



**MIDDLESEX**  
Community College

# **Dental Hygiene** *Associate in Science*

**Fall 2021**

## **Program Information and Admission Requirements**

*Accredited by the  
Commission on Dental Accreditation of the  
American Dental Association*

**Application Deadline:** Priority consideration will be given to completed applications (including all requirements and documentation) February 1, 2021. Final Admission decisions will be made by April 2021.

In some cases, students may be conditionally admitted pending successful completion of College Chemistry I or Anatomy & Physiology II with a grade of B or higher.

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**Special Note Regarding Residency:** Non-Massachusetts residents will be admitted on a space available basis only.

## Program Description

The Dental Hygiene associate in science degree program is designed to prepare competent dental hygiene professionals, capable of providing quality dental hygiene care in a variety of settings within a changing health care system, and a culturally diverse society. Students gain skills and knowledge required to take the National Dental Hygiene Board and Commission on Dental Competency Assessment, and learn to practice in a manner consistent with the highest standards set forth by the ADA/CODA, ADHA, OSHA, CDC and Massachusetts General Laws pertinent to health care provider settings, including the State Dental Practice Act. Service-learning is infused throughout the Dental Hygiene coursework including the clinical courses.

## Career and Transfer Outlook:

Dental Hygienists work in a wide variety of settings: private dental practices, public health service agencies, research institutions, sales companies, educational institutions, and the insurance industry.

The present career outlook for clinical private practice is positive and not expected to change in the near future. Careers outside of clinical practice generally require an advanced degree. Transfer to baccalaureate programs is possible.

## Standard Skills for Dental Hygiene

The following is a list of standard and/or technical skills required for performing duties in the Dental Hygiene field. These skills are not conditions for admission to the program, but do indicate abilities and characteristics necessary for successful completion of the dental hygiene program, and for the performance of the duties of the career upon graduation.

- Lift, carry and move equipment and supplies of up to ten pounds.
- Comprehend textbook material at the 11th grade level.
- Retrieve dental supplies from storage areas at different heights.
- Stand for a minimum of two hours.
- Sit for up to four hours at a time.
- Walk for a minimum of six hours, not necessarily consecutively.
- Stoop, bend and twist for a minimum of 30 minutes at a time and be able to repeat this activity at frequent intervals.
- Use upper body movements (up to 5 ft.) to grasp, push/pull, reach overhead equipment, and rotate/reach laterally.
- Perform for a prolonged period without breaks, e.g., typical shift of eight hours.
- Manipulate mechanical and patient care equipment, i.e. dials, switches, push buttons, keyboards, syringes, and blood pressure equipment.
- Maneuver in tight quarters common to dental offices.
- Respond to body sounds through stethoscope.
- Demonstrate sufficient manual dexterity with two hands to manipulate instruments with precision and control in the oral cavity without causing damage to tissues.
- Determine by touch: hotness/coldness, wetness/dryness, hardness/softness and demonstrate the ability to palpate oral tissues appropriately.
- Differentiate among subtle shades of gray as seen in radiographs.
- Wear protective equipment such as gloves, face masks, face shields, and protective eye wear.
- Exhibit the visual acuity with or without corrective lenses to identify changes in oral tissues, such as color, texture and shape of tissues
- Initiate and use clear, concise oral English communication within a conversational setting: comprehend and clearly and effectively communicate instructions and information in written, oral and electronic form.
- Respond to requests and directions in a professional manner.
- Gather, analyze, and draw conclusions from data.
- Use appropriately (with appropriate safe guards) some hazardous materials such as dental materials, disinfecting chemicals, radiographic rays, blood and body fluids.
- Maintain cleanliness and personal grooming consistent with close personal contact.
- Exhibit appropriate professional and social skills in all interactions.
- Function without causing harm to self or others.

## Getting Started

Review and follow the Dental Hygiene Admission Requirements Certification Form to ensure that you have met the admission criteria listed below:

- Completion of college level Anatomy & Physiology I and II with a grade of B or higher (83% or higher) within the last five years.
- Completion of College Chemistry I with a grade of B or higher (83% or higher) within the last five years.
- Completion of the Supplemental Application for Dental Hygiene Applicants.
- Eligible for MAT 177; eligibility may be demonstrated through placement, course enrollment, previous college coursework, or high school transcripts.
- Eligible for ENG 101; eligibility may be demonstrated through placement, course enrollment, previous college coursework, or high school transcripts.
- Submission of three Health Recommendation Forms. It is recommended that at least two Health Recommendation Forms be requested from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's performance in a work or classroom setting.
- Attendance at a Dental Hygiene Overview Session is required.

## Submitting a Complete Application

If you meet the admission requirements, the following forms must be submitted by the application deadline of February 1, 2021.

- A signed Admission Requirements Certification Form.
- A completed Middlesex Community College Application.
- A completed Supplemental Application.
- Official College Transcripts (required from all colleges attended, except Middlesex Community College).
- Three health recommendation forms.

## Admission Information

Middlesex Community College currently accepts 24 students each fall into the Dental Hygiene Program. Admission to the program is selective.

The admission committee will review applications in their entirety. In addition to the admission requirements listed above, successful applicants will have documented success in science courses. Academic history will also be considered and students are required to have a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA.

Non-Massachusetts residents will be admitted on a space available basis only. All Dental Hygiene classes are held during the day at Middlesex Community College's Lowell campus.

## Requirements After Admission to Dental Hygiene

- Students accepted to Health Programs must be in compliance with the current immunization requirements specified by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for Health Care Personnel (HCP) and in accordance with state law, MGL, Chapter 76, Section 15C, and its regulations at 105 CMR 220.700 in order to participate in an externship placement or clinical experience.
- Students must submit the Student Health Record form, provided by Middlesex Community College. Required documentation of health status includes a completed physical examination, a two-step Mantoux (TB/PPD) skin test or blood test (T-Spot or Quantiferon Gold) for tuberculosis, a color deficiency test, proof of immunization against Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Varicella, one lifetime dose of TDAP (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Acellular Pertussis – after 2006), and one dose of MenACWY meningococcal vaccine administered on or after 16th birthday for any newly enrolled full-time student 21 years of age or younger.
- Earn and submit a current certification in CPR at the Health Care Provider-level, which includes a hands on skill portion (offered monthly at MCC), which is valid for the entire academic year and renewed annually.
- Students are expected to attend registration & orientation programs in the summer before classes begin.
- Students are required to purchase dental instruments, supplies, uniforms, and professional books.
- Students must maintain a grade of C or better in all science courses, and courses with area of specializations.
- Science courses must be taken within 5 years of entrance to the program to be accepted for credit toward the Dental Hygiene degree
- Students enrolled in the Dental Hygiene program must demonstrate a satisfactory level of performance in clinical settings in order to remain in the program. See Academic Catalog for additional information.
- Students are responsible for providing patients for their clinical experience.
- To obtain licensure after graduation, students must take National, Regional and State licensure examinations which require additional separate fees.
- Students will be asked to complete a CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) and SORI (Sex Offender Registry Information) check. The results of these checks may impact the student's ability to participate in clinical courses.
- Service learning sites may require additional background checks including fingerprinting. Student may be responsible for scheduling and paying for such background checks. The results of these checks may impact the student's ability to participate in clinical courses.

## Criminal Offender Record Information and Sex Offender Registry Information Checks

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in an academic, community or clinical program that involves potential unsupervised contact with children, the disabled, or the elderly, the student may be required to undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check and/or a Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) check. Students found to have certain criminal convictions or pending criminal actions will be presumed ineligible to participate in such activities. The College is authorized by the Commonwealth's Criminal History Systems Board, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 167-178B, to access CORI records. The College shall refer to regulations issued by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 101 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 15.00-15.16, as guidance when assessing student CORI records. Sex Offender checks shall be performed pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 178C-178P.

For more information regarding the College's CORI/SORI check process, please contact Alisa Chapman, Director of Compliance at 781-280-3620 or chapmana@middlesex.mass.edu.

## Services Available to Middlesex Community College Students

Advising is available in our Academic Planning Centers. Academic advising is a valuable service since all applicants are responsible for fulfilling the precise requirements of the program in order to be considered for admission. Advising appointments may be made by calling 1-800-818-3434.

Students are encouraged to apply for Financial Aid to help meet the expenses of attending college. The Financial Aid Office packages awards for each student, based upon the student's eligibility and financial need, fund restrictions and fund availability. General information is available at the Student Information Centers, or by calling the Financial Aid Offices in Bedford 781-280-3650 or Lowell 978-656-3242.

## Dental Hygiene Associate in Science Program Requirements

Course Title	Course Number	Credits	Prerequisites
Concepts in Dental Hygiene I	DHY 100	3	
Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice I	DHY 101	4	
Head and Neck Anatomy	DHY 103	2	BIO 231, BIO 232
Oral Anatomy, Histology and Embryology	DHY 104	3	BIO 231, BIO 232
Nutrition	DHY 105	2	CHE 131
Concepts in Dental Hygiene II	DHY 150	3	DHY 100, DHY 101
Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice II	DHY 151	3	DHY 100, DHY 101, DHY 105
Dental Radiology	DHY 152	3	DHY 103, DHY 104
Periodontology	DHY 153	3	DHY 100, DHY 102, DHY 104, BIO 235
Concepts in Dental Hygiene III	DHY 200	3	DHY 150, DHY 151
Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice III	DHY 201	4	DHY 150, DHY 151, DHY 152, DHY 153
Oral Pathology	DHY 202	3	DHY 104, BIO 232, BIO 235
Pharmacology	DHY 203	2	DHY 103, DHY 104, DHY 151, BIO 232
Dental Materials	DHY 204	3	DHY 151, CHE 131, CHE 132
Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice IV	DHY 251	5	DHY 200, DHY 201, DHY 203, DHY 204
Community Health	DHY 252	2	DHY 200, MAT 077
Local Anesthesia	DHY 253	1	DHY 103, DHY 150, DHY 151, DHY 203
Applied Ethics in Dental Hygiene	PHL 108	3	Completion of DHY 200
English Composition I	ENG 101	3	Completion with a grade of B or better of ENG 088, ENG 089, ENG 092, or ENG 093; or placement by exam
English Composition II	ENG 102	3	C- or better in ENG 101
Introduction to Microbiology	BIO 235	4	BIO 131 or BIO 231 with a C or better within the past 5 years
College Chemistry II	CHE 132	4	A grade of C or better in CHE 131
Statistics	MAT 177	3	Eligible for ENG 101; placement above or completion of MAT 080 with a C or better or completion of Math Module 12, 73, or 82
Introduction to Psychology	PSY 101	3	Eligible for ENG 101
Introduction to Sociology	SOC 101	3	Eligible for ENG 101
Total Credits		75	

**Director of Dental Hygiene:** Karen Townsend, R.D.H., B.S. Northeastern, M.S., University of Maryland