

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE ACM DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

*Updated for **Fall 2019** Entering Class*

Dental Hygiene
301-784-5580

In addition to the regular college application, all applicants must file this dental hygiene department application. Entrance into the program is competitive and applicants will be ranked by their academic performance. The deadline for filing an application (includes having all transfer credit transcripts on file in the Admissions Office) is **March 31, 2019.** Upon entry into the clinical phase of the program, students must also be CPR certified and maintain this certification throughout all their dental hygiene courses. Applicants must also meet and comply with the Performance Standards for Dental Hygiene throughout all of their dental hygiene course work.

All paperwork including midterm and/or individual instructor grades must be received by **March 31, 2019 to be considered for admission. Students will be notified of acceptance throughout June.**

Applicants accepted into the clinical phase of the Dental Hygiene Department will be required to submit to a criminal background check. The Dental Hygiene Program contracts with an independent agency to perform criminal background checks, and the cost of the service is included as a course fee in the first semester of the clinical phase of the program. The results of the criminal background check are reported to the Dental Hygiene program director. **If a student has any criminal history, he or she may be denied admission or be unable to complete certain required clinical rotations and therefore the student will not be able to complete the program. In addition, a criminal history may prevent the student from becoming licensed to practice dental hygiene.**

Applications are considered annually. Please make sure that the application you are submitting is for the current year. An application from a previous year will not be accepted.

Applicants must have completed fifteen (15) or more semester hours of college level (above 93) coursework with a minimum grade point average of 2.50 or better. This is competitive; GPA's will be ranked.

These fifteen hours **MUST** include successful completion (C or better) of the four courses from the following list:

MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Chemistry 100 or Chemistry 101 | 4 credits |
| 2. | *Biology 201 (Human Anatomy and Physiology)
or (Biology 207 and 208) | 4 credits |
| 3. | Biology 204 (Microbiology) | 4 credits |
| 4. | English 101 | 3 credits |

Total Credit Hours: 15

*In order to register for BIO 201, students **MUST** pass the science placement test with a score of 32 or greater. Otherwise, students **MUST** take BIO 93, 100, or 101 as a pre-requisite for BIO 201.

To be eligible for consideration for admission, the student must have completed or be taking the four courses as noted above.

Students may currently be taking any of the above as long as their total hours will be 15 at the end of the spring semester.

For consideration and ultimate acceptance, applicants **MUST** earn a “C” or better in all of the above courses that they have taken or are taking, or their transfer equivalents.

In those schools where midterm grades **ARE NOT** given, the candidate **MUST** have his/her instructor send a letter to the ACM admissions office regarding letter grade status.

Laboratory science courses taken five or more years prior to application will not be considered.

Students taking a course required for admissions during the spring semester are still eligible to apply. If you are attending a college other than ACM, official midterm grades for courses being taken during the spring semester of the year in which you are applying must be submitted by March 31st in order to be considered for admission. *In those schools where midterm grades ARE NOT given, the candidate MUST have his/her instructor send a letter to the ACM admissions office regarding letter grade status by the March 31st deadline.* However, students enrolled in spring courses which may affect their ranking will not be notified of their acceptance until official transcripts reflecting final grades have been received for those courses. Official final grades **MUST be received no later than May 30th to be considered in the selection of the top 20 candidates.**

Entrance into the program is competitive. Applicants will be ranked using the following factors.

1. GPA based on the above 15 credit hours (4 courses). (Weighted 2/3)
2. Number of general education (non-dental hygiene) credits required for the dental hygiene program that the applicant has completed. (Weighted 1/3)
3. Appropriate transfer credit will be given only for courses which correspond to courses in the dental hygiene curriculum and which have been taken at a fully accredited college.
4. In the event of a tie in the ranking process, date of completed application will be the deciding factor. In the event that the date of application does not break the tie those with the same application date will be re-evaluated based on the number of classes they have repeated. Those who have the least number of credits repeated will move to the top of the list.

Re-Admission to the Dental Hygiene Program

1. All re-admission candidates must meet admissions criteria. **Re-admission candidates will not be ranked along with other applicants.** Any student that has been dismissed from the program for academic reasons or has previously withdrawn from the program must re-apply to the program if the student wishes to be considered for readmission into the program.

2. All re-admission candidates will be considered case by case. The following information will be considered by the Dental Hygiene Faculty when making a decision regarding readmission: Student exit interview; College transcript(s); Length of time absent from program; Course outlines (The content of courses successfully completed by the student compared to the current content of those courses); Clinical evaluations; Current health record, if pertinent; Student/faculty ratios and space availability; Student conduct, professionalism, and ethics; Attendance; Academic performance while previously enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Curriculum; Any prior disciplinary actions; Rapport with faculty, staff, students, and patients; Action steps taken by student to improve potential for success.

3. If a student has been granted re-admission, and then again fails to meet departmental academic standards, the student will be dismissed from the program permanently.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS for DENTAL HYGIENE



In order to be **admitted to** or **continue** in the Dental Hygiene Program, a student must have skills and abilities essential to perform as a dental hygienist. Reasonable accommodations will be made on an individual basis; however, the candidate must be able to perform in an independent manner.

DENTAL HYGIENE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

STANDARD		EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations, develop treatment plans
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for effective interaction with patients and other members of the health care team in verbal and written form	Able to obtain information, explain treatment procedures, initiate health education training, describe patient situations, perceive non-verbal communications
Mobility	Physical abilities (including standing, walking, bending, range of motion of extremities) to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces	Able to administer cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, move around in patient treatment area
Motor	Gross and fine motor function sufficient to provide safe and effective dental hygiene care	Able to use dental instruments, manipulate various dental materials, and satisfactorily place radiographs
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs	Able to listen to patient, breath and heart sounds. Able to hear equipment monitors, such as x-ray equipment and autoclave timers
Visual	Visual ability sufficient to provide safe and effective dental hygiene care	Able to observe patients and use instruments in the oral cavity. Adequate close vision to see small lesions and deposits on teeth and to distinguish their color changes.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and scaling skills	Able to perform palpation of a pulse, extraoral and intraoral structures, and feel calculus deposits or rough tooth surfaces
Health Status	Free of communicable diseases sufficient for safe and effective dental hygiene care	Able to conform to the CDC and State of Maryland guidelines for practice and practice restrictions on health care workers
Legal Status	Ability to obtain dental hygiene license as some states deny licenses for certain prior felony convictions	Able to obtain a dental hygiene license in state of choice due to legal history. This will be the responsibility of the applicant/student.

MMWR
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL

TABLE 1: Suggested work restrictions for health-care personnel infected with or exposed to major infectious diseases in health-care settings, in the absence of state and local regulations.

Disease/problem	Work restriction	Duration
Conjunctivitis	Restrict from patient contact and contact with patient's environment	Until discharge ceases
Cytomegalovirus infection	No restriction	
Diarrheal disease Acute stage (diarrhea with other symptoms) Convalescent stage, Salmonella Species	Restrict from patient contact, contact with patient's environment, and food-handling. Restrict from care of patients at high risk.	Until symptoms resolve Until symptoms resolve; consult with local and state health authorities regarding need for negative stool cultures
Enteroviral infection	Restrict from care of infants, neonates, and immunocompromised patients and their environments.	Until symptoms resolve
Hepatitis A	Restrict from patient contact, contact with patient's environment, and food-handling.	Until 7 days after onset of jaundice
Hepatitis B Personnel with acute or chronic hepatitis B surface antigenemia who do not perform exposure-prone procedures Personnel with acute or chronic hepatitis B e antigenemia who perform exposure-prone procedures	No restriction  ; refer to state regulations. Standard precautions should always be followed. Do not perform exposure-prone invasive procedures until counsel from a review panel has been sought; panel should review and recommend procedures that personnel can perform, taking into account specific procedures as well as skill and technique. Standard precautions should always be observed. Refer to state and local regulations or recommendations.	Until hepatitis B e antigen is negative
Hepatitis C	No restrictions on professional activity.  HCV- positive health-care personnel should follow aseptic technique and standard precautions.	
Herpes simplex Genital Hands (herpetic whitlow) Orofacial	No restriction Restrict from patient contact and contact with patient's environment. Evaluate need to restrict from care of patients at high risk.	Until lesions heal
Human immunodeficiency virus; personnel who perform exposure-prone procedures.	Do not perform exposure-prone invasive procedures until counsel from an expert review panel has been sought; panel should review and recommend procedures that personnel can perform, taking into account specific procedures as well as skill and technique. Standard precautions should always be observed. Refer to state and local regulations or recommendations.	

Disease/problem	Work restriction	Duration
Measles Active	Exclude from duty	Until 7 days after the rash appears
Postexposure (susceptible personnel)	Exclude from duty	From fifth day after first exposure through twenty-first day after last exposure, or 4 days after rash appears
Meningococcal infection	Exclude from duty	Until 24 hours after start of effective therapy
Mumps Active	Exclude from duty	Until 9 days after onset of parotitis
Postexposure (susceptible personnel)	Exclude from duty	From twelfth day after first exposure through twenty-sixth day after last exposure, or until 9 days after onset of parotitis
Pediculosis	Restrict from patient contact	Until treated and observed to be free of adult and immature lice
Pertussis Active	Exclude from duty	From beginning of catarrhal stage through third week after onset of paroxysms, or until 5 days after start of effective antibiotic therapy
Postexposure (asymptomatic personnel)	No restriction, prophylaxis recommended	
Postexposure (symptomatic personnel)	Exclude from duty	Until 5 days after start of effective antibiotic therapy
Rubella Active	Exclude from duty	Until 5 days after rash appears
Postexposure (susceptible personnel)	Exclude from duty	From seventh day after first exposure through twenty-first day after last exposure
Staphylococcus aureus infection Active, draining skin lesions	Restrict from contact with patients and patient's environment or food handling.	Until lesions have resolved
Carrier state	No restriction unless personnel are epidemiologically linked to transmission of the organism	

Disease/problem	Work restriction	Duration
Streptococcal infection, group A	Restrict from patient care, contact with patient's environment, and food handling.	Until 24 hours after adequate treatment started
Tuberculosis Active disease	Exclude from duty	Until proved noninfectious
PPD converter	No restriction	
Varicella (chicken pox) Active	Exclude from duty	Until all lesions dry and crust
Postexposure (susceptible Personnel)	Exclude from duty	From tenth day after first exposure through twenty-first day (twenty-eighth day if varicella-zoster immune globulin (VZIG) administered after last exposure.
Zoster (shingles) Localized, in healthy person	Cover lesions, restrict from care of patients§ at high risk	Until all lesions dry and crust
Generalized or localized in immunosuppressed person	Restrict from patient contact	Until all lesions dry and crust
Postexposure (susceptible Personnel)	Restrict from patient contact	From tenth day after first exposure through twenty-first day (twenty-eighth day if VZIG administered) after last exposure or, if varicella occurs, when lesions crust and dry
Viral respiratory infection, acute Febrile	Consider excluding from the care of patients at high risk ¶ or contact with such patients' environments during community outbreak of respiratory syncytial virus and influenza	Until acute symptoms resolve

Source: Adapted from Bolyard EA, Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. Guidelines for infection control in health care personnel, 1998. Am J Infect. Control 1998; 26:289-354.

*Modified from recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

☞ Unless epidemiologically linked to transmission of infection.

§ Those susceptible to varicella and who are at increased risk of complications of varicella (e.g., neonates and immunocompromised persons of any age).

¶ Patients at high risk as defined by ACIP for complications of influenza.

DENTAL HYGIENE CURRICULUM

Specific Application Information

Factors Considered For Admission	
Requirement	Program
	DENTAL HYGIENE
Persistence (Weight 33%)	Number of Gen Ed Credits Completed (out of a possible 27 credits) Courses listed on the right
Standardized Test	No
Essay	No
GPA of These Specified Courses (Weight 67%)	<p>Must have all of the following Chemistry 100 or Chemistry 101 English 101 *Biological Science 201 (Human Anatomy and Physiology OR Biological Science 207 <u>and</u> 208 *Biological Science 204 (Microbiology)</p>
Interview	No
Observation	No
Other Information	Must be CPR certified throughout the curriculum
Total Number Accepted	20 in the fall

**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED
SCIENCE DEGREE
DENTAL HYGIENE**

**ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR
A COLLEGE STUDENT -
CURRENTLY ATTENDING
ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF
MARYLAND OR TRANSFERRING
FROM ANOTHER INSTITUTION**

**GENERAL EDUCATION
COURSES REQUIRED FOR
DENTAL HYGIENE**

*Biology 201 OR Biology 207 and
208 (Human Anatomy &
Physiology) (4 credits)
*Biology 204 (Microbiology)
(4 credits)
Chemistry 100 or Chemistry 101
(4 credits)
English 101 (3 credits)
Mathematics 109 (Statistics)
(3 credits)
Psychology 101 (3 credits)
Sociology 101 (3 credits)
Speech 101 (3 credits)

*In order to enroll in these courses at Allegany College of Maryland a student must meet the course prerequisites. Refer to the college catalog for specific course prerequisites.

**Allegheny College of Maryland Dental Hygiene Program
Application Information
2019**

The Mission of Allegheny College of Maryland's Dental Hygiene program is to provide a quality educational experience, which prepares individuals who are committed to their profession as oral health care providers. This educational process encompasses a philosophy of life-long learning, ethical decision-making, respect for individual diversity, and mind-body-spirit development. Our emphasis is to encourage well-rounded individuals who are capable of fulfilling multiple roles in the dynamic and ever changing profession of Dental Hygiene for the 21st century.

The goals of the ACOM Dental Hygiene program are to graduate students who are competent dental hygienists that:

- Demonstrate the ability to process and apply knowledge.
- Demonstrate proficient clinical skills.
- Demonstrate proficient written and oral communication skills, including evaluation of scientific research.
- Advance the profession through community service activities and affiliations with professional organizations.

Patient Care Competencies

Competencies for the Dental Hygienist

(Adapted from *Competencies for Entry into the Profession of Dental Hygiene* approved by the 2003 American Dental Education Association House of Delegates)

Introduction

Competence is an acceptable, measurable defined level of special skill and knowledge derived from education, experience, role modeling and overall socialization. To be competent, an entry level dental hygienist must perform at or above the acceptable defined standards.

This document serves as the foundation of the Dental Hygiene curriculum and defines the expected knowledge base and skill set of a student graduating from Allegheny College of Maryland's Dental Hygiene Program.

DOMAIN I: Professionalism and Ethics (PE)

Major Competency: The graduating dental hygienist must use and advance professional knowledge and skills to serve the patient and public using sound ethical judgments based on evidence-based knowledge.

Supporting Competencies: Specifically, the dental hygiene graduate must be able to:

PE.1 Integrate the ADHA Code of Ethics in all endeavors.

PE.2 Comply with all state and federal laws, recommendations and regulations governing the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene.

PE.3 Communicate effectively with individuals and groups from diverse populations both verbally and in writing.

PE.4 Serve all patients without discrimination, appreciating the diversity of the population

PE.5 Assume responsibility for dental hygiene actions based on accepted scientific theories as well as the accepted standard of care.

- PE.6 Provide accurate, consistent, and complete documentation for assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation of dental hygiene services.
- PE.7 Ensure the privacy of the patient during treatment and maintain the confidentiality of records.
- PE.8 Provide quality assurance mechanisms for health services.

DOMAIN II: Health Promotion and Community Involvement (HP and CI)

Major Competency: The graduating dental hygienist must promote lifestyle changes of individuals and society to attain optimal health utilizing a combination of educational, economic, organizational, and environmental strategies.

Supporting Competencies: Specifically, the dental hygiene graduate must be able to:

- HP.1 Promote and role model to the public preventive health behaviors necessary for optimal oral and general health and wellness.
- HP.2 Utilize an interdisciplinary approach to refer patients who may have a physiological, psychological, and/or social problem for a comprehensive evaluation.
- HP.3 Identify the oral health needs of individuals and assist them in the development of appropriate and individualized self-care regimens.
- CI.1 Assess the oral health needs of the community and the quality and availability of resources and services.
- CI.2 Plan, implement, and evaluate community service programs in a variety of settings.
- CI.3 Evaluate the outcomes of community-based programs and implement strategies to improve access to care.
- CI.4 Evaluate reimbursement mechanisms and their impact on the patient's access to oral health care.
- CI.5 Participate in the public policy and/or legislative process.
- CI.6 Provide screening, referral, and educational services that allow patients to access the resources of the health care system.
- CI.7 Provide dental hygiene services in a variety of settings.

DOMAIN III: Dental Hygiene Process of Care (PC)

Major Competency: The graduating dental hygienist must demonstrate the skills necessary to carry out the Dental Hygiene Process of Care which include assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation of diverse patient populations.

Supporting competencies: Specifically, the dental hygiene graduate must be able to:

Assessment

- PC.1 Systematically collect, analyze and accurately record data on the general, oral and psycho-social health status of a variety of patients using methods consistent with medical-legal and ethical principles.
- Obtain, review, update and interpret an accurate medical, family, social, radiological, pharmacological, and dental history, recognizing any health conditions that require special consideration prior to or during dental hygiene care.
 - Obtain and record accurate vital signs
 - Perform a thorough extra- and intra-oral examination, recognizing abnormalities.
 - Accurately perform an examination of the teeth and record the results.
 - Evaluate the periodontium and identify conditions that compromise periodontal health.
 - Evaluate the need for radiographs and accurately interpret findings.
 - Identify patients at risk for a medical emergency and take appropriate precautions to minimize those risks.
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- Recognize predisposing and etiologic risk factors that require intervention to prevent and control disease.
- Assess patient concerns, goals, values, and preferences to guide patient care.
- Analyze health conditions and medications that impact overall patient care.

Dental Hygiene Diagnosis

PC.2 Use critical decision making skills to identify existing problems, potential problems, etiologic and contributing factors, as well as establish realistic goals and treatment strategies to facilitate optimal oral health.

- Analyze and interpret the data to formulate a dental hygiene diagnosis in conjunction with the dentist and other health professionals as appropriate.
- Obtain and document consultations as appropriate.

Planning

PC.3 Collaborate with the patient, dentist, and other health professionals to formulate evidence based, individualized treatment plan.

- Establish a prioritized, planned sequence of care based on the patient's health, oral conditions, standards of care, and the patient's desires for outcome.
- Discuss with the patient the etiology, prognosis, treatment, and treatment alternatives, allowing for modifications when appropriate.
- Obtain informed consent.

Implementation

PC.4 Provide treatment that includes preventive and therapeutic services designed to achieve and maintain oral health and assist the patient in achieving oral health goals.

- Expose, process, and interpret radiographs of diagnostic quality.
- Adhere to accepted infection control procedures.
- Apply principles of instrumentation and ergonomics to remove deposits without trauma to hard or soft tissues.
- Control pain and anxiety through use of accepted techniques.
- Provide dental hygiene services that can be performed legally in the state of Maryland.
- Manage medical emergencies.

Evaluation

PC.5 If implemented, evaluate the effectiveness of preventive, therapeutic, and educational services and modify as needed.

- Determine the outcomes of dental hygiene services using indices and examinations.
- Evaluate patient satisfaction with the dental hygiene care received and the treatment outcomes.
- Determine appropriate preventive maintenance intervals.
- Provide additional treatment and referrals based on the evaluation findings.

DOMAIN IV: Professional Growth and Development (PGD)

Major Competency: The graduating dental hygienist must contribute to improving knowledge, skills, and values of the profession of dental hygiene.

Supporting Competencies: Specifically, the dental hygiene graduate must be able to:

PGD.1 Participate in professional organizations and advance the profession through leadership and community service activities.

PGD.2 Identify and participate in alternate careers for dental hygienists in nontraditional settings.

PGD.3 Evaluate professional issues and scientific literature in order to make evidence-based decisions that advance the profession of dental hygiene.

PGD.4 Assume the responsibility for professional growth through lifelong learning.

PGD.5 Promote the values of the profession to the public and other organizations both within and outside of the dental profession.