

DENTAL HYGIENE

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Harlingen, Texas 78550

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Dear Dental Hygiene Candidate,

Welcome, we are very proud of the excellent dental hygiene program offered here at TSTC, and we are glad you wish to be a part of it! The enclosed packet of information has been prepared to help guide you through the application process. Because admission to the dental hygiene program is extremely competitive, candidates must attend an informational session to clarify admission requirements. The informational session schedule can be found on the TSTC Portal Website at <https://portal.tstc.edu>. Please call Lori Renteria at (956) 364-4696 if you have any questions on the informational session schedule. Please note that the informational sessions will be virtual only. Students must take the **Admission Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH) examination**, to be considered eligible candidates for the Dental Hygiene Program. The program is a two-year program and after completion of the program you will receive an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene. We are looking forward to helping you!

Sincerely,

Raquel Rico, RDH, M.Ed
Dental Hygiene Program Director
(956) 364-4702.
raquel.rico@tstc.edu

DENTAL HYGIENE DEGREE PLAN 2023-2025

COURSE	TITLE	LEC	LAB	CONTACT	CREDIT
Pre-requisites		HOURS			HOURS
BIOL 2301 & BIOL 2101 A & P I		3	3	96	4
CHEM 1305 & 1105 Intro to Chemistry		3	3	96	4
ENGL 1301	Composition I	3	0	48	3
SPCH	Speech elective	3	0	48	3
TOTAL HOURS		12	6	288	14
FALL SEMESTER					
DHYG 1227	Preventive Dental Hygiene Care	1	3	64	2
DHYG 1301	Orofacial Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology	2	4	96	3
DHYG 1331	Preclinical Dental Hygiene	1	7	128	3
BIOL 2302 & BIOL 2102 A & P II		3	3	96	4
TOTAL HOURS		7	17	384	12
SPRING SEMESTER					
DHYG 1304	Dental Radiology	2	3	80	3
DHYG 1211	Periodontology	1	3	64	2
DHYG 1260	Dental Hygienist I	0	10	160	2
BIOL 2320 & BIOL 2120	Microbiology	3	3	96	4
Humanities (ART or MUSIC)		3	0	48	3
TOTAL HOURS		9	19	448	14
SUMMER SEMESTER					
DHYG 1319	Dental Materials	2	3	80	3
DHYG 1261	Dental Hygiene Clinic II	0	11	176	2
DHYG 1235	Pharmacology	1	2	48	2
SOCI 1301	Sociology	3	0	48	3
TOTAL HOURS		6	16	352	10

FALL SEMESTER

PSYC 2301	General Psychology	3	0	48	3
DHYG 1215	Community Dentistry	1	4	80	2
DHYG 1239	General and Oral Path	1	2	48	2
DHYG 2201	Dental Hygiene Care I	1	3	64	2
DHYG 2360	Clinic Dental Hygienist III	<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL HOURS		6	23	464	12

SPRING SEMESTER

DHYG 2153	Dental Hygiene Practice	1	0	16	1
DHYG 1207	General and Dental Nutrition	2	0	32	2
DHYG 2361	Clinic Dental Hygienist IV	<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL HOURS		3	14	272	6

GRAND TOTAL		43	95	2208	68
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** Must take TSTC 1101 before 3rd (Spring) Semester

TSTC Dental Hygiene Program Fee Estimate 2023-2025

➤ **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL FEES ARE ESTIMATED**

Semester One (Prerequisites required for admission into the program)

Tuition and fees (14 credit hours, Texas resident)	2,954.00
(14 credit hours, Non-Texas resident)	4,634.00
Hepatitis B and COVID-19 vaccines	150.00
Update of vaccinations and TB test	150.00
Books	350.00
GroupOne Background Screening	49.00

Texas resident	<u>Total 3,653.00</u>
Non- Texas resident	<u>Total 5,333.00</u>

Semester Two (1st Fall semester)

Tuition and fees (12 credit hours, Texas resident)	2,820.00*
(12 credit hours, Non-Texas resident)	4,260.00*
Instrument kit (#1)	2,200.00
Ultrasonic instruments	400.00
2 sets of scrubs	200.00
White leather shoes	130.00
CPR	50.00
Insurance	46.00
Books	600.00
Drug Testing	25.00
ADHA membership dues	130.00

Texas resident	<u>Total 6,601.00</u>
Non- Texas resident	<u>Total 8,041.00</u>

Semester Three (1st Spring semester)

Tuition (14 credit hours, Texas resident)	3,206.00
(14 credit hours, non-Texas resident)	4,886.00
Surgical loupes (MUST be purchased through TSTC)	1,500.00
Radiology Badge	16.00
Books	500.00

Texas resident	<u>Total 5,222.00</u>
Non- Texas resident	<u>Total 6,902.00</u>

Semester Four (Summer semester)

Tuition (10 credit hours, Texas resident)	2,362.00
(10 credit hours, non-Texas resident)	3,562.00
Instrument kit (#2)	1,200.00
Community scrubs	75.00
Books	400.00
Radiology Badge	16.00

Texas resident	<u>Total 4,053.00</u>
Non- Texas resident	<u>Total 5,253.00</u>

Semester Five (2nd Fall semester)

Tuition (12 credit hours, Texas resident)	2,856.00
(12 credit hours, non-Texas resident)	4,296.00
Insurance	46.00
National Dental Hygiene Exam Review	350.00
National Board Review travel & expenses in Dallas	500.00
Books	400.00
Radiology Badge	16.00
Drug Testing	25.00

Texas resident	<u>Total 4,193.00</u>
Non- Texas resident	<u>Total 5,633.00</u>

Semester Six (2nd Spring semester)

Tuition (6 credit hours, Texas resident)	1,482.00
(6 credit hours, non-Texas resident)	2,202.00
Radiology Badge	16.00
Books	300.00
CDCA-WREB National Clinical Exam	1,175.00
National Boards Exam	550.00

Texas resident	<u>Total 3,523.00</u>
Non- Texas resident	<u>Total 4,243.00</u>

Program Total Texas Resident	\$27,245.00
Program Total non-Texas Resident	\$35,405.00

* Includes TSTC 1101 class

**GENERAL INFORMATION AND COMMON QUESTIONS REGARDING
2023 ADMISSION INTO THE TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM**

- **DISCLAIMER:** The Dental Hygiene Program reserves the right to make changes to the admissions criteria at any time deemed necessary

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The program is fully accredited through the American Dental Association Joint Commission on Dental Accreditation. For more information call Ms. Raquel Rico at 956.364.4702 (e-mail; raquel.rico@tstc.edu) and/or Lori Renteria at 956.364.4696.

COMPLIANCE WITH BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS STANDARDS AND OTHER REGULATORY POLICIES

Dental Hygiene students will come in contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials during the clinical portion of their studies. The Dental Hygiene Program follows all CDC, OSHA, EPA, and other protective policies to protect themselves and their patients from occupational exposures to these potential hazards. Additionally in order to meet our clinical site requirements, students will be required to provide verification of vaccination before being allowed to participate in mandatory clinical time. Prospective dental hygiene students are encouraged to start the Hepatitis B vaccination series as early as possible, to be complete by the start of the program along with the other required vaccinations, such as Tetanus-Diphtheria (dTdap), Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR), and the COVID-19 vaccinations. TSTC Dental Hygiene Program complies with all institutional, local, state, and federal regulations on bloodborne pathogens and infectious diseases, ionizing radiation, and hazardous materials. Strict adherence with Privacy Protection (HIPAA) is required of all students, faculty, and staff.

CANDIDATE POOL

The program is highly competitive, with the number of candidates varying each year from 100-140. We can accept up to 30 candidates per class, if appropriate. Acceptance is strictly based on the objective selection criteria outlined on page ten of this packet, with only qualified candidates being accepted.

WHAT ARE MY CHANCES OF GETTING ACCEPTED?

There is a minimum grade point average of 3.0 needed in order to apply. Admission to the Dental Hygiene Program is highly competitive. Success in your academic courses will help prepare you for the **Admission Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH) examination**. In addition, program science course GPAs count in the selection process.

COSTS

The cost of the entire dental hygiene program for Texas residents is approximately \$27,245.00 for Texas Residents, \$35,405.00 for Non-Texas Residents. This figure includes tuition and fees, instruments, and clinical/laboratory supplies, Hepatitis B, meningitis, and COVID-19 vaccinations, CPR certification, membership in the Student American Dental Hygiene Association, liability and health and accident insurance, and licensure examinations.

CURRICULUM SCHEDULE

You should expect to be in class from 8:00-5:00 Monday through Friday, with some evening clinicals. If you transfer courses into the program you have a lighter schedule, however the two-year program is not shorter.

While you may not be scheduled in class or clinic from 8:00-5:00, most students spend the “off” hours studying, using learning resources in the library, etc.

CAN I WORK DURING THE PROGRAM?

We strongly recommend that you **do not** work while in the program. The program requires much classroom (laboratory time) and study time. Some students work part-time, however, securing financial aid in the form of loans, grants or scholarships is strongly recommended.

PREVIOUS DENTAL EXPERIENCE

Prior work experience in any health related field is not necessary to be considered for admissions. Graduation from an **ADA/CODA accredited** dental assisting program, former TSTC Dental Assistant Program, **or** two year experience as a dental assistant adds to the candidate’s total selection score.

FINANCIAL AID

Many students obtain some form of financial aid, usually as loans or grants. You should understand that Financial Aid grants will not cover all of the program costs, and it may be necessary to take out student loans. You may call the Financial Aid office at 956.364.4332 for information on application for financial aid.

WHAT SALARY CAN I EXPECT AS A DENTAL HYGIENIST?

Depending on the geographic location in Texas, you may expect to earn from \$200-250 per day as a **new** graduate in a private general dentistry practice. Surveys have shown there is high demand for dental hygienists in the Rio Grande Valley, and an extremely high demand for dental hygienists outside the immediate area.

WILL CLASSES FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL TRANSFER?

Transfer credit (within the past 5 years) in general education and general science courses are evaluated by the Dental Hygiene Department Chair and the Program Chair of the Department for which the Director of Admissions requests the transfer credit, with final approval. Only grades of “C” or above may be used for transfer credit. Proper forms, available at the Admissions Office, must be completed in order for transfer credit to be awarded.

Specific dental hygiene courses and dental-related courses **cannot** be transferred. At the present time, there is no credit by examination for courses, nor is “advanced standing” status granted for the dental hygiene program. General education and general science course credit obtained while attending a foreign college or university must follow the same process for U.S. college credit. **No credit** will be transferred for dental hygiene or dental school courses obtained while attending a foreign college or university. **Note:** This is the ruling of the American Dental Association Council on Dental Accreditation.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITE CLASSES NOT LISTED IN THE CURRICULUM?

TSTC 1101 is a mandatory class that must be taken before the 3rd, or Spring Semester, unless you have 24 credit hours of previous college experience or have taken HRPO 1311.

TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE HARLINGEN DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE POLICY FOR THE CLASS OF 2023-2025

Notice: It is important for prospective Dental Hygiene (DHY) Program students to understand that meeting admission requirements to be admitted to TSTC as a general student with a DHY major code does not mean that the candidate has been accepted for full continuance in and completion of the DHY program.

Candidates for the DHY program must ALSO make a formal application to the Dental Hygiene Program by March 1, 2023 and fulfill all other requirements described below to be considered as a candidate.

Approximately 30 DHY students will be officially accepted to complete the DHY Program and be allowed to take DHYG prefix courses.

- **DISCLAIMER: The DHY program reserves the right to make changes to the admissions criteria at any time deemed necessary.**

The following steps are involved in acceptance/continuance in the DHY program:

STEP 1 Apply for general acceptance to TSTC by submission of Admission Application. Applications to the college may be done on-line by contacting <https://www.tstc.edu/>

NOTE: This is in addition to the Dental Hygiene Application.

STEP 2 Communicate with a TSTC advisor, 956-364-4775 to discuss eligibility to become TSI complete. TSI measures Reading, Writing, and Math skills.

STEP 3 Take the **Admission Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH) Examination**. The ATDH is an admission test designed to provide a means to assess a candidate's readiness and potential for success in dental hygiene programs. The exam is composed of multiple-choice test questions (items) presented in the English language and assesses critical thinking. The exam focuses on candidate skills in the following areas: Reading Comprehension, Language Usage, Quantitative Reasoning, Perceptual Ability, Biology, and General Chemistry. ATDH is administered at Prometric Testing Centers during fixed time periods referred to as "administration windows." In the Rio Grande Valley, the Prometric Testing Center is located in the Fountain View Plaza 801 W. Nolana Ave., McAllen, TX, 78504.

Prior to scheduling the ATDH exam, you must first register for a [DENTPIN](#). You can register for a DENTPIN [here](#). Candidates can then [submit an application](#) **60 to 90 days prior to taking the ATDH** for a fee of \$140.00. You can apply to take the ATDH [here](#). Once a candidate's application is processed, testing appointments can be scheduled on [Prometric.com](#)

First-time candidates must complete the ATDH exam during a "regular" administration window. **The TSTC Dental Hygiene Program will only accept exams taken during the Thursday, September 1 through Monday, October 31, 2022 "regular" window, no exceptions.** For TSTC Dental Hygiene Program application, candidates are allowed one (1) exam retake. **Only retake exams taken during the Thursday, December 15, 2022 through Wednesday, January 18, 2023 "retake" window will be accepted.** The highest score will be used for application. Test dates and times are done through appointments only, no walk-ins will be accepted.

For further questions regarding acquiring a DENTPIN and for the ATDH, including preparing for the exam, please refer to the [ATDH website](#).

STEP 4 **A completed TSTC Dental Hygiene Program application must be filed by March 1, 2023** using the form available in this packet. This application packet can be found at <https://www.tstc.edu/programrequirements/deh> . Candidates must attach TSI verification to the application. Candidates will receive notification of their acceptance into the program by the middle of April, 2023. If accepted, you will be asked to have a background check done through [GroupOne Background Screening](#) immediately and submit the results along with your Letter of Intent to the Dental Hygiene Program, by the date specified on the letter (specific details about the background check will be noted on the Letter of Intent). **NOTE:** Prospective candidates must attend an informational session with one of the dental hygiene faculty members to ensure understanding of the application process.

STEP 5 Upon acceptance into the DHY Program, the following basic program courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better, and a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 must be maintained. **NOTE:** Because dental hygiene treatment is a very important part of the overall health of a patient, dental hygiene students are challenged to maintain very high standards in the training that they receive in our program. Therefore, the students must maintain at least a 78% in **all** dental hygiene classes, didactic and lab, to be able to advance through the Dental Hygiene Program each semester. Anything less than 78 **is not** a passing grade.

These courses MUST be completed prior to beginning the DHY program in August, 2023:

BIOL 2301 & 2101 Anatomy and Physiology I
CHEM 1305 & 1105 Introduction to Chemistry
ENGL 1301 Composition I
SPCH Speech Elective (student can choose between 1311, 1315, or 1318)

Failure to complete these courses by the start of the Fall semester 2023 with a 3.0 or better will result in the loss of the candidate’s acceptance status in the Dental Hygiene Program. The candidate will be dropped from the program and an alternate candidate who has successfully passed the core classes will be accepted.

****NOTE: IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE CANDIDATE COMPLETE ALL NON-DENTAL HYGIENE COURSES BEFORE THE AUGUST START DATE TO FACILITATE SUCCESS IN THE RIGOROUS DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM.***

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURES:

I. The DHY Program Admissions Committee applies an **objective** program acceptance formula to each candidate's file in making **all** program acceptance/continuance decisions. *The committee will review only those candidates who have completed both TSTC and Dental Hygiene Program applications; have taken the ATDH examination; and have satisfied TSI requirements.* The following formula will result in a composite score used to determine qualified candidates.

II. Selection Criteria:	Possible Points:
1. Accepted as Student to TSTC	
2. Completed Dental Hygiene Application	
3. Admission Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH) examination	Composite Score
4. Graduate from TSTC Dental Assisting Program or an American Dental Association accredited Dental Assisting Program	5 points

OR

5. 2 years or more as Clinical Dental Assistant	3 points
6. Each of the completed required science courses; A = 2 points B = 1 point. Intro to Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology I, Anatomy and Physiology II, and Microbiology	8 possible points

Total Points = Selection Score

III The candidates with the **highest selection scores** will be offered acceptance into the DHY Program. The Department Chair will notify candidates who are accepted in writing. Only those candidates receiving this official letter of acceptance/continuance will be allowed to register for the DHYG prefix courses and continue the program degree plan. In the case of a tie, the candidate with the highest GPA based on general college courses will receive admission into the program.

IV All other DHY majors and candidates **not** accepted for acceptance/continuance in the program must re-apply to the DHY Program for the next annual DHY class to be evaluated and selected. No preference will be given to candidates from one year to the next.

V. **Alternate List**

Candidates who meet the qualifications for the DHY Program but are **not** among the top 30 may be placed on the alternate list in rank order based on the formula score. In the event that a candidate who is accepted declines the position in the class, the first available candidate on the alternate list will be offered this position.

Candidates on the alternate list who are not ultimately offered a position in the current year's class, and who wish to re-apply for the next year's class will be expected to complete a new application with the

DHY Program. Those students placed on the alternate list will **not** receive any preferential selection due to their prior status on the alternate list.

VI. **Non-Acceptance**

Candidates who are not selected for acceptance/continuance by the DHY Selection Committee are sent official letters to that effect by the Dental Hygiene Department Chair and the Selection Committee. All candidates not accepted will be offered the opportunity for academic counseling with a member of the DHY faculty to discuss ways to improve future application scores. However, this counseling does not provide any guarantees that the candidate will be accepted in the future.

VII. **Summary of Selection Process for DHY Program Acceptance/Continuance**

Step 1 Admissions Office receives completed TSTC application form and transcripts.

Step 2 Candidate takes **Admissions Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH) Examination** during the Thursday, September 1 through Monday, October 31, 2022 “regular” window.

Step 3 Candidate completes DHY application for the DHY Program and submits it to the Dental Hygiene Dept. by March 1, 2023. Applications may be dropped off at the dental hygiene clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Ms. Lori Renteria.

NOTE: The Dental Hygiene Application is separate from the College application.

You must apply to both to be considered, and the application to the Dental Hygiene Program will need to be turned in by March 1st.

Step 4 DHY Selection Committee selects the top 30 candidates based on program acceptance formula.

Step 5 Letters of Acceptance/Denial/Alternate List status are mailed or emailed out to candidates by the middle of April, 2023.

Step 6 Candidate completes Anatomy and Physiology I, Intro to Chemistry, English Comp I, and Speech Elective and shows documentation of required immunizations before start of the Fall semester 2023 courses.

Step 7 Candidates on the Alternate List will be offered positions in the current class as they become available.

Step 8 Candidates **not** selected for the current year **MUST** re-apply to the DHY Program the following year if they would like to be considered.

Dental Hygiene Program

Requirement Checklist

STUDENT NAME _____ **Date** _____

Student signature _____

NEEDED BY DATE OF DENTAL HYGIENE ORIENTATION:

Shot record to include the following:

- ___ **Tetanus-Diphtheria or dTap within past 10 years**
- ___ **Measles, Mumps & Rubella —2 on or after the first birthday**
- ___ **TB test within past 3 months**
- ___ **HEP B injection 1st series**
- ___ **HEP B injection 2nd series**
- ___ **HEP B injection 3rd series**
- ___ **Meningitis**
- ___ **COVID-19**

NEEDED BY FIRST DAY OF CLASS EVERY FALL SEMESTER:

PROOF OF INSURANCE: (Invoice from TSTC Business Office)

- ___ **Malpractice (only once a year)**
- ___ **Health and Accident (only once a year)**
- ___ **Needlestick (only once a year)**

Other:

- ___ **Books for DHYG courses**
- ___ **Valid Texas driver's license or Texas identification**

TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE HARLINGEN

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

2023 APPLICATION FORM

(Please type or print in black ink both sides of this form)

Date of application ____/____/____

Social Security Number ____-____-____

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Date of Birth _____

____ Male ____ Female

Name _____

(Last)

(First)

(MI)

(Maiden)

Current Mailing Address: _____

(Street)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

E-mail address _____

Current telephone _____ Cell

Phone _____

Permanent Address

(Street) (County) (City) (State) (Zip)

Have you passed TSI or its equivalent? ____ YES ____ NO _____ WHEN?

(OFFICIAL SCORES MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION)

Have you taken the Admission Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH) examination? _____ Score

II. DENTAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Employer

City/State

Position

Dates

_____ to _____

_____ to _____

DENTAL ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT MUST BE DOCUMENTED BY EMPLOYER LETTER INCLUDING DATES.

III. EDUCATION BACKGROUND

In the space below, list ALL schools (high school and/or college) you have attended. If you have graduated from an American Dental Association accredited Dental Assisting Program, please list.)

Name of School

City

State

Dates of Attendance

Degree OR

MO/YR to MO/YR

Sem./Qtr. Hrs.

IV. CURRENT COURSEWORK

Please check the following courses that you have completed. You will need to support this with transcript documentation.

Please Check	Course Title	Grade received	Year taken	Name of School
	SOCI 1301 INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY			
	CHEM 1305 & 1105-INTRO TO CHEM			
	ENGL 1301-COMPOSITION I			
	PSYC 2301- GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY			
	BIOL 2401(2301&2101) ANATOMY & PHYS I			
	BIOL 2402 (2302&2102) ANATOMY & PHYS II			
	BIOL 2420 (2320 & 2120) MICROBIOLOGY			
	SPCH ELECTIVES (1311, 1315, 1318)			
	HUMANITIES (ARTS 1301, MUSI 1306)			

I understand that the Admissions Committee will not regard this application as “complete” until all supporting papers have been received; therefore, it is to my interest to see that these are submitted as promptly as possible. It is also my understanding that official transcripts sent directly from each school I have attended must be received by the Admissions Office as soon as possible at the end of each successive semester or quarter for as long as my application is being considered.

I understand that as a Dental Hygiene Student, I will be exposed to blood and body fluids. Texas State Technical College will not be held responsible for injury sustained during clinical experiences. As a student, I am to carry my own medical and accident insurance. Proof of such insurance must be kept on file in the Dental Hygiene Program Office. I also understand that as a Dental Hygiene Student I will be required to obtain the Hepatitis B and other vaccinations as required by the Texas Department of Health.

I further understand that officials of Texas State Technical College determining my status for admission will rely upon the information submitted herein. I certify that the information in this application is complete and correct and I understand that the submission of false information is grounds for rejection of my application, withdrawal of any offer of acceptance, cancellation of enrollment, or appropriate disciplinary action.

Signature of Candidate

Date

This completed Dental Hygiene application form must be received at TSTC Dental Hygiene Dept. by March 1, 2023. You can submit it in person to Ms. Lori Renteria at the Dental Hygiene Clinic in building U at TSTC, on Tuesdays and Thursdays only or by mailing the completed application to the following address:

Mail to:

**Texas State Technical College Dental Hygiene Program
Raquel Rico, Dental Hygiene Program Director
1902 N. Loop 499
Harlingen, TX 785**

