



Dental Hygiene

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 will be updated annually. Students are encouraged to request the most recent update and college catalog.

Tennessee State University
Dental Hygiene Department
Nashville, Tennessee
(615) 963-5801

****Application Opens November 1, Deadline January 15****

Guide to the Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Application Process

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

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The Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Department must receive all applications no later than **January 15th** of the year the student is seeking admittance. Only complete applications will be accepted for each application cycle. **Any applications received after the application deadline will not be accepted. All prerequisite courses MUST be complete by application deadline.**

A secondary application deadline of May 15th is available to applicants who are currently enrolled in a prerequisite course or who missed taking the DHAE examination. Meeting this May 15th deadline places the applicant on an **Alternate List** along with those not accepted in the initial January 15th application review. Your subsequent admission will be based on review of your packet and “space availability”.

Completion of the Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Program application process by each 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.

In order to apply to the Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Program, you must first apply and be accepted to The University and have completed all prerequisites.

If at any time during this process you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our administrative office.

Department of Dental Hygiene
Tennessee State University
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. Applicants are encouraged to explore all aspects of a dental hygiene career and to work in the dental field prior to applying to the program. Admission is Highly Competitive. The Dental Hygiene Program itself is two years plus one summer session in length (5 Semesters)

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 reaches in the Dental Hygiene administrative 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 schedule an appointment by emailing Rosalyn Word at rword@tnstate.edu. You may also call the administrative office at (615) 963-5801.

The Dental Hygiene Profession

Dental Hygiene offers a dynamic and challenging career. As a licensed health care professional, the dental hygienist works with individual and community groups to achieve optimum oral health. Employment compensation compares favorably with other health professions. Flexible hours and pleasant working condition are also attractive advantages. Dental hygienists perform oral examination, dental cleanings and fluoride treatments. They also take x-ray films, give oral hygiene instruction, administer local anesthetic injections and place dental fillings and enamel sealants. Positions are available in various setting in the United States and abroad. Dental hygienists provide patient care in private dental offices, community health centers, hospitals and the military. Dental hygienists may also work in alternate roles as college and university professors, researcher, oral health product sales representatives and professional health journal editors just to name a few.

While dental hygiene is a rewarding profession, it is physically demanding, and involves repetitive motion. This may exacerbate existing neck, back, wrist, and other physical problems. In order to increase awareness of the specific challenges presented by the program and the profession, applicants are strongly encouraged to review the essential Functions requirement for the program before beginning the pre-requisite studies.

Program Introduction

Over 1000 students and counting 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 earn an Associate of Applied Sciences Degree (AAS). Our program prepares students for the written National Board Examination (NBDHE), and the Regional and State Board Examinations, (SRTA) required for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH). Dental Hygiene graduates from Tennessee State University are respected and in high demand by dental employers.

The Dental Hygiene Program is intensive in order to develop a comprehensive knowledge base and strong clinical skills within two years. During the week, students are in class up to eight hours each day, and often have heavy homework demands. Familiarity with computers is necessary since some courses utilize the hybrid method of delivery. Students will be both clinician and patients while developing the skills necessary to provide total patient care. 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.

The Dental Hygiene Program has established and implemented policies and procedures related to individuals who have blood borne infection diseases such as hepatitis B and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV or AIDS). These policies prevent discrimination against any individual (applicant, student, patient, faculty, or staff) based on perceived or actual condition associated with blood borne infectious diseases. Standard precautions for blood borne pathogen exposure control are routinely enforced in laboratory and clinical settings to ensure safety of all students, patients, and personnel. Confidentiality of information pertaining to the health status of all individuals is strictly maintained at all times.

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

Tennessee State University

Dental Hygiene Program Application Checklist

Submit to Tennessee State University Department of Dental Hygiene:

1. A minimum high school average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
2. One year of high school algebra, biology, and chemistry. If you were deficient in any of these courses, we will accept one semester at college level.
3. A minimum college average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
4. A composite score of 19 or better on the ACT, or an equivalent score on the SAT (910).
5. One semester of English composition at the college level.
6. One semester of Microbiology/Bacteriology at the college level.
7. Anatomy & Physiology (I and II) at the college level.
8. One semester of Humanities at the college level.
9. One letter of recommendation from a science teacher describing the applicant's potential for success in the Dental Hygiene curriculum.
10. One - character recommendation describing the applicant's potential for success in a Dental Hygiene curriculum i.e., from coach, church member etc.
11. A brief autobiographical sketch in the applicant's handwriting.
12. DHAE EXAM (HESI) - 70% Minimum Score / Minimum Critical Thinking score of 700
13. TOEFL EXAM – If English is your second language
14. A personal interview will be scheduled for the competitive applicants.
15. Once admitted into the program, you will be required to complete health examination report on the official forms provided by the Department of Dental Hygiene downloadable from this site.
16. Once admitted into the program, a criminal background check **MAY** be required of all applicants.

**All prerequisite sciences courses must be taken within the last five (5) years.
Courses taken more than 5 years ago must be re-taken.**

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

ALL information must be included in packet. **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.

Interview Schedule: For applicants with a complete application packet, interviews will be scheduled from the top qualifying applications. You will be notified via email for your interview time. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled interview time.

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. Please **DO NOT CALL** the admissions office or the Department of Dental Hygiene regarding your application status.

Dental Hygiene Admissions Process

The Dental Hygiene Program is a two-year program consisting of four 16-week semesters and one five-week summer term. Classes are Monday through Thursday and at this time are only offered as day classes. Graduating students will receive an Associate in Applied Science Degree.

Students must have a minimum 3.0 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 a very competitive program and as such, most applicants have a more competitive GPA.

All successfully completed college level science courses taken before entry will be considered as fulfillment of the core course requirements if taken within five years prior to admission to the Dental Hygiene program. All science courses taken more than five years ago will need to be re-taken.

Admissions Process:

Step 1: Access the application information packet and college catalog online at www.tnstate.edu/dentalhygiene. All application materials must be received by January 15th of the year student is seeking admittance. The student must first apply and be accepted to Tennessee State University and then 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 materials listed on page 5.

Step 3: The Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee will review all applications and select the best applicants based on the application requirements including transcripts and test scores. These applicants will be contacted and invited to appear for an interview. The applicant will be interviewed by a minimum of two members of the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee. Applicants will be asked questions regarding their previous coursework, their personal goals, their dental experience, and their expectations of the program. Up to 34 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 letter via e-mail.

Step 5: An orientation will be scheduled prior to the beginning of fall classes. All accepted dental hygiene students are required to attend this orientation.

Step 6: Students acceptance into the dental hygiene program will be required to pay a non-refundable instrument kit deposit to the designated vendors by the specified deadline.

Method of Selection:

Criteria for selection are weighted. Points will be awarded to applicants based on their performance in prerequisite course, ACT, and average science course GPA. Points will also be awarded for the applicant's performance during the interview. NOTE: ACT score must be greater than 19.

Students that apply should be aware and understand the following:

- Admission to the Dental Hygiene program is very competitive. It is Tennessee State University's goal to prepare graduates who are highly competent, ethical hygienists and who exhibit high standards of professionalism with patients. In order to achieve our program goals, admissions criteria have been established to evaluate applicant's probable success in the program.
- Since there are more applicants than available space, admission is competitive. Meeting the minimum criteria merely allows you to submit an application 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. Alternate status does not guarantee a position in the next class. Students who are enrolled in general education core courses at Tennessee State University will be given priority, assuming they meet other academic qualifications.

- The Dental Hygiene clinical program is competency based. The student must maintain a satisfactory clinical performance and at least a 75% in each Dental Hygiene course.
- 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 2.5 or better, the student will be awarded an Associate of Applied Science degree. The student must then take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination as well as The Regional Dental Hygiene Clinical Exam and pass both exams. Once a graduate successfully passes these exams, they can apply for licensure in the state where she/he will want to practice. Graduation from the Dental Hygiene program and receipt of the degree does not guarantee the student will successfully pass the National Board and/or state/regional board.

Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Program Information for Applicants

Curriculum

Microbiology, Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Humanities and English courses are required to be completed prior to entering the dental hygiene program. All other core course requirements must be taken in lock step throughout the Dental Hygiene program. The remaining credit hours are scheduled over four semesters and one summer session.

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.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS/IMMUNIZATIONS

Once Accepted into the Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Program, students must provide evidence on the TSU Medical History Questionnaire that they:

- Have had a recent physical examination
- Have obtained appropriate immunizations required by the University and the Dental Hygiene program
- Have completed TB testing within the past year and results provided with your application. This test must be completed every year while in the program.
- Have begun the Hepatitis B immunization series or can show proof of Hepatitis B immunity
- Completed CPR course.

CLINICAL ACTIVITIES

Throughout the dental hygiene curriculum, students will work on patients to obtain clinical experience in dental hygiene procedures. Students will typically complete approximately 45 to 60 patients before graduating from the program. In general, students are responsible for recruiting many of their own patients. The Dental Hygiene Clinic may have a recall pool of patients and will keep a list of the patients that randomly call in for appointments and these patients will randomly be assigned to available students. These patients are limited, and will not be sufficient in number for any one student. It will ultimately be the student's responsibility to find their own patients. The clinic front office will assist students in scheduling all patients who call into the clinic for appointments.

EXTERNAL ROTATIONS

Throughout the dental hygiene curriculum, students are required to participate in activities that complement their professional training and expose them to experiences in the community.

FINANCIAL AID

Questions about financial aid must be directed to the Financial Aid Office at (615) 963-5701/1-888-328-4636 (toll-free). You may also contact the Financial Aid Office via email at finaid@tnstate.edu

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Although criminal background checks are not required for Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene students at the outset, student may be required to obtain a criminal background check in their last semester. 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 on the basis of 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 www.tnstate.edu/eoaa/policies.aspx

TEST OF ENGLISH FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAMINATION (TOEFL)

To ensure that students admitted to the Dental Hygiene Program are sufficiently competent in English language skills, all non-U.S. citizens with English as a second language must score a minimum of 100 and with listening and speaking section scores of 26 or above on each. on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

**Tennessee State University
Department of Dental Hygiene**

Essential Functions for Dental Hygiene Students

Dental Hygiene **APPLICANTS** must possess the following abilities and skills:

1. Visual Acuity - Ability to determine small areas of detail, color discrimination and adequate depth perception in a clinical situation.
2. Speech - Ability to clearly communicate in English with colleagues, patients, faculty and staff in classroom and clinical setting.
3. Hearing – Ability to adapt with assistive devices to perform the essential functions of the Dental Hygiene profession.
4. Tactile Sensitivity – Ability to employ gross and fine motor skills
5. Writing – Ability to communicate effectively in the written form in English.
6. Reading – Ability to read, comprehend and follow directions printed in English.
7. Manual Dexterity – Ability to use hands with instruments and equipment in a coordinated manner.
8. Motor Capacity – Ability to maneuver in laboratory and clinical areas around equipment during patient care procedures.
9. Intellectual / Conceptual and Cognitive Skills.
10. Communication skills
11. Emotional stability / Personal Temperament

I have read this document and I am able to function according to the above stated functions.

Signature

Date

*I have read this document and there are some functions for which I will need accommodations.

Signature

Date

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



2016 - 2017 Estimated Dental Hygiene Program Costs

**Tuition Per Semester
Based on 15 Credit Hours**

Estimated Non-tuition Expenses:

Fall

Tuition / Maintenance	\$3784.00
Clinical Fees	\$75.00
Lab Fees	\$60.00

Spring

Tuition / Maintenance	\$3784.00
Clinic Fee	\$75.00
Lab Fee	\$60.00

Summer (Based on 5 Credits)

Tuition / Maintenance	\$1620
Clinic Fee	\$30.00

Fall

Tuition / Maintenance	\$3784.00
Clinic Fee	\$75.00

Spring

Tuition / Maintenance	\$3784.00
Clinic Fee	\$30.00

Out of State based on 15 Credit Hours

Tuition	\$10,462
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First Year

Student Supply Kit	\$3950.00*
Student Instrument Kit	\$1275.00*
Uniforms	\$375.00*
Instrument Pouches	\$85.00
Liability Insurance	\$50.00
SADHA Membership Dues	\$90.00
DHAE Test	\$100.00
CPR Certification	Varies
Physical	Varies
Immunization	Varies

Second Year

Dental Hygiene National Board	\$500.00**
State Board Exam (SRTA)	\$1200.00**
(Approximate Cost: Includes Tests, Travel, Patient Cost)	
Dental Hygiene Pinning (Cost of Pin)	\$75.00
Dental Hygiene Review Board	\$500.00**

Room and Board is not included in the costs in this estimate. Tuition and fees are subject to change each Academic Year. Please contact the office of admission for current costs.

* This fee is paid to several vendors once you have accepted placement in the Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Program.

** These fees are paid to the stated Vendor Organization

**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
_____ American Indian or Native American
_____ Asian or Pacific Islander
_____ Hispanic
_____ White, Non Hispanic
_____ Other

New Applicant: _____ Previous Applicant: _____ Application Date: _____
High School: _____ HS Graduation Date: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
ACT/SAT Test Date: _____ Composite Score: _____
GED Score: _____ Date Taken: _____
Grade Point Average: High School: _____ GPA College: _____

Compass Placement Test: (if less than 19 on any subject on ACT or SAT equivalent) _____

Date Taken: _____ Required Courses (as result of Compass): _____

Date Completed Required Courses (as a result of Compass): _____

List all Colleges/Universities attended including TSU:

1. _____ Date: _____

2. _____ Date: _____

3. _____ 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 and Exams?

			<u>GRADE</u>
English Composition I	Yes _____	No _____	_____
Anatomy & Physiology I	Yes _____	No _____	_____
Anatomy & Physiology II	Yes _____	No _____	_____
Microbiology	Yes _____	No _____	_____
Humanities	Yes _____	No _____	_____

			<u>SCORE</u>
TOEFL Exam	Yes _____	No _____	_____
DHAE Exam	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: _____