

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for PROSPECTIVE DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS

Revised July 30, 2011

Is the program accredited? Yes

It is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation may be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

What resources can I use to assist me in exploring the dental hygiene profession?

Visit adha.org, odha.net, ada.org and state.oh.us/den to learn much more about the dental hygiene professions.

What exactly is a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)?

A licensed professional who works under the direction of a dentist to promote optimal oral health, prevent oral diseases and intervene with therapeutic services. Typical responsibilities include: instructing patients in oral health education, scaling and polishing the teeth, exposing, processing and mounting x-ray films, administering fluoride treatments, applying sealants, taking impressions, administering local anesthetic and nitrous oxide/oxygen sedation, assisting the dentist, collecting medical/dental history data from the patient and managing the recall/recare system.

Will I get a degree upon completion of the program? Yes

The Associate of Applied Science degree is awarded.

Is dental hygiene a field for women only? No

Although the majority of practicing dental hygienists are women, men are very successful in this field too. Always welcome in the workplace, the numbers of male dental hygienists are increasing. There are male alumni of this program.

Where are most dental hygienists employed?

Most dental hygienists are employed by private dental offices, but opportunities exist in public health settings, dental hygiene education programs, public schools, hospitals, and in private industry.

Are there personal attributes I should consider if thinking about dental hygiene as a career? Yes

Prospective students should have the ability to succeed in a science-based curriculum, relate well to people on a one-to-one basis, feel comfortable working in close proximity with people of all ages and backgrounds, be patient, and have good time management skills.

How long is the program?

A minimum of two years is required to complete the 75 credit hour program. Note OPTIONS I, II, III on the web page.

What expenses can I expect to incur related to my dental hygiene education?

Expenses include, but may not be limited to: tuition, college fees, special dental hygiene course fees, instrument kits, textbooks, and supplies, liability insurance, health insurance, physical examination and immunization costs, uniforms and transportation to and from off-campus clinical experiences. In addition, board exams and state license application related fees should be expected. When meeting with the dental hygiene program director after you have attended the Health Technologies Orientation session and have had an individual meeting with a dental hygiene counselor, the program fees will be discussed.

Is financial aid available? Yes

LCC's financial aid office can provide information concerning available grants, loans and scholarships. Call (440) 525-7070.

Is experience as a dental assistant helpful? Yes (and no!)

Familiarity with the dental work setting and terminology is helpful. There is no advantage, however, in admissions or in course work. All students, including dental assistants, must meet the same admission criteria and must complete all coursework listed on the curriculum plan.

Can credits earned in the program be transferred or applied to a bachelor's degree? Yes

Arts and Sciences courses included in the curriculum are transferable. Technical courses must be evaluated by the institution where a student wishes to transfer. Contact the Program Director for information about degree completion options.

When do classes begin?

Students are admitted once per year, beginning with the Fall Term. Details are provided to program applicants.

What hours will I be in attendance at school while enrolled in the dental hygiene program?

The schedule varies during the year. Lecture and lab classes are generally scheduled between 8:00-5:00 (m-F) and all students have both day and evening clinical sessions. Students are encouraged not to schedule other activities, including employment, until the schedules are posted each semester.

Can I work while in the dental hygiene program? Yes, with limits encouraged

It is recommended that part-time employment be limited to 8-10 hours per week. However, the actual number will vary depending on individual student circumstances.

If I am past the traditional college age, am I too old to enter dental hygiene? No

There is a growing trend for people to change careers, or to choose to enter the dental hygiene field later in life. Students can be successful in this degree no matter their age.

Are there any requirements for enrolling in the dental hygiene program? Yes

Enrollment is limited. Therefore, acceptance by LCC does not automatically mean acceptance into the dental hygiene program. Candidates must become eligible by meeting specific requirements and must apply to the program. Formal notification of acceptance into the program is required.

Is there an application deadline? No

Applications will be accepted when a candidate completes the eligibility (pre-application) requirements. This is discussed at the Health Technologies Information session and with the dental hygiene advisor.

What does eligibility mean?

A student has met the special pre-application requirements and is ready to apply for admission to the program.

Do all eligible applicants get into the program? Yes

Acceptance to the program is based solely on meeting the special requirements and submitting a complete application. Applicants are not placed in competition with one another. However, because the number of eligible applicants often exceeds the number of openings for a class, admission is granted on a space available basis. Eligible applicants are guaranteed admission but may be admitted to a succeeding class.

How long might I wait to begin classes after being accepted?

The start of dental hygiene courses may be delayed one or more years depending on the number of applicants. When a student is accepted, they will be informed of their start date. If spaces open earlier, the applicant will be notified. Students are encouraged to apply as soon as they are eligible and to use the waiting period to complete the non-dental hygiene courses.

What is the HOBET (Health Occupations Basic Entrance Test)? When is it given?

The HOBET test is a standardized exam, which, in combination with other indicators, is used to help predict one's academic success potential. The 3-hour test focuses on verbal ability, mathematics and science. It is offered once a month year-round. Registration for the Pre-Admission Examination is done by paying the test fee at the cashiers office and then calling the test center (440) 525-7019 to schedule a time. There is an approximate 2-week deadline to register in any given month.

Is there a fee for the HOBET? Yes

The current test fee is \$40.00 (Note: this is subject to change).

What score must be achieved on the HOBET?

A score of 50% or higher is required. Only two tries are possible.

How many students are in each class?

A full class includes 20 students. The actual number of applicants admitted to class may be fewer however, if circumstances require a previously enrolled student to return.

Do most students complete the program within two years? No

Most students take some or all of the required arts and sciences courses (non-dental hygiene) before starting the dental hygiene sequence. This strategy is highly recommended to strengthen academic background and lighten the load to allow for full focus on the dental hygiene courses.

Are there any prerequisites for the eligibility courses? Yes

Compass placement scores and/or prerequisites are established for the Math courses, and for Option 2, Biology 1200 is a prerequisite for Anatomy and Physiology I. Whether or not you can enroll in these courses without preparatory courses depends on your scores and/or course record.

Exactly what courses are included in the curriculum?

Students will follow the sequence listed in the “Dental Hygiene Curriculum Plan”. See this web page. Non-dental hygiene courses may be taken before beginning the dental hygiene course sequence.

Will I be required to learn to administer local anesthesia injection (how to give shots), and nitrous oxide/oxygen sedation? Yes

Dental hygienists in the State of Ohio are allowed to administer local anesthesia (give shots) and nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation. Students in this program will learn and practice local anesthesia injections, and nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation.

Are dental hygienists at risk for infectious diseases such as AIDS?

Dental hygienists practice according to infection control guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, and by doing so are at no greater risk than any other health care profession.

If I have an infectious diseases, can I still apply to the Program?

You should check with Paula Pastor-Hinkle (440) 525-7009, in the Health Services Department and also the Dental Hygiene Program Director, Cathy Patterson (440) 525-7190 for assistance with your specific issue.

Can out of state students apply and be accepted Yes

The same criteria and procedures apply.

NOTE:

- The College reserves the right to change, without notice, statements concerning rules, policies, fees, curricula, courses or other matters.
- LCC is committed to equal opportunity for all and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age or disability.
- LCC strives to enroll a diverse representation of students within the health science programs. Members of underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.