



****Dental Hygiene****

Program Information

Revised 12/2025

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
rev.11/13/2025

Q1. Is the program accredited?

A1. *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.*

Q2. What resources can I use to assist me in exploring the Dental Hygiene profession?

A2. *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.*

Q3. What is a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)?

A3. *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 recare 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 and mounting dental images (x-rays), and more.*

Q4. Do I have to be licensed to practice dental hygiene?

A4. *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.*

Q5. Will I get a degree upon completion of the program?

A5. *Yes. The Associate of Applied Science degree is awarded.*

Q6. Is dental hygiene a field for women only?

A6. *No. Although the majority of practicing dental hygienists are women, men are very successful in this field, too. Always welcome in the workplace, the number of male dental hygienists is increasing. There are several male alumni of this program.*

Q7. Where are most dental hygienists employed?

A7. *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.*

Q8. Can I expect to find a job once graduated?

A8. *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.*

Q9. Are there personal attributes I should consider if thinking about dental hygiene as a career?

A9. *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.*

Q10. Do I need to complete Stark State College's Student Success Course (SSC101)?

A10. *Yes. All students must complete the course prior to graduating (effective summer 2015).*

Q11. If I am past the traditional college age, am I too old to enter dental hygiene?

A11. *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.*

Q12. How long is the program?

A12. *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.*

Q13. Can I attend part-time?

A13. *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. Most dental hygiene courses are lab or clinical based; students should expect to attend classes five to eight hours a day, Monday through Friday, including day and evening clinic sessions.*

Q14. In addition to college tuition and fees, what expenses can I expect related to my dental hygiene education?

A14. *Expenses include, but may not be limited to: special dental hygiene course fees, instrument kits, textbooks, supplies, liability insurance, physical examination/immunization, uniforms, background checks, transportation to and from off-campus clinical experiences, campus fees, and membership fees. In addition, licensing board exams and state license application fees should be expected.*

Q15. Is financial aid available?

A15. *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 email studentservices@starkstate.edu.*

Q16. Can I visit the program facilities?

A16. *Yes. Please call the Gateway Center ahead to plan. Students are also 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.*

Q17. Is experience as a dental assistant helpful?

A17. *Yes and no. Familiarity with the dental work setting and terminology is helpful. There is no advantage, however, in admissions or coursework. All students, including dental assistants, must meet the same admission criteria and complete all required courses.*

Q18. Are there any specific technical standards (physical requirements) necessary to perform dental hygiene functions.

A18. *Yes. A dental hygienist must have use of both hands, dexterity in the fingers, and tactile sensitivity to manipulate dental instruments, materials, and handpieces, and to operate dental equipment. Additional abilities include color discrimination, hand-eye coordination, visual acuity, manual dexterity, physical communication, and the ability to sit or stand for extended periods.*

Q19. Can credits earned in the program be transferred or applied to a bachelor's degree?

A19. *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 options.*

Q20. When do classes begin?

A20. *Students are admitted once per year, in the fall semester. Details are provided to program applicants.*

Q21. What hours will I attend school while enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Program?

A21. *The schedule varies during the year. Lecture and lab classes are generally scheduled between 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (M–F), and all students have day and evening clinic sessions. Students are encouraged not to schedule other activities, including employment, until semester schedules are posted.*

Q22. Can I work while going to dental hygiene school?

A22. *Yes, with limits encouraged. It is recommended that part-time employment be limited to 8–10 hours per week.*

Q23. Are there any special requirements for enrolling in the Dental Hygiene Program?

A23. *Yes. Enrollment is limited. Acceptance into SSC does not automatically mean acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program. Candidates must meet specific requirements and apply to the program.*

Q24. Is there an application deadline?

A24. *No. Applications will be accepted when a candidate completes all eligibility (pre-application) requirements.*

Q25. What must I do to become eligible? What steps should I follow?

A25. *Please refer to the sections titled “What must I do to be accepted into the Program?” and “How do I Apply for Admission?”*

Q26. What does “eligibility” mean?

A26. *A student has met the special pre-application requirements and is ready to apply for admission to the program.*

Q27. Do all eligible applicants get into the program?

A27. *Yes. Acceptance to the program is based solely on meeting requirements and submitting a complete application. Admission is granted on a space-available basis; eligible applicants are guaranteed admission but may be placed in a succeeding class.*

Q28. Can individuals with a felony or misdemeanor conviction be admitted into the program?

A28. *Maybe. Criminal background checks are required for all students prior to applying. Disqualifying offenses may affect eligibility or licensure. Contact SSC Security or the Allied Dental Health Professions Department Chair for details.*

Q29. How long might I wait to begin classes after being accepted?

A29. *The start of Dental Hygiene courses may be delayed depending on the number of applicants. Students are encouraged to apply early and use any waiting period to complete non-dental hygiene courses.*

Q30. How many students are in each dental hygiene class?

A30. *A full class includes 24 students. However, the number admitted may vary if circumstances require the return of previously enrolled students.*

Q31. Do most students complete the program within two calendar years?

A31. *Yes and no. Most complete the technical (DHY) courses in two years, but many take some arts and sciences courses beforehand to lighten the load.*

Q32. Are there any non-Dental Hygiene courses that should not be taken too far in advance?

A32. *Yes. BIO221 Principles of Microbiology must not be taken more than three years before enrolling in DHY121.*

Q33. Do I have to take the four eligibility (pre-application) courses during the summer semester as shown on the curriculum sequence?

A33. *No. Eligibility courses may be taken during any semester as long as the time limitations and rules are met.*

Q34. Are there any prerequisites for the four eligibility courses?

A34. Yes. Prerequisites are established for each of the four courses. ACT or Accuplacer scores and prior coursework determine placement.

Q35. Exactly what courses are included in the curriculum?

A35. Students follow the sequence listed on the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Plan. Non-dental hygiene courses may be taken earlier but no later than shown on the plan.

Q36. Will I be required to learn local anesthesia injection and nitrous oxide administration?

A36. Yes. Students learn and practice local anesthesia injections and sit for the CDCA Local Anesthesia Exam. They also learn to administer nitrous oxide.

Q37. Are Dental Hygienists at risk for infectious diseases such as AIDS?

A37. Maybe. Hygienists who follow CDC infection control guidelines are at no greater risk than other health professionals, though slightly higher than the general population.

Q38. If I have an infectious disease, can I still apply to the Program?

A38. Maybe. To view Stark State College's Bloodborne Pathogen policy, visit <https://www.starkstate.edu/about/policies/> or call the Clinic at 330-305-6610.

Q39. Can out-of-state students apply and be accepted?

A39. Yes. The same criteria and procedures apply.

Q40. If I am currently enrolled in Dental Hygiene at another college, is transfer to SSC possible?

A40. Maybe. Transfer depends on space availability and curriculum compatibility. Contact the Program Coordinator or Department Chair for review.

Q41. Do I need to be certified in Basic Life Support (BLS)?

A41. Yes. All Allied Dental Health Professions students at SSC must hold BLS certification obtained through face-to-face training.

Q42. Do I need health insurance to participate in service-learning activities?

A42. Yes. You will need health insurance to participate at designated service-learning sites.

Q43. Do I need to have a flu shot to participate in service-learning activities?

A43. Yes. Flu shots are required for participation in service-learning activities.

Q44. Can I graduate with Honors from the Dental Hygiene Program?

A44. Yes. You must be accepted into the SSC Honors Program and fulfill the Honors Experience criteria. More information: <https://www.starkstate.edu/admissions/honors/>

Q45. Are there any specific Honors courses in the Dental Hygiene Program?

A45. Yes. An "H" designation means that the course has been approved for Honors credit. For a list of Honors courses and approved instructors, visit: <https://www.starkstate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/List-of-honors-courses-and-approved-Instructors.pdf>

Q46. Can I take Honors courses for credit without being enrolled in the SSC Honors Program?

A46. Yes. You may do so by submitting an Honors Program application and selecting the "applying to take an honors course only" option.

Q47. What resources are available to help me succeed in this program?

A47. Students have access to academic advising, tutoring, counseling, disability support, and career services through

Stark State College. Faculty also provide close mentorship and guidance throughout the program.

Q48. If after reading this information I still have questions, who should I contact?

A48. *If you are new to Stark State College, call the Admissions Office at 330-494-6170 or 800-797-8275 to schedule an appointment with an admissions counselor.*

If you are a current student, make an appointment with your assigned advisor (found in MySSC → “Student Tools” → “My Student Profile”).

For specific dental hygiene questions, contact the Department Chair:

Patricia Weller, MAEd, RDH, FADHA

pweller@starkstate.edu

330-966-5458 ext. 4942

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* | 286.00 | | | X |
| Typodont* | 451.00 | | | X |
| Uniforms, Lab Coat, Shoes, etc. | 250.00 | | | X |
| Safety Glasses (2 pair) | 30.00 | | | X |
| Freshman Kits | 1,047.00 | | | X |
| Dental Materials Kit* | 305.00 | | | X |
| Sophomore Kit* | 260.00 | Spring of 1 st Year | | X |
| Acidental Mandibular Manikin | 129.00 | Spring of 2 nd Year | | 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) | 50.00 | 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 | 2284.00 | | | 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 (\$75.00 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 | 600.00 | Spring (2 nd year) | X | |
| ADEX OSCE and SPTCE (Clinical Board Exam) | 1150.00 | | X | |
| ADEX 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 | |
| <i>ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL</i> | <i>\$13,702.00</i> | | | |

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

