What are the Advantages of a Dental Hygiene Career?

► Personal Satisfaction:
One of the most enjoyable aspects of a career in dental hygiene is working with people.

► Prestige:
As a result of their education and clinical training, dental hygienists are respected as valued members of the oral health care team.

► Variety:
Dental Hygienists use a variety of interpersonal and clinical skills to meet the oral health needs of many different patients each day.

► Creativity:
By interacting with diverse population groups, dental hygienists learn creativity in their approach to patient management.

► Flexibility:
Full and part-time employment options, as well as the availability of evening and weekend hours, enable dental hygienists to balance their life and career.

Next Steps

Introductory information sessions will be conducted for prospective applicants at 4 p.m. on the second Monday in the months of January, February, March (the March session will take place the first Monday of the month if the second Monday falls during Spring Break,) April, June, July, September, October and November.

Sessions take place in the Health Sciences Center, located on the East Campus of Temple College.

Attendance at one of these information sessions is required: you will receive the actual application at the information session.

For more information, contact:
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An Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene prepares you to become a primary healthcare professional, oral health educator and practitioner who provides educational, preventive and therapeutic services.

Though most dental hygienists work in private dental offices, dental hygiene offers a variety of career options with ample opportunity for professional advancement. As part of dental hygiene services, dental hygienists may:

- perform oral health care assessments that include the review of patients’ health history, dental charting, oral cancer screening, and evaluation of gum disease/health
- remove soft and hard deposits from the teeth using dental instruments
- apply cavity-preventive agents such as fluorides and sealants to the teeth
- educate patients and the community on proper oral hygiene techniques to maintain healthy teeth and gums
- expose and interpret dental x-rays

A dental hygienist is a licensed preventive oral health professional who provides educational, clinical and therapeutic services to the public. In order to become prepared to perform these services, a dental hygienist needs an extensive educational background.

Applications for the Temple College Dental Hygiene Program are received until Feb. 15 each year. Enrollment in the program is limited, with a maximum number of 12 positions available per class. Students are accepted into the program in strict accordance with very specific admission criteria that is described in the application packet.

Dental hygiene education requires general education courses and two full calendar years of study within the dental hygiene curriculum for degree completion. Dental Hygiene program graduates must pass the written National Board Examination, a Regional and/or State Examination and a State Jurisprudence Examination to be eligible to apply for state licensure.

Prerequisite courses must be completed before applying for the Dental Hygiene program.

BIOL 2401 — Human Anatomy and Physiology I
BIOL 2402* — Human Anatomy and Physiology II
BIOL 2420* — Microbiology
CHEM 1405 — Introductory Chemistry

Co-requisite Courses
It is advantageous, but not required, to complete all co-requisite courses prior to entry into the Dental Hygiene program.

ENGL 1301 — English Composition I
ENGL 2311* — Technical and Business Writing OR
ENGL 1302 — English Composition II and
SPCH 1311, 1315, or 1318
PSYC 2301 — General Psychology
SOCI 1301 — Introduction to Sociology
Fine Arts or Humanities elective

*See Temple College catalog for prerequisite classes and class descriptions.

The TC Associate Dental Hygiene program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, 211 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611, 312-440-2718.

“Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow 36 percent through 2018, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. This projected growth ranks dental hygienists among the fastest growing occupations, in response to increasing demand for dental care and more use of hygienists.”