



# Dental Hygiene

## BS Application Packet & Admissions Information

Students interested in the Dental Hygiene Program are encouraged to call the Dental Hygiene Department with any questions regarding their admission prior to submitting their application. This packet is updated annually. Students should request the most recent updated application packet and college catalog.

Tennessee State University  
Dental Hygiene Department  
Nashville, Tennessee

## **\*\*Application Opens November 1, Deadline June 15\*\***

### **Guide to the Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Application Process**

**\*\*\*\* Important – Please read before completing the application \*\*\*\***

#### **Program Application Information Documents:**

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The Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Department must receive all applications no later than **June 15<sup>th</sup>** of the year the student is seeking admittance. **Any applications received after the application deadline will not be considered. All Prerequisite Courses Must Be Complete by Application Deadline.**

Completion of the Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Program application process by the deadline is the sole responsibility of the applicant! Meeting deadlines and completing the application properly demonstrates the ability, maturity, and self-motivation desired in Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene students.

**To apply to the Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Program, you must first apply and be accepted to The University and have completed an AAS in Dental Hygiene from a CODA accredited program.**

If at any time during this process you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Admissions Committee  
Tennessee State University  
PO. Box 9551  
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd  
Nashville, TN 37209  
(615) 963-5801

## **Important Message to Applicants**

We are pleased that you are interested in the Dental Hygiene Program at Tennessee State University. The program seeks motivated students who are dedicated to a career in the dental hygiene profession. Admission is Highly Competitive. The Dental Hygiene BS Degree Completion program itself is forty-two (42) credit hours, which can be completed in 1 year if you have the majority of the general education hours already completed within your respective AAS degree program.

We encourage you to read this information very carefully and follow all instructions exactly. You must meet deadlines and specific requirements to be considered as an applicant to the Tennessee State University, Dental Hygiene Program. It is important for every applicant (new or reapplying) to obtain the most current information for this program before applying. Admission requirements and the selection process are subject to change. Please note that once your signed application has been received in the Dental Hygiene office, your application cannot be changed in any way. It is imperative that you review the application before submitting it.

***Falsifying information on your application will result in disqualification.***

**Please read and become familiar with the information on the dental hygiene [website](#); make a list of specific questions to ask before scheduling an advising appointment. If you have specific questions after reading this information and browsing the website, you may call our central office at (615) 963-5801 where frequently asked questions can be answered by the program Administrative Assistant.**

## **Program Introduction**

Over one thousand students have graduated from Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Program since its inception. The program is fully accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation for Dental Hygiene, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the US Dept. of Education. Students can earn an Associate of Applied Arts (AAS) and a Bachelor of Science (BS). At the AAS level, our program prepares students for the written National Board Examination, and the Regional and State Board Examinations required for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH). At the BS level our program enhances the foundation of licensed Dental Hygienists for expanded roles within the field of Dental Hygiene. Graduates from Tennessee State University are respected and in high demand by dental employers.

The BS program in Dental Hygiene is reading intensive and develops a comprehensive knowledge of Dental Hygiene theory. Familiarity with computers is necessary since all courses are online. The Tennessee State University faculty are experienced educators and practitioners who take pride in offering high quality instruction that focuses on individual needs of students in a supportive learning environment.

**Please read this information carefully and follow the application procedures exactly. You must meet the deadline and specific requirements to be considered as a qualified applicant to The Tennessee State University, Dental Hygiene Program.**

# Dental Hygiene Program Application Checklist

## Submit to Tennessee State University Department of Dental Hygiene:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Official transcripts from all colleges attended.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Two letters (One must be a Dental Hygiene educational reference; one a character reference)

***Official copies of all scores and transcripts must be included in your application packet.***

ALL information must be included to be considered complete. **Any piece of documentation missing will result in the applicant not being considered for admission.** Please update TSU Dental Hygiene Department of any change in address as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that the application is complete, and that all information is on file.

### Notification:

You will be notified by email if you are accepted into the program. You will also be notified via e-mail if you are not accepted into the program. No information will be given regarding an applicant's admission status over the phone.

### Dental Hygiene Admissions Process

Students must have a minimum 2.75 GPA at the time of submitting application and maintain this GPA until start of classes. Attaining the minimum requirements for entry does not guarantee a seat in the class. Dental Hygiene is an incredibly competitive program and as such most applicants have a more competitive GPA.

### Admission Criteria:

Applicants who apply to the Dental Hygiene Program at Tennessee State University must successfully complete all admission requirements.

- A 2.5 grade point average in clinical dental hygiene courses and a minimum overall grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, from an accredited dental Hygiene Program. (Applicants with grade point averages higher than the minimum may be given priority in acceptance.)
- Two letters – one must come from a dental hygiene faculty person who taught the applicant. One letter must be a character reference letter.
- Official college transcript (s).
- National Board Certification and/or licensure to register for core advanced DHYG courses (DHYG 4200, 4210, 4340, 4350, 4420, 4430 and 4999).

## **Admissions Process:**

**Step 1:** Access the application information packet and college catalog online at [www.tnstate.edu/dentalhygiene](http://www.tnstate.edu/dentalhygiene). All application materials must be received before June 15<sup>th</sup> of the year student is seeking admittance. The student must first apply and be accepted to Tennessee State University, assigned a T#, and then accepted to the Dental Hygiene program (this is a two-step process).

**Step 2:** Have **Completed Application** mailed to Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Department for review. This includes all colleges attended.

**Step 3:** The Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee will review all applications and select the best applicants based on the application requirements including transcripts and proof of licensure. Up to twenty (20) students will be selected based on their ranking using the weighted scoring system.

**Step 4:** Students will be notified of their acceptance or their denial into the program. Those students accepted will be asked to submit an acceptance confirmation notice by the specified deadline.

## **Method of Selection:**

Criteria for selection are weighted. Points will be awarded to applicants for successful completion of college coursework, more than minimum test scores and over the minimum requirement for GPA.

### **Students that apply should be aware and understand the following:**

- Admission to the Dental Hygiene program is selective. It is Tennessee State University's goal to prepare graduates who are highly competent, ethical hygienists who exhibit exacting standards of professionalism with patients. To achieve our program goals, admission criteria have been established to evaluate applicants as to their suitability and probable success in the program.
- Admission is competitive, meeting the minimum criteria merely allows you to apply and is not a guarantee of acceptance into the dental hygiene program. Students who are not admitted must reapply for admission to the dental hygiene Program each year they wish to be considered.
- A student who withdraws from the program for whatever reason must apply for readmission. The student applying for readmission is NOT guaranteed a position in the next entering class. Except for the most extenuating circumstances, the student can apply for readmission only once.
- Upon the successful completion of the dental hygiene program with a GPA of 2.0 or better, the student will be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree.

## **Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Program Information for Applicants**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Because the learning process is based on experiences in all dental hygiene courses, attendance is mandatory and monitored for all classes. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades and/or dismissal from the program.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Questions about financial aid should be directed to the Financial Aid Office at (615) 963-5701. You may also contact the Financial Aid Office via email at [https://www.tnstate.edu/financial\\_aid/](https://www.tnstate.edu/financial_aid/)

### **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**

Although criminal background checks are not required for Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene students at the outset, students will be required to obtain a criminal background check in their last semester as part of the Ethics course. Applicants are advised that many states now require criminal background checks before licensure can be granted. A felony conviction may impact eligibility to obtain a dental hygiene license and work as a dental hygienist.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Department does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, or veteran status. Tennessee State University and the Dental Hygiene Program are committed to providing the highest quality of education.

Applicants may review University Policies at <https://www.tnstate.edu/eoaa/policies.aspx>

**\*Student will request reasonable accommodation through TSU's Office of Student Disability**

**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL HYGIENE  
Application for Admission**

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ T#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ US Citizen: \_\_\_\_\_  
Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Local Telephone: H: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent/Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent/Home Telephone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Single: \_\_\_\_\_ Married: \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One of the Following:

\_\_\_\_\_ African American, Non-Hispanic, (AA/NH)  
\_\_\_\_\_ American Indian or Native American, (AI/NA)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Asian or Pacific Islander (A/PI)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic or Latino (H/L)  
\_\_\_\_\_ White non-Hispanic (WNH)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other

New Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Previous Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Application Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
GPA College: \_\_\_\_\_

List all Colleges/Universities attended including TSU:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Currently Enrolled at TSU:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, have you received an acceptance letter from TSU?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Have you successfully completed the following pre-requisite college courses?

AAS in Dental Hygiene from a CODA accredited Institution?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that withholding information requested in this application or giving false information may make me ineligible for admission or continuation in the Dental Hygiene Program. I certify that the information contained herein is correct and complete.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_