

DENTAL HYGIENE, ASDH

School of Health Sciences

Students who satisfactorily complete the ASDH program are eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and any state or regional board dental hygiene examination in the United States. The professional sequence is designed to be completed in five semesters and requires an on-campus full-time commitment. Graduates of this program who have passed the Regional Board and National Board are eligible for articulation with a bachelor program in dental hygiene.

Accreditation

Granted full approval by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Commission on Dental Accreditation
American Dental Association
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2678

Criteria for Admission

Admission to Georgia Highlands College does not guarantee admission to the dental hygiene program. Students must make a separate application to the dental hygiene program. All current application materials, procedures, and deadlines may be obtained by contacting the department at (706) 295-6760 or on the Web at <http://sites.highlands.edu/dental> (<http://sites.highlands.edu/dental/>).

Applicants must have completed, with a grade of C or better, the following courses by the end of the spring semester in which they are applying: CHEM 1151K Survey of Chemistry I or CHEM 1211K Principles of Chemistry I, BIOL 2251K Anatomy & Physiology I, and BIOL 2252K Anatomy & Physiology II. **The C or better in the science courses include both class and lab.** All general academic courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Because of the limited number of spaces available in the dental hygiene program, the dental hygiene admissions committee will evaluate records of all students who have applied for admission and have met the minimum requirements. The most qualified students will be selected. **Students must complete all pre-requirements for program admission before entering the professional sequence. Students must retake** BIOL 2251K Anatomy & Physiology I, BIOL 2252K Anatomy & Physiology II, **BIOL 2260 Foundations of Microbiology /BIOL 2260L Foundations of Microbiology La, and Nutrition courses if those courses were taken more than six years before application to the dental hygiene program.**

All records must be submitted by published application deadline to be considered for admission to the program. It is the responsibility of each applicant to make sure that his/her records are in order before the application deadline.

In addition to being admitted to Georgia Highlands College, applicants for admission to the dental hygiene program must meet all of the following minimum requirements:

- Dental hygiene application <https://forms.highlands.edu/dental/asdh/>
- Personal statement
- Proof of current GHC admission
- Minimum 2.5 or higher GPA on Dental Hygiene core curriculum

- Minimum of a 65 composite score on the ATI TEAS test. The TEAS must have been taken within one year of the application deadline. TEAS tests greater than one-year-old must be retaken. Only two attempts will be allowed per application cycle and will be verified by ATI TEAS.
- Proof of attendance at one of the mandatory GHC Dental Hygiene Program/Admissions Information Session within 12 months of the application deadline. **These sessions are held face-to-face in Heritage Hall. Dates of these sessions are published on the GHC Dental Hygiene Website.**
- Signed Acknowledgement of the GHC Bloodborne Pathogens Policy.
- Three letters of reference (ideally from employers, dental professionals, educators, etc.)
- Documentation of 30 hours of observation of a dental hygienist in 2 different general practice offices. A minimum of 15 hours in each office with a different hygienist. Applicant cannot be employed in either office.
- Each dental hygienist observed must complete an observation evaluation form.
- Completion of CHEM 1151K Survey of Chemistry I or CHEM 1211K Principles of Chemistry I, BIOL 2251K Anatomy & Physiology I and BIOL 2252K Anatomy & Physiology II with a grade of C or better by the end of the spring semester in which they are applying. This applies to both class and lab.
- Official transcripts from all other colleges attended. Transcripts are to be submitted to Georgia Highlands college, not directly to the dental hygiene department.
- Proof of English Language Proficiency.
For applicants whose first language is not English and applicants whose language of instruction throughout secondary school was not English, proof of English language proficiency is required.
 - **Note:** TOEFL / IELTS may be waived using qualifying SAT or ACT scores, English 1101 or 1102 transfer credit, 4 units of college prep English earned at an accredited U.S. high school or qualifying placement testing scores.
 - **TOEFL** ([ets.org/toefl/](https://www.ets.org/toefl/)): Internet Based (iBT) **80**
 - **IELTS** ([ielts.org/en-us/](https://www.ielts.org/en-us/)): **6.5**
 - **SAT** ([collegeboard.com](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/)): Critical Reading Score **430** (old prior to March 2016); Reading Test Score **24** (new March 2016 to present);
 - **ACT** ([act.org](https://www.act.org/content/act/en.html)): English Score **17**

Please see the website for detailed information on program admission criteria, dates of the Information Sessions, and the Bloodborne Pathogens/Infectious Disease Policy. <https://sites.highlands.edu/dental> (<https://sites.highlands.edu/dental/>). For additional questions, please contact our office at (706)295-6760.

The records of all applicants who meet minimum requirements will be reviewed and the top applicants will be invited for an interview.

A letter of acceptance will be sent to those applicants admitted into the dental hygiene program. Additional information and forms will be sent to the applicant concerning necessary requirements after confirmation of the student's intent to enroll.

A student who has been arrested or convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation may be admitted into the dental hygiene program

at Georgia Highlands College. However, permission to obtain a Georgia license to practice dental hygiene rests with the Georgia Board of Dentistry.

Background Check and Drug Testing Policy

All dental hygiene students are required to submit to drug testing and a background check prior to beginning the dental hygiene program and annually while in the program. Students must receive a clear “negative” result for each drug test conducted during the program. Random testing and suspected drug abuse testing may be conducted throughout the program duration. Background checks and drug screenings are required through [advantagestudents.com](https://www.advantagestudents.com/) (<https://www.advantagestudents.com/>) prior to clinical practice. Students are responsible for all costs associated with the procedures. (See Dental Hygiene Program Manual for Substance Abuse Policy and Procedures.)

Required Documentation

Once accepted to the dental hygiene program, students must provide the following:

- Proof of 18 years of age prior to fall matriculation into the program.
- All core classes completed with satisfactory grades prior to fall matriculation into the program.
- Physical well-being as documented on the physician form and immunizations (hepatitis B, tuberculosis, varicella) form. The dental hygiene program may require additional proof of physical, visual, and/or mental well-being, including medical clearance for N95 respirator use.
- Current (within 1 year) negative tuberculin screening. Documentation must remain current throughout enrollment. In addition, students will adhere to requirement(s) of agency used for assigned learning experiences.
 - Students who have been advised against tuberculin skin testing must maintain current documentation from Health Dept. or healthcare provider of TB risk assessment and completion of any recommended follow-up care.
- Proof of two MMR injections or positive rubella, rubeola and mumps titers.
- TDAP within the last ten years. (Note: if TDAP is greater than 10 years ago, must provide proof of the TDAP and a TD booster)
- Two varicella vaccines or positive varicella titer (proof of disease is not sufficient).
- Positive Hep B titer/declination form
- Completion of annual influenza vaccine or signed declination form (if applicable for any off-site facility).
- Proof of current certification by the American Heart Association in Basic Life Support throughout the program. (Heartsaver courses are not acceptable.)
- Proof of health insurance coverage throughout program

To qualify for graduation, students must meet all graduation requirements (<http://catalog.highlands.edu/academic-information/#graduationrequirements>).

Code	Title	Hours	Completed
General Academic Courses ¹			
BIOL 2251K	Anatomy & Physiology I ^{2,3}	4	_____

BIOL 2252K	Anatomy & Physiology II ^{2,3}	4	_____
BIOL 2260 & 2260L	Foundations of Microbiology and Foundations of Microbiology La	4	_____
ENGL 1101	English Composition I	3	_____
HIST 1000	U.S. and Georgia History ⁴	3	_____
PSYC 1101	Intro to General Psychology	3	_____
SOCI 1101	Introductory Sociology	3	_____
Select one of the following: ²		4	_____
CHEM 1151K	Survey of Chemistry I		_____
CHEM 1211 & 1211L	Principles of Chemistry I and Principles of Chemistry I Lab		_____
Select one of the following:		2-3	_____
BIOL 2190	Principles of Nutrition ³		_____
PHED 2202	Principles of Human Nutrition ³		_____
Select one of the following:		3	_____
MATH 1001	Quantitative Reasoning		_____
MATH 1111	College Algebra		_____
STAT 1401	Elementary Statistics		_____
COMM 1110	Public Speaking	2-3	_____
or COMM 1100 Human Communication			_____
Select one of the following:		3	_____
ARTS 1100	Art Appreciation		_____
ARTS 1111	Art History to Renaissance		_____
ARTS 1112	Art History Renaissance to Pre		_____
ENGL 2010	Humanities in Drama		_____
ENGL 2111	World Literature I		_____
ENGL 2112	World Literature II		_____
ENGL 2121	British Literature I		_____
ENGL 2122	British Literature II		_____
ENGL 2131	American Literature I		_____
ENGL 2132	American Literature II		_____
ENGL 2135	Latino Literature		_____

ENGL 2140	African-American Literature	_____
FILM 1100	Film Appreciation	_____
HUMS 2011	Studies In Humanities	_____
MUSC 1100	Music Appreciation	_____
PHIL 2010	Introduction to Philosophy	_____
RELI 1116	Intro to Religion	_____
SPAN 1001	Elementary Spanish I	_____
SPAN 1002	Elementary Spanish II	_____
SPAN 2001	Intermediate Spanish I	_____
SPAN 2002	Intermediate Spanish II	_____
THEA 1100	Theater Appreciation	_____
Subtotal	38	_____
Career Preparation Requirements		
DHYG 1100	Preclinical Dental Hygiene	3 _____
DHYG 1110	Introduction to Patient Care	2 _____
DHYG 1120	Dental Anatomy/Histology	2 _____
DHYG 1130	Oral Pathology	2 _____
DHYG 1200	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	4 _____
DHYG 1210	Dental Hygiene I	2 _____
DHYG 1220	Dental Radiology	2 _____
DHYG 1300	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	2 _____
DHYG 1310	Dental Hygiene II	1 _____
DHYG 1320	Periodontics	2 _____
DHYG 1330	Dental Pharmacology	2 _____
DHYG 2400	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	3 _____
DHYG 2410	Dental Hygiene III	2 _____
DHYG 2420	Dental Materials	2 _____
DHYG 2430	Community Dental Health	2 _____
DHYG 2500	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	3 _____
DHYG 2510	Dental Hygiene IV	3 _____
Subtotal	39	_____
Total Hours	77	_____

1

All general Academic courses must be satisfactorily completed with a grade of C or higher prior to entering the dental hygiene program.

2

Course must be completed by end of spring semester that student applies to Dental Hygiene Program

3

Students must retake required biology courses and Nutrition if those courses were taken more than six years before application to the dental hygiene program

4

Students who plan to transfer to a four-year institution or enter the RDH-BSDH completion program should take POLS 1101 American Government and HIST 2111 American History I or HIST 2112 American History II, in lieu of HIST 1000 U.S. and Georgia History.

Essential Functions of the Dental Hygiene Student

Intellectual, Conceptual and Cognitive Skills

Students must have the ability to measure, assess, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize data. Problem solving, critical thinking, and diagnosis which includes obtaining, interpreting, and documenting information are critical and essential skills. The ability to understand and comprehend three dimensional relationships is necessary.

Communication Skills

The student is expected to be able to communicate clearly in English at a level of understanding appropriate to the ability of an individual patient to understand. This communication ability is expected both in the oral and written form. Communication must be respectful and sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. The clinical practice of dental hygiene requires the ability to accurately transfer gathered data into a patient record. Therapeutic communication is one aspect of communication and must be developed by the candidate. These skills include coaching, facilitating, identifying the needs and responses of the client, and the appropriate use of touching.

Reading Comprehension

The student must be capable of reading, analyzing, and comprehending college level materials such as textbooks and professional journals so he/she can apply didactic knowledge effectively in the clinical setting and exercise good judgment when delivering dental hygiene care. The student must be able to independently interpret and follow written directions and processes when learning and developing dental hygiene skills.

Computer Skills

The student must possess basic computer skills to research the most current information to evaluate products and medications, make evidence-based decisions, to enter information into the patient database, and to complete computerized patient care activities.

Emotional Stability/Personal Temperament

Direct patient contact often involves stressors that must be dealt with rationally. High levels of mental and emotional stability are required daily. The student must be able to maintain a professional attitude and appearance. Deal with stress produced by course load; clinical requirements, and patient attitude; must have the ability to adapt to change and be able to function and maintain focus in an environment with multiple extraneous stimuli.

Time Management Skills

Time management skills are needed both in the educational and clinical practice phases as the practitioner is presented with a variety of deadlines and time critical tasks. Often, more than one task competes for a given block of time and the prospective student is expected to be able to prioritize the tasks and have them completed in a timely fashion. Functioning under time and patient management constraints is often encountered.

Physical Requirements

Visual and Perceptual Skills

The practice of clinical dental hygiene mandates that the practitioner has fine motor control with correspondingly high hand-eye coordination. Visual acuity should be corrected with the ability to accommodate at a distance of 10" or less. Color vision deficiencies should be limited to a single color. As a part of visual/perceptual coordination, the student must be able to observe laboratory demonstrations and patient conditions as a part of clinical treatment.

Motor Skills

Students should have the motor function sufficient to enable them to execute movements required to provide general for patients in routine and emergency situations. It is required that a student possess the motor skills necessary to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic maneuvers, basic laboratory tests and diagnostic procedures.

Other Sensory Skills

Should have correctable hearing in at least one ear and be able to develop reasonable skills of percussion and auscultation. Sensory and motor innervations of the hand and arm muscles should be intact and functioning normally as fine motor and tactile skills are an essential component of this profession. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional uses of the senses of touch, vision, and smell. Students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress.

1. If a physical and/or mental health condition arises that interferes with the student being able to meet the core performance standards, the student must submit a physician's release documenting the student's ability to meet the core performance standards before continuing or reapplying to the program.
2. **ADA Statement**
Any student who feels they may need accommodation based on the impact of a disability should make an appointment with GHC Student Support Services to coordinate reasonable accommodation. Students are welcome to contact their instructor to privately discuss the matter.

Estimated Costs

Dental hygiene students have the responsibility for the following expenses in addition to tuition and books:

- Uniforms and supply kits (approximately \$2,000)
- Instruments (approximately \$5,000)
- Malpractice liability Insurance (approximately \$18 annually)
- Professional dues (approximately \$80 annually)
- Annual tuberculosis screen (approximately \$20)
- Licensure and examinations (approximately \$2,000)

- Background and drug testing (approximately \$100 annually)
- Clinical Course Fee (\$75 per semester)

Requirements for Promotion and Graduation in the Dental Hygiene Program

The dental hygiene faculty at Georgia Highlands College will make every effort to assist students who are accepted into the Dental Hygiene program to successfully complete the program. However, the student must assume responsibility for their success. The following criteria have been established for this purpose:

- If a student earns a final course grade of D in any dental hygiene course, the student may be required to remediate as specified by the dental hygiene faculty within the time specified.
- After receiving a second final course grade of D in any dental hygiene course, the student will **not** be permitted to continue in the professional sequence.
- If a student earns a final course grade of F in any dental hygiene course, the student will **not** be permitted to continue in the professional sequence.
- Incomplete grades in dental hygiene courses must be completed within the time specified by the dental hygiene faculty. If this is not done, the student will automatically receive an F.
- A dental hygiene student who is dismissed from the dental hygiene program due to academic failure (two Ds or one F) may apply to the program during the next application period and must meet all admission requirements of an entry-level student. If the student is accepted, the student is required to repeat all dental hygiene courses to increase likelihood of academic success.
- A student who has been dismissed from the College for any reason will not be considered for readmission into the dental hygiene program.
- A dental hygiene student must adhere to all policies and procedures of the dental hygiene program and Georgia Highlands College. These can be found in the GHC student handbook, in the Dental Hygiene Program Manual and course syllabi.
- The student must maintain current certification in American Heart Association Basic Life Support, liability insurance, health insurance, and proof of tuberculosis screening throughout the program.
- The student must meet all requirements for graduation specified by the College and the dental hygiene program. The dental hygiene faculty reserves the right to reconsider all stated policies under unusual circumstances. This includes the right to fail a dental hygiene student for unsafe practices.