Welcome Prospective Dental Hygiene Student!

Thank you for your interest in Southeastern Technical College’s Dental Hygiene program. This admissions packet has been prepared to assist you through the process of being admitted into our program and to provide you with important information concerning the program and your possible dental hygiene career.

The Georgia Career Information System foresees an increased need of dental hygienists in the near future, and the outlook for dental hygienists is one of fast growth. The U.S. Department of Labor states “employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations.” According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary for dental hygienists is $70,210 annually. Southeastern Technical College wishes you success in attaining your academic goals and career. For additional information, visit our website at www.southeasterntech.edu. Click on Academic Programs/All Programs/Dental Hygiene to visit our program page. If we can be of service in answering questions or assisting you in any way, please feel free to contact us. The Director of Dental Hygiene can be reached at 912-538-3210.

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION
The American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the public by establishing, maintaining, and applying standards that ensure the quality and continuous improvement of dental and dental-related education and reflect the evolving practice of dentistry. The Commission formally evaluates programs at regular intervals. The Commission is a specialized body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. The dental hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

DENTAL HYGIENE AS A PROFESSION
Dental hygienists spend their days performing tasks in a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to private dental offices, schools, public health clinics, managed care organizations, correctional institutions, or nursing homes. Each state has its own specific regulations and rules that determine the range of services that can be provided by a registered dental hygienist. Examples of these services include:

- Performing oral healthcare assessments
- Exposing, processing and mounting dental x-rays
- Removing deposits from teeth
- Applying fluoride and sealants to prevent decay
- Teaching patients proper oral hygiene techniques
- Aid in the development of individualized at-home oral hygiene programs for patients
- Counseling patients on nutrition related to oral health
- Participating in community dental education and public health

Registered dental hygienists can further their education beyond the Associate in Applied Science degree level, preparing them for careers as educators, administrators, researchers, and dentists.

The advantages of a career in dental hygiene include excellent wages, flexible hours, a good working environment, the opportunity to help others, and being a member of a healthcare delivery team.

**ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS**

The dental hygiene curriculum leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree requires students to engage in diverse, complex, and specific experiences essential to the acquisition of essential dental hygiene skills. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical, and social abilities are required to satisfactorily perform these functions. In addition to being essential in the successful completion of the requirements of an Associate of Applied Science degree in dental hygiene, these functions are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, fellow candidates, faculty, and other healthcare providers. The essential qualifications that students must demonstrate include but are not limited to the following:

- Students must have the **intellectual, conceptual and critical thinking abilities** to assess, analyze, reason and synthesize data in order to draw sound conclusions and make clinical decisions. Students must be able to problem solve as well as obtain, interpret, and document information.
- Students must have effective **oral and written communication skills** in order to accurately transmit information appropriate to the ability of patients, colleagues, and other healthcare workers. Students must be able to read and write legibly in English with proper spelling of medical and dental terms.
- Students must have **gross and fine motor skills** sufficient to lift and operate equipment and provide safe and effective dental hygiene care. Students must be able to reach and adjust the x-ray tube which is at a height of 52-60 inches from the floor. Students must assist or move patients from wheelchairs, when necessary, into the dental chair using proper body mechanics. Students must also have the motor skills necessary to perform basic life support and first aid in event of an emergency situation.
- Students must have **interpersonal skills** such that they are capable of interacting with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds.
- Students must have the **physical mobility** necessary to move from place to place in small spaces as well as full range of motion, manual, and finger dexterity.
- Students must have **physical endurance** that enables them to stay on task for a prolonged period while sitting, standing, or moving.
- Students must have the **visual and perceptual abilities** sufficient for observation of patients, oral conditions, and assessment. Students must have the ability to discriminate between subtle changes in oral conditions clinically and radiographically. Students must possess a high degree of hand-eye coordination.
• Students’ **auditory ability and other sensory skills** must be sufficient to monitor and assess the health needs and diagnose the oral conditions of patients as well as maintain patient safety.

• Students’ **tactile sensitivity** must be sufficient for the use of detection, light pressure, and control when using small instruments in the oral cavity.

• Students must demonstrate **professional attitudes and behaviors**. Students must be able to use reasonable judgment under stressful conditions that impact patient care. Students must be able to tolerate taxing workloads, function effectively under stress and time constraints, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical problems of many patients. Students must be able to work independently as a member of a team to maintain the highest ethical standards in relation to quality care. Students must possess attributes such as compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and tolerance. Students must be able to present a professional appearance, maintain personal health, and be emotionally stable.

Students must display excellent oral hygiene and dental health reflective upon the chosen profession of dentistry.

If a student does not meet the essential qualifications of the dental hygiene program, he/she may be recommended for program dismissal.

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**
Southeastern Technical College offers a two-year program, leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree, with a major in Dental Hygiene.

The goals of our program include educating and graduating professionals who are prepared intellectually, technically, and ethically to meet the current oral healthcare demands and challenges of today, providing a comprehensive dental hygiene curriculum that prepares graduates to be professionally competent and motivated to become lifelong learners, and to produce dental hygiene graduates capable of providing comprehensive care to diverse populations in a variety of settings.

The Dental Hygiene program content includes general education, biomedical sciences, dental sciences, dental hygiene sciences, and basic clinical education. The Dental Hygiene courses build on the theoretical knowledge and clinical competencies gained each semester. Due to the programs high demands, students must be completely prepared to commit themselves to this program.

The Dental Hygiene program admits students once per year at the beginning of Summer Semester. On an annual basis, approximately twelve (12) students will be offered admission into the program. A committee comprised of program faculty, administration personnel, admissions staff, and the dental hygiene advisory committee members developed the admission criteria to ensure maximum opportunity for student success in the program and on licensure examinations. Criteria for acceptance into this program are included in this packet. Applicants must submit all required documentation by **May 7, 2015**, to receive consideration in the admission process. Applicants not accepted into the program may reapply for the following
year. Waiting lists are not maintained from one year to the next. Applicants must complete the application process for each attempt for admission into the Dental Hygiene program.

It is to be reiterated that meeting all admission criteria does not guarantee admission into the program. Qualified applicants will be accepted by competitive admission until all places are filled.

Evidence of the following official documents must be on file with the Director of Dental Hygiene prior to entering the clinical component of the program:

1. Forensic Drug Panel or similar screening

2. Affidavit of non-drug dependency/felony arrest or conviction/misdemeanor arrest or conviction (excluding minor traffic violations)

**NOTE:** Individuals that have been summoned, arrested, taken into custody, indicted, convicted or tried for, or charged with, or pled guilty to, or pled, nolo contender to, a violation of any law or ordinance or the commission of any felony or misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations), (DWI & DUIDs’ are not minor traffic violations), or have been requested to appear before a prosecuting attorney or investigative agency in any matter will have to disclose this information to the licensing board at the time of application for licensure. Although a conviction may have been expunged from the records by order of court, it still has to be disclosed to the licensing board at the time of application for licensure. For each occurrence, a written statement giving the complete facts in the applicant’s own words, including in such statement the date, name and nature of the offense, the name and locality of the court, and the disposition of each such matter. A court disposition must be attached to the licensure application. The licensing board will review the application and make a decision about granting licensure. If individuals have any concerns about how their criminal background history might affect their ability to obtain licensure, it is their responsibility to follow up with the licensing board for clarification.

3. Current certification in Healthcare Provider CPR and basic first aid;

4. Documented proof of malpractice insurance purchased through Southeastern Technical College

5. Complete physical, vision, and dental examination forms, including copies of all required immunization records

**EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS**
The practice of dental hygiene puts the student at risk for exposure to bloodborne and infectious diseases. Southeastern Technical College’s Exposure Control Plan is designed to provide the faculty and students with recognition of tasks, procedures, and activities which present the
potential for occupational exposure to blood and air-borne pathogens and a means of eliminating or minimizing exposures in the performance of their instructional duties or activities. The Dental Hygiene program at Southeastern Technical College follows all state and federal regulations for the protection of faculty, students, patients, and staff. A complete manual of our compliance policies and procedures is available upon request. STC does not discriminate against students or faculty that may have a bloodborne and/or infectious disease. Due to the rigor of the program, students and faculty should be physically and mentally healthy. Students should consult with the Georgia Board of Dentistry for any licensing restrictions.

Students accepted into the program will be required to purchase a variety of instruments, supplies, texts, materials and other items. These expenses, not including tuition, are estimated at $4,000 to $5,000. A complete list of estimated fees for the program can be obtained from the Director of the Dental Hygiene program.

**PROGRAM RELATED COSTS**
(Costs are estimates and are subject to change.)
Books/ Supplies: $1,200 per semester
Dental Hygiene National Board Exam: $400
CRDTS Examination: $950
Supplies/site fee for clinical boards: $150
Ultrasonic scaler rental fee for clinical boards: $91
Georgia License Fee: $50
Georgia Jurisprudence Exam Fee: $25
Instruments: $2100
Misc supplies: $1500
Dental Hygiene National Board Review Course: $425
Loupes: $300-$1000
*See also General Health Sciences Basic Clinical Requirements and Costs

**READMISSION TO THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM**
Students dropped from any Dental Hygiene course for attendance (i.e., maternity, health related, family illness, personal difficulties), academic reasons, or students who have made less than a "C" in a Dental Hygiene course will not be allowed to remain in the dental hygiene program. Students have the option of reapplying to the program the following year. Readmission to the program will be granted on a competitive and space-available basis, whereas all criteria apply as described in the admission criteria section listed above. A maximum of one slot per class can be filled with a readmission. If more than one student qualifies for the designated readmission slot, the readmission slot will be awarded to the student that is rated the highest score by an interview committee. A student can readmit only one time. Due to the nature of the dental hygiene program, students must retake all courses and will not be given the option of a comprehensive written exam or a clinical skills competency exam.

**ADVANCED STANDING/TRANSFER POLICY**
The dental hygiene program does not allow students to obtain advanced standing due to previous dental education/work experience. Students are not allowed to transfer to the STC Dental Hygiene program from another dental hygiene program. The reason for these policies is due to
the stringent board examinations and accreditation requirements for the profession of dental hygiene. A student with previous dental education or work experience is invited to apply for competitive admission into the dental hygiene program. However, the student is not given an opportunity to earn advanced standing or exempt previous dental hygiene courses taken at another college. The Dental Hygiene program at Southeastern Technical College is based upon quality academic curriculum and principles. It is the belief of the Dental Hygiene program faculty that granting advanced standing or transfer of dental hygiene courses would compromise the integrity of the program.

Attachments:

1. Dental Hygiene Curriculum Sequence
2. Statement of Interest in Dental Hygiene Program
3. Dental Hygiene Competitive Acceptance Checklist
Dental Hygiene Program  
Curriculum Sequence

Students will be required to take the following courses prior to program admission:

- CHEM 1151 – Chemistry I (3hrs)
- CHEM 1151L – Chemistry I Lab (1hr)
- ENGL 1101 – Composition and Rhetoric (3hrs)
- MATH 1111 – College Algebra (3hrs)
- BIOL 2113 – Anatomy and Physiology I (3hrs)
- BIOL 2113L – Anatomy and Physiology I (1hr)
- BIOL 2114 – Anatomy and Physiology II (3hrs)
- BIOL 2114L – Anatomy and Physiology II (1hr)
- PSYC 1101 – Introductory Psychology (3hrs)

*COLL 1000 – College Success and Survival Skills must be taken the first semester of attendance at STC

**Summer Semester #1**
- BIOL 2117 – Microbiology (3hrs)
- BIOL 2117L – Microbiology (1hr)
- ENGL 2130 – American Literature (3hrs)
- SPCH 1101 – Public Speaking (3hrs)
- SOCI 1101 – Introduction to Sociology (3 hrs)

**Fall Semester #1**
- DHYG 1040 – Preclinical DHYG Lecture (2 hrs)
- DHYG 1050 – Preclinical DHYG Lab (2 hrs)
- DHYG 1000 – Tooth Anatomy/Root Morphology (2 hrs)
- DHYG 1010 – Oral Embryology and Histology (1 hr)
- DHYG 1020 – Head and Neck Anatomy (2 hrs)

**Spring Semester #1**
- DHYG 1110 – Clinical DHYG I Lecture (2 hrs)
- DHYG 1111 – Clinical DHYG I Lab (3 hrs)
- DHYG 1070 – Radiology Lecture (2 hrs)
- DHYG 1090 – Radiology Lab (1 hr)
- DHYG 1030 – Dental Materials (2 hrs)
- DHYG 1206 – Pharmacology and Pain Control (3 hrs)
Summer Semester #2
DHYG 2010 – Clinical DHYG II Lecture (2 hrs)
DHYG 2020 – Clinical DHYG II Lab (2 hrs)
DHYG 2200 – Periodontology (3 hrs)
DHYG 2050 – Oral Pathology (3 hrs)
DHYG 2110 – Biochemistry/Nutrition Fund (2 hrs)

Fall Semester #2
DHYG 2080 – Clinical DHYG III Lecture (2 hrs)
DHYG 2090 – Clinical DHYG III Lab (4 hrs)
DHYG 2070 – Community Dental Health (3 hrs)

Spring Semester #2
DHYG 2130 – Clinical DHYG IV Lecture (2 hrs)
DHYG 2140 – Clinical DHYG IV Lab (4 hrs)
STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

Please provide the following information and submit this form to the Director of the Dental Hygiene program by **May 7, 2015**. This form must be completed and submitted each year you want to be considered. You will be contacted for advisement once this form is received.

I understand admission to the Dental Hygiene program is competitive and that I am not guaranteed entrance into the program upon completion of this form. ________ (initial)

I request to be considered for acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program for Summer Semester of 20_____.

________________________________________________________________________

Signature                                            Date

________________________________________________________________________

Printed Name                                            Phone Number

________________________________________________________________________

Address
DENTAL HYGIENE COMPETITIVE ACCEPTANCE CHECKLIST

1. Be at least eighteen (18) years old and present documentation of an earned high school diploma or GED.

2. Submit a formal application for acceptance to Southeastern Technical College. Placement test scores will be required and must meet cut scores required to qualify for admission into an associate degree program.

3. Sign and submit the “Statement of Interest in Dental Hygiene Program” form to the Director of the Dental Hygiene program.

4. Attend a scheduled Dental Hygiene Program Orientation presented by dental hygiene faculty on **Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 4:00 PM** in the Health Sciences Annex.

5. Submit a college transcript documenting completion of:

   - CHEM 1151 – Chemistry I (3hrs)
   - CHEM 1151L – Chemistry I Lab (1hr)
   - ENGL 1101 – Composition and Rhetoric (3hrs)
   - MATH 1111 – College Algebra (3hrs)
   - BIOL 2113 – Anatomy and Physiology I (3hrs)
   - BIOL 2113L – Anatomy and Physiology I (1hr)
   - BIOL 2114 – Anatomy and Physiology II (3hrs)
   - BIOL 2114L – Anatomy and Physiology II (1hr)
   - PSYC 1101 – Introductory Psychology (3hrs)

   Courses must have been completed with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. CHEM and BIOL courses must have been completed within 5 years of admission into the Dental Hygiene program.

6. If applicable, **but not required**, provide documentation of paid dental office experience, within the last 2 years. This documentation must state the number of hours of paid experience you have worked and must be signed by a licensed dentist. Submit documentation to the Director of the Dental Hygiene program.

7. If applicable, **but not required**, provide documentation of graduation from an accredited Dental Assisting program with a GPA of 3.0 or better. Submit documentation to the Director of the Dental Hygiene program.

All of the items above must be completed by **May 7, 2015**, prior to applying for admission into the Dental Hygiene program.
PROGRAM ADMISSION PROCESS
Admission to the Dental Hygiene program is via a competitive selection process based primarily on grade point average of required core classes. Slots are awarded from the highest core grade point average downward until the maximum enrollment of approximately twelve (12) students is reached. In the case of a tie between candidates, the following criteria will be used to determine which candidate will be offered admission.
1. Documentation of paid dental experience
2. Documentation of graduation from a CODA accredited dental assisting program with a grade point average of 3.0 or better
3. Submission date of completed required documentation

In the event of a tie of the above stated criteria, the tie will be determined by a personal interview by the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee. A ranking form will be completed during the personal interview and the highest ranking individual will be granted the position into the program.

Once accepted into the dental hygiene program, all selected students must complete the following prior to entering the clinical component of the program: physical, vision, and dental examination forms and submit documentation of all required immunizations. A meeting will be scheduled to address these topics prior to the beginning of Summer Semester.