

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Associate of Applied Science Dental Hygiene Program at Tennessee State University is designed to educate and prepare dental hygienists for careers in a diverse and changing health care environment. A Registered Dental Hygienist is a professional who is responsible for promoting oral health and preventing dental disease.

## WHY DENTAL HYGIENE?

Dental hygiene is a constantly evolving profession with innovative perspectives and alternatives for study and employment. They may render services in various health care delivery settings. These settings include: private dental offices, public schools, public health programs, professional schools, hospitals or the armed forces.

## JOB MARKET

The vast majority of Dental Hygienists are employed in private dental offices, but many are employed in public health settings, dental hygiene education programs, public schools, hospitals, and by private industry. In Tennessee, average yearly salaries are based on a four day work week and salaries range from approximately \$53,000 - \$63,000.



[WWW.TNSTATE.EDU/DHYG](http://www.tnstate.edu/dhyg)

TSU-10-0030 (A)-3-13600

## PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS

High School prerequisites include one year of:

- Algebra, Chemistry, and Biology.
- If you are deficient in any of these courses, we will accept one semester of each at the college level.

1. The College Prerequisites are:
  - English Composition I, Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology I and II and a Humanities course of your choice. *Course-work in A & P and Microbiology must have been taken within five years before applying to the program.*
  - All of the prerequisite courses must be passed with a grade of "C" or better.
2. A departmental minimum score of 19 on the ACT, or SAT equivalent, is required.
3. A minimum grade point average of 2.7 (on a 4.0 scale) at the college level, and a 2.5 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) at the high school level is required.
4. Two letters of recommendation. One must come from a college science teacher.
5. To apply, visit our website at: [www.tnstate.edu/dhyg](http://www.tnstate.edu/dhyg). Review the application requirements, download the application packet and submit it to the Department.

Completion of the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the program.

*\*\*The prerequisite courses must be taken prior to acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program.*

## ACCREDITATION

The Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (and has been granted the accreditation status of "approval without reporting requirements"). The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.



## PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The Department of Dental Hygiene offers two programs: an Associate of Applied Science Degree and a Bachelor of Science/Degree Completion.

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree Program is a 79 credit hour, two-year program that prepares the graduate primarily for clinical dental hygiene practice. The requirements include basic science courses, dental and dental hygiene sciences and general education courses specified by the University.

The curriculum includes 4 semesters and 1 summer session over two years. The two years consists of classroom, laboratory and clinical teaching. Students also participate in external rotation experiences under the supervision of licensed dental professionals. The rotations are placed within the clinical curriculum to optimize the total integration of learning and excellence in professional performance. These experiences are designed to apply knowledge and skills attained in the classroom and laboratories for the development of clinical examinations, interventions and decision making skills.

Please visit [www.tnstate.edu/dhyg](http://www.tnstate.edu/dhyg) for the semester-by-semester schedule of classes within the AAS program.

