dentistry, the dental hygiene profession, and ethical and professional patient care, terminology and basic skills utilized in the contemporary practice of dental hygiene, including infection control procedures and patient assessment and treatment are covered. Concepts are applied in a preclinical setting with manikins and student partners.*

DHY132 (Lec 0, Lab/Clinic 2) *Builds upon fundamentals to provide further study of dental hygiene practices including, but not limited to, dental specialties, treatment planning and management of medical/dental emergencies.*

DHY133 (Lec 0, Lab/Clinic 8) *Supervised clinical patient care experiences which reinforce fundamentals, correlate with, and allow the application of dental procedures and concepts presented in Dental Hygiene Theory I. Emphasis on application of basic skills and professionalism.*

DHY134 (Lec 0, Lab/Clinic 4) *Supervised clinical patient care experiences which allow further development of clinical skills and application of concepts. Emphasis on patient management and effective communications.*

DHY221 (Lec 1, Lab/Clinic 0) *Basic concepts of nutrition and the effects on general as well as oral health are presented. The role of nutrition in dentistry for disease prevention and health promotion is emphasized. Dietary analysis and counseling methodologies are discussed and practiced.*

DHY222 (Lec 2, Lab/Clinic 0) *General principles of drug regulation and prescribing, action and handling and adverse reactions is covered. Body systems, medical histories, and their impact on drugs used in dentistry and their potential to alter dental treatment is discussed. Drugs used to manage medical emergencies are emphasized.*

DHY223 (Lec 0, Lab/Clinic 2) *This course focuses on program planning models, incorporation of research methods into*

program development and evaluation and offers practical application of community health concepts. Concepts of research design and methodology in community program planning are discussed. Learning experiences emphasize reading and reviewing scientific literature, understanding statistical reporting and the levels of public health prevention and administration. Assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating the oral health of various populations in a community setting are presented. Field experience required.

DHY224 (Lec 1, Lab/Clinic 0) *The fundamentals of periodontics are reinforced and clinical assessment, disease classification, and treatment options are discussed using clinical case applications. Current advances in periodontal research and therapy is presented including oral-systemic connections.*

DHY225 (Lec 1, Lab/Clinic 3) *This course will teach the basic concepts of anesthesia and pain control as they relate to patient management in the provision of comprehensive dental hygiene care. Lecture will focus on theory of pain control, selection of pain control modalities and implications of local anesthesia. Topics will utilize knowledge and review of anatomy, physiology and pharmacology. Lab includes competency-based practice of the administration of pain control modalities.*

DHY231 (Lec 0, Lab/Clinic 2) *This course is designed to further explore treatment modalities and dental hygiene services such oral hygiene indices, and supplemental care procedures. It focuses on the incorporation of all phases of assessment and the development of more complex dental hygiene care plans and case presentation focusing on individual patient care. Required lab performed in the clinical setting with manikins and student partners include ultrasonic/sonic instrumentation, air polishing, suture removal, periodontal dressing placement, and advanced instrumentation techniques.*

DHY232 (Lec 0, Lab/Clinic 12) *Supervised clinical patient care experiences which refine fundamentals, correlate with, and allow application of, dental hygiene procedures and lecture concepts presented in Dental Hygiene Theory II. Emphasis on total patient care and treatment planning, including judgment and decision-making. Offsite clinical experiences required.*

DHY233 (Lec 0, Lab/Clinic 2) *Further exploration of treatment modalities and adjunct procedures is covered. This course focuses on transitions to practice, including principles of office management, jurisprudence, ethics and current issues in dental hygiene.*

DHY234 (Lec 0, Lab/Clinic 12) *Supervised clinical patient care experiences that correlate with, and allow application of, dental hygiene procedures and lecture concepts presented in Dental Hygiene Theory III. Development of proficiency in implementing treatment plans to meet individual patient's oral health needs. Emphasis on self-evaluation and quality assurance.*

What must I do to be accepted into the Program?

1. Be accepted to SSC and complete a placement exam (Accuplacer exam or recent ACT).
2. Have a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate. CCP students can apply to the program before graduation from high school, but must have submitted a high school diploma prior to the Program Orientation.
3. Complete all four eligibility {pre-application} courses.

- ENG124 College Composition (3 credits)
- PSY121 General Psychology (3 credits)
- BIO123 Principles of Human Structure and Function (5 credits)
[or BIO121 Anatomy & Physiology I **and**
BIO122 Anatomy & Physiology II (8 credits)]
- CHM123 Gen/Org and Biological Chemistry I (4 credits)

NOTE: Must complete any pre-requisites for these courses. The number of prerequisite courses will depend upon the student's academic background, years out of high school, and scores on placement (Accuplacer exam or recent ACT) tests. Students therefore, may need to plan for additional semester(s) of course work before taking the eligibility {pre-application} courses.

- 4a. Earn a grade of 'C' or better in EACH eligibility {pre-application} course. If substituting BIO121 & BIO122 for BIO123, must earn a grade of 'C' or better in both. *Keep in mind, if you earn the minimum grade of 'C' in every eligibility {pre-application} course, you will not meet the eligibility course GPA requirement listed in item 4b below.*

AND

- 4b. Earn a grade point average of 3.0 or better using only the eligibility course grades.
5. Document 20 hours of dental office observation/employment experience.
6. Comply with the **special rules** that apply to admission requirements (details follow on the next page).
7. Be in "good standing" as defined by the College (2.0 GPA overall).
8. Complete FBI and BCI Criminal Background checks through the Stark State Security Office receiving a result of "Eligible to Apply" through your Stark State College email.

If you are new to Stark State College and have questions about the program admissions process, contact an admissions counselor. If you are a current student and have questions about the dental hygiene admissions process, contact your assigned academic advisor (refer to the "My Stuff" tab on mystarkstate). You may also contact the Interim Department Chair for the Dental Hygiene program.

Patricia Weller, MAEd, RDH
pweller@starkstate.edu
(330) 966-5458 x 4942

What special rules apply to the eligibility courses?

1. Course Grade

You must complete EACH of the four eligibility {pre-application} courses with a grade of 'C' or better. Grades of 'D' and 'F' are not acceptable.

*A grade of 'C' or better must be earned in both BIO121 **and** BIO122 if substituted for BIO123*

2. Eligibility Course GPA

You must achieve a GPA calculated with the eligibility courses only of at least 3.0.

An eligibility course GPA of 2.99 or less is not acceptable. If you are not sure how to calculate your GPA, contact your advisor. Your advisor's contact information can be found on the "my stuff" tab or through MAP on the mystarkstate portal.

*If BIO121 **and** BIO122 are substituted for BIO123, both course grades will be calculated in the eligibility GPA.*

3. Course Repeat

You may only repeat each eligibility course once to improve your grade. A second repeat of the same course will result in your ineligibility to apply to the program.

4. Course Withdrawal

You may only withdraw from each course twice. A third withdrawal from the same course will result in your ineligibility to apply to the program.

5. Course Age

BIO221-Microbiology must be completed within three years of taking the dental hygiene (DHY121) technical course.

Students cannot use eligibility courses taken over eight years prior to application to the Dental Hygiene Program to meet eligibility requirements. These courses can be taken and repeated once within the last eight years to improve the grade.

Note: *Students who have completed a Bachelors and/or Master's degree and have earned a 'C' or better in either/both College Composition (ENG124) and General Psychology (PSY121) are exempt from this eight-year rule.*

6. Course Substitutions

Comparable SSC courses and courses transferred from other institutions will be evaluated by the appropriate department chair(s) and admissions/registration personnel to determine if course substitutions for eligibility courses are merited. (effective April 2016)

*BIO121 **and** BIO122 may be substituted for BIO123 if a grade of 'C' or better is earned in both courses.*

7. College Grade Point Average

GPA's from two or more colleges will not be combined or averaged; the SSC transcript will take precedence once 12 or more credit hours have been completed at SSC.

8. Continuous Good Standing

Applicant must be in good academic standing with their college at the time of application and must maintain that status each semester during the waiting period for final enrollment into the dental hygiene program.

What special rules apply to the Dental Office Observation?

1. Observation Site and Hours

The observation can occur in any dental practice setting where a dentist, dental hygienist, and dental assistant can be observed; but the experience must occur in a dental office where a dental hygienist is employed.

More than one site can be observed to achieve the total number of required observation hours.

2. Date of Observation

The experience must occur prior to application to the Dental Hygiene Program.

3. Proof of Observation

Observation of the dentist, dental hygienist, and dental assistant must be documented using the Dental Office Experience Observation form. If the observation is completed at more than one site, a separate form is needed for each.

4. Current or Formerly Employed Dental Assistants

Applicants who are current or former dental assistants are required to document 20 hours of dental office observation/employment experience in the same manner as any other applicant.

How do I Apply for Admission?

When all of the admission requirements are met submit your completed application to the Registration Office located in the Gateway Center main campus. All applications will be time/date stamped.

1. Submit a Stark State College application (*new SSC students only*) with the required fee.
2. Obtain the most current “Dental Hygiene—Checklist/Application” and a Dental Hygiene Program “Information Packet” from the Stark State website. This packet will include the “Dental Office Observation/Experience Form” that will be needed when applying to the program. This information can also be obtained in the Health and Public Services Offices (room H209).
3. Go to: <https://www.starkstate.edu/about/security/background-check-information/> to schedule your appointment. You will receive an email of verification of eligibility through your Stark State email. Please direct all background questions to the security office.
4. Meet all prerequisite course requirements and complete the four eligibility courses earning an eligibility course GPA of 3.0 or higher.
5. When all admission requirements are met, schedule an appointment with your assigned *pre-admittance pathway advisor* to review the contents of your program application. At the appointment with your *pre-admittance pathway advisor* you should present the following items for review:
 - a. A completed “Dental Hygiene—Checklist/Application”. ***Please check the College website to ensure you are using the most current Checklist Application when applying to the program.***
 - b. Completed Dental Observation/Experience form.
 - c. Complete FBI and BCI Criminal Background checks through the Stark State Security Office receiving a result of “Eligible to Apply”.
6. Submit the signed program “Dental Hygiene—Checklist/Application”, a completed “Dental Observation/Experience Form”, and a copy of your completed background check email to the Registration office located in the Gateway Center where the application will be date/time stamped.
8. Each application is reviewed to validate that it is complete and that all admission requirements have been met. When a complete and validated application is received, a letter of acceptance with projected starting date is mailed to the applicant in approximately six weeks. Since a waiting period is expected, applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as admission requirements are completed in order to reserve a space. The remaining non-dental hygiene courses can be completed while waiting to begin the Dental Hygiene Program. Applicants must remain in continuous good standing for final enrollment into the dental hygiene course sequence.

Note: *Students who submit incomplete or invalid checklist/applications will be notified of the deficiency. Applicants will be required to resubmit a new checklist/application along with all application materials. A resubmitted checklist/application will receive a new date/time stamp.*

ESTIMATED DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM EXPENSES

Academic Year 2025-2026

NOT INCLUDING Tuition, Parking, & Living Expenses

Instructional Instruments & Equipment	Approximate Cost	Semester Required	License Related	Program Related
Blood Pressure Kit	\$ 50.00	Fall of 1 st Year		X
XCP Radiography Set*	441.00			X
Typodont*	428.50			X
Uniforms, Lab Coat, Shoes, etc.	250.00			X
Safety Glasses (2 pair)	30.00			X
Freshman Kit 1*	587.00			X
Freshman Kit 2*	463.00			X
Dental Materials Kit*	273.50	Spring of 1 st Year		X
Sophomore Kit*	791.00			X
Other Expenses	Approximate Cost	Semester Required	License Related	Program Related
Dental Hygiene Program Facility Usage Fee	\$ 700.00/semester 3,500 total	Fall (2), Spring (2), Summer (1)		X
Maintenance and Campus Security Fee	35.00/semester 175.00 total			X
Distance Learning Fee (W2=5\$/credit hour/ W3 & W4=\$10/credit hour)	80.00	Summer (1), Fall (2), Spring (1)		
BCI/BCI Criminal Background Checks (\$70.00 x 4)	280.00	Pre-application, Summer (1 st and 2 nd year), pre-	X	X
Textbooks-Non-Technical Courses	595.00	As Needed		X
Transportation to Off-Campus Clinical Sites	100.00	1 st and 2 nd year as scheduled		X
Textbooks-Technical Courses	2284.12			X
Webcam-Optional	30.00	Summer (1 st year)		X
SSC Processing Fee (one Time Fee)	95.00	Pre-application		X
Liability Insurance (\$15.00 x 2)	30.00	Summer (1 st and 2 nd year)		X
Physical Exam with Immunizations, Drug Tests, etc.	571.00			X
Basic Life Support (CPR) (\$100.00 x 3)	300.00	Continuous (1 st and 2 nd year)	X	X
Photo ID Badge (<i>must replace as needed</i>)	10.00	Summer (1 st year)		X
SADHA Membership (\$65.00 x 2)	150.00	Fall (1 st and 2 nd year)		X
ODHA Annual Session Travel Fees	100.00			X
Community Dental Health Projects /Table Clinics	50.00	Fall (2 nd year)		X
National Board Dental Hygiene Exam	565.00	Spring (2 nd year)	X	
CDCA Clinical Board Exam	1150.00		X	
CDCA Local Anesthesia Exam	140.00		X	
National Board Dental Hygiene Exam Review (<i>optional</i>)	500.00		X	
Ohio Dental Hygiene License Application	184.00		X	
ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL	\$14,545.62			

Dental Office Observation/Experience Form

Instructions to Applicant: Attach this completed form to the Dental Hygiene Program Application.
Do not submit separately or in advance of the application. **PLEASE PRINT.**

Conditions: Experience must occur in a dental facility where a dental hygienist, and a dental assistant are employed and observation of dentist, hygienist, and assistant functions must be documented by the presence of **all four** validation signatures.

Applicant's Name: _____ **SSC Student ID:** S00

Check One:

____ I was/am **employed** in a dental office.

____ I **observed** in a dental office.

Dates of employment at this office:

OR

Dates of observation at this office:

My primary responsibilities included:

I observed a total of _____ hours.
(MINIMUM 20 HOURS REQUIRED)

Dental Office Name: _____

Address: _____
Street

City

State

Zip Code

Check One:

Type of Practice: _____ General Practice _____ Specialty (identify type) _____

I worked with/observed:

Dentist Name: _____

Dental Hygienist Name: _____

Dental Assistant Name: _____

Validation Signatures:

I certify that the applicant named above worked or observed in this office for the period of time stated. While in the office, he/she was exposed to the role of each member of the office dental health team.

Dentist Date **Dental Hygienist** Date

Dental Assistant Date **Program Applicant** Date