

DENTAL HYGIENE

MAJOR MAP



WHO WE ARE

- Looking to take your passion for oral health to the next level? Look no further than Tennessee State University's Dental Hygiene program in vibrant Nashville, TN!
- Our program offers comprehensive training, state-of-the-art facilities, and expert faculty to equip you with the skills needed for success in this rewarding field.
- With a focus on hands-on experiences and a rigorous curriculum, you'll graduate with the knowledge and confidence to excel as a dental hygienist.
- Join our close-knit community, make lifelong connections, and embark on a fulfilling career making smiles brighter at Tennessee State University

What skills will students learn throughout this program?

- Ethical & Legal Decision-making and Compliance
- Teamwork and professionalism
- Technological Proficiency
- Resilience
- Knowledge of Oral Anatomy and Pathology
- Patient communication and education
- Clinical Expertise - proficiency in dental hygiene techniques and procedures, including assessment, oral prophylaxis, periodontal therapy, radiography, and infection control protocols.
- Critical Thinking.
- Empathy and Compassion



CAREER OUTCOMES:

- Clinical Dental Hygienist
- Researcher
- Public Health Hygienist
- Endodontics
- Orthodontics
- Periodontics
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Dental Assistant



AREAS OF STUDY:

- Graduates from our AAS in Dental Hygiene program are granted automatic acceptance into our BS in Dental Hygiene online program, bypassing the rigorous application process.

WHAT SKILLS ARE YOUR FUTURE EMPLOYERS LOOKING FOR?

- Clinical Competence
- Communication Skills
- Interpersonal Skills
- Attention to Detail
- Critical Thinking
- Patient Education
- Ethical and Professional Conduct
- Technology Proficiency
- Continuing Education
- Organizational Skills
- Infection Control
- Clinical Expertise
- Customer Service



For more information, [click here](https://tnstate.edu/dentalhygiene/)
<https://tnstate.edu/dentalhygiene/>



Undergraduate Experiential Major Map: DENTAL HYGIENE



First Year/Freshman

- Complete your Handshake Profile.
- Complete your four-year educational plan in UNIV 1000 during the fall semester.
- Focus on your studies and earn good grades.
- Visit the [Office of Student Success \(OSS\)](#) and connect with your advisor for help navigating college life and your classes. Make an appointment using the student planner app and view the OSS page for other hours and services.
- First Generation students connect with your [First Generational Specialist](#).
- Get to know professors. The best time to connect outside of class is during their office hours.
- Visit the [Academic Achievement and Retention Center](#) for access to study tips, connecting to academic coaches, tutoring, and other helpful resources.
- Attend the Career Fair (Sponsored by the [Career Development Center](#))
- Get involved - Attend organizational fairs, special/corporate events, and volunteer on and off campus.

Sophomore & Junior

- Update your resume and remove high school activities. Have it critiqued by the [Career Development Center](#).
- Review and update LinkedIn and Handshake profiles.
- Attend the Career Fair (Sponsored by the [Career Development Center](#))
- Explore graduate school options.
- Begin preparing for GRE, LSAT, MCAT, GMAT, and other exams for graduate school admissions.
- Begin building your professional wardrobe.
- Meet with your [departmental academic advisor](#) to confirm degree progress and discuss your future academic and career goals.
- Attend institutional and departmental internship workshops.

Senior

- Meet with your [departmental academic advisor](#) to confirm degree progress and discuss your future academic and career goals.
- Apply for [Graduate and Professional School](#) or jobs that fit your interests, skills, and career goals. Follow up on applications and keep a record of the status of each.
**pay attention to due dates*
- Draft a cover letter that can be adapted for a variety of employers. Have it critiqued.
- Complete the Senior Exit Exam and First Destination Survey. ([Testing Center](#))

Academic Success Checklist

- Book an appointment with your academic advisor for pre-registration and advising.
- Discover library resources.
- Visit the math, reading, writing, and tutoring center.
- Complete FAFSA and academic scholarship applications.

Educational Planning Checklist

- Ask your academic advisor about High Impact Practices
- Participate in at least two High Impact Practices at TSU
- Join a student group.

Career Development Checklist

- Create your HandShake Profile.
- Visit [What Can I Do With This Major](#)
- Attend the career fair to expand your network.
- Attend Academic Department workshops and seminars.
- Visit the [Academic Pathways & Partnerships](#)

Think

Engaging in critical thinking and inquiry inside the classroom.

Work

Pursue experiences that will allow you to grow as a leader and professional.

Serve

Explore opportunities to contribute to the broader community and global marketplace.