

Northeast Campus | 828 W. Harwood Rd. | Hurst TX 76054

2024 TCC Dental Hygiene Program Selective Admissions Application Information Packet

Thank you for your interest in the TCC Dental Hygiene Program!

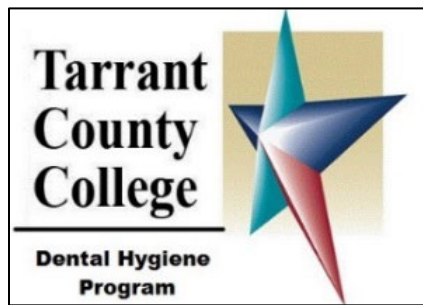
The dental hygiene education curriculum is a rigorous and intensive scientifically oriented program that leads to an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene. This curriculum provides the student with the requirements necessary to take the American Dental Association's National Board Dental Hygiene Exam and a Clinical Licensing Exam. Program enrollment is limited to accepted applicants. Selective admission criteria and procedures are necessary to ensure that students accepted have the highest potential for successful completion of the program. The following packet will provide the necessary information needed to apply to the program.

The TCC Dental Hygiene Program Selective Admissions Application period opens November 1, 2023, and closes February 1, 2024, at 5pm.

After your application has been received and processed, you will be asked to attend a mandatory general information meeting *if* selected in the top group of candidates. This meeting will be held in March or April with notification being sent by email. *Invitation to the General Information meeting does not guarantee acceptance into the program.*

This Information Packet contains the following:

- Performance Requirements for the Dental Hygiene Program
- Application Instructions
- TCC Dental Hygiene Program Degree Plan
- Program Cost Analysis
- How to be a Competitive Dental Hygiene Applicant
- How HESI Exam Results are Used and a Sample Scoring
- Calculating GPA
- HESI Exam Registration Instructions
- Immunizations & Vaccinations Information
- Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) Licensure Advisement
- Academic Fresh Start information.
- Dental Hygiene Application Checklist



Registered Dental Hygienists are licensed oral health care professionals who focus on preventing and treating oral diseases. Professional Dental Hygienists provide preventive, educational, and therapeutic direct patient care as part of a dental team. Their foremost concern is the promotion of dental health for the purpose of supporting the patient's total health and well-being.

There is a high demand for Registered Dental Hygienists in the DFW Metroplex, the state, and the nation. Working hours vary depending on the dental practice but may start as early as 7am and can include evenings and weekends. The hourly pay rate varies also by practice, but the current range is \$38 - \$48 per hour.

TCC's Dental Hygiene Program is a two-year, 68 credit hour, semester-based program accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation. The program is offered at the Northeast Campus and includes liberal arts and specialized dental hygiene classes as well as supervised clinical experience through the on-campus live patient dental clinic. Licensed dental hygiene and dental faculty directly supervise all services performed by students.

All specialized Dental Hygiene classes, labs, and clinics are only offered during the day and face-to-face.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy E. Cooper".

Amy E. Cooper, RDH, MS
Interim Dental Programs Director
Dental Hygiene | Dental Assisting

Performance Requirements for the Dental Hygiene Program

In addition to the academic admission requirements for students entering the Dental Hygiene Program, the following qualities and skills are also expected of all students with or without accommodations:

- High degree of hand-eye coordination.
- Tactile sensitivity sufficient for the use of detection, light pressure and control when using small instruments in the oral cavity.
- Fine motor skills sufficient to utilize dental instruments in the small, confined space of the oral cavity and maintain patient safety.
- Exceptional English reading, writing and speaking skills.
- Problem solving skills to obtain, interpret and document information.
- Strong intellectual, conceptual and critical thinking skills in order to assess, analyze, reason and synthesize data for the purpose of making sound conclusions and clinical decisions.
- Strong and effective oral and written communication skills to accurately transmit information to patients, colleagues, and other healthcare workers.
- Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to lift and operate equipment and to provide safe and effective dental hygiene care.
- Interpersonal skills for interacting with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, economic and ethnic backgrounds.
- Physical mobility is necessary to move from place to place in small spaces.
- Full range of motion; manual and finger dexterity.
- Physical endurance that enables the student to stay on task for a prolonged period while sitting, standing, or moving.
- 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, to include but not limited to subtle changes in tissue color or texture, subtle changes in radiographic contrast, recognize when a patient is in medical distress and more.
- Auditory ability and other sensory skill sufficient to monitor and assess the health needs and determine the oral conditions of patients, as well as maintain patient safety.
- Proficient computer and keyboarding skills to utilize the TCC Dental Hygiene Clinic's electronic health record software, digital radiology equipment and other computer based dental hygiene equipment.
- Strong computer software and internet experience and skill to facilitate and complete Program projects, case studies and research. Use of word processing and presentation software is of utmost importance in the Program.
- Demonstrate professional attitudes and behaviors.
- Be able to use reasonable judgment under stressful conditions that impact patient care.
- Be able to work independently as a member of a team to maintain the highest standards in relation to quality care.
- Be able to present a professional appearance, maintain personal health and emotional control.
- Be able to demonstrate effective time management and patient management.
- Be able to multitask, prioritize, comprehend and follow instructions, and comply with a variety of clinical and professional rules and regulations related to safe clinical practice.



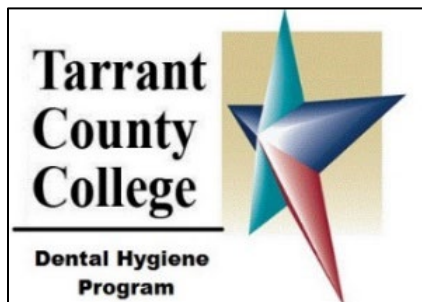
TCC Dental Hygiene Program Application Instructions and Procedures

Only the criteria listed are evaluated and considered for the purpose of selection and admission to this program. No specific minimum grade point average or test score, or a set minimum number of courses must be completed for admission. Selection is based on how each applicant compares with others in the applicant pool. In general, the higher the grades, the more competitive the applicant will be for the positions available.

The Dental Hygiene Program Selective Admissions Application period opens November 1, 2023, and closes February 1, 2024.
Application to the Dental Hygiene Program is limited to three (3) applications only.

The applicant must:

1. You must [apply to TCC](#), be accepted as a student and get a TCC Student ID number.
2. Meet the admission requirements for the institution (TSI).
3. Submit OFFICIAL transcripts of all high schools, dual credit programs, and colleges you have attended to the TCC Registrars' office at DT.Records@tccd.edu (These transcripts are in addition to the transcripts sent with the Dental Hygiene Application)
4. **Submit to the Health Sciences DHYG Selection Committee**
 - A Completed application for admission to the Dental Hygiene Program & Submission Checklist - see the TCCD website > Dental Hygiene "How to Apply" page.
 - Submit OFFICIAL transcripts of all high schools, dual credit programs, and colleges you have attended including TCC. (These transcripts are in addition to the transcripts submitted to the TCC Registrars' Office)
 - A copy of the HESI HP A2 V1 Exam results
 - A copy of the TOEFL iBT Exam results, if applicable
 - A copy of Texas RDA Certificate, if applicable
 - Proof of Academic Fresh Start, if applicable
5. Take the Health Education System, Inc. (HESI) Admissions Exam for Dental Hygiene: HP A2 V1. Instructions are in this packet and on the TCCD website > Dental Hygiene "How to Apply" page.
 - The results are valid for the application period in which you take the Exam as well as the following year's application period.
 - Technical difficulties are the responsibility of the applicant. There are no exceptions due to technical difficulties.
6. Complete the TOEFL iBT® test if English is not your first language and you did not graduate from a US high school. Please see the TCCD website > Dental Hygiene "How to Apply" page for more details.
 - The results are valid for the application period in which you take the Exam as well as the following year's application period.



Additional Selective Admissions Application information:

Science Courses:

- Any of the four science courses included in the Dental Hygiene Degree Plan (**BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, BIOL 2420, and CHEM 1406**) *not* completed prior to application must be completed prior to the completion of the Dental Hygiene program and per the Dental Hygiene Degree Plan schedule.
- These science courses must have been completed **within five years** of the semester containing the program application deadline date.
- **2 Attempt Rule** - Only the highest grade from the **first two (2) attempts** on any science course will be considered for admission bonus points (see "Bonus Points" below).
 - The exception to this rule will be a science course that is required to be taken more than twice because it is older than five (5) years.
 - Any course withdrawals will be considered one of the two attempts.

Bonus Points:

- Completion of science courses **BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, BIOL 2420, and CHEM 1406** earning a C or higher earns bonus points based on grade. **A=0.30, B=0.20, C=0.10**.
- Bonus points are awarded proportionate to the number of semester hours from a regionally accredited college or university for which a grade of C or higher was made up to a maximum of 120 semester hours.
- Bonus points are awarded for a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
- Bonus points are awarded for holding a current Texas Registered Dental Assistant certificate.
- The base application score is the grade point average (GPA) of all high school or undergraduate college classes or GED scores if high school/college are not applicable.

Drug Screening & Criminal Background Check:

- Students selected for admission into the Dental Hygiene Program must undergo a Drug Screening and a Criminal Background check through CastleBranch at a cost to the applicant.
 - All offers for admission to the Dental Hygiene Program are provisional until negative results are received for these two evaluations.

Immunizations & Vaccinations:

- Students selected for admission to the Dental Hygiene Program must complete a TCCD Health Form that includes documentation of vaccinations and immunizations required for students going into health professions. (see info in this packet).
 - All offers for admission to the Dental Hygiene Program are provisional until all vaccinations and immunizations are complete/met.
 - If any vaccination or immunization is not complete by the first day of class (Fall of 2024), the student will be dropped from the Dental Hygiene Program and will have to reapply during the next Dental Hygiene application period.

Dental Hygiene Degree Plan Associate of Applied Science Degree – Dental Hygiene Northeast Campus Catalog Year 2023-2024			
Before First Year Summer Session One			
^BIOL	2401	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
Before First Year Summer Session Two			
^BIOL	2402	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
First Year First Semester – Fall			
DHYG	1207	General and Dental Nutrition	2
DHYG	1227	Preventive Dental Hygiene Care	2
DHYG	1301	Orofacial Anatomy, Histology & Embryology	3
DHYG	1431	Preclinical Dental Hygiene	4
^CHEM	1406	Introductory Chemistry I – Allied Health	4
First Year Second Semester - Spring			
DHYG	1219	Dental Materials	2
DHYG	1260	Clinical – Dental Hygiene	2
DHYG	1304	Dental Radiology	3
DHYG	2201	Contemporary Dental Hygiene Care I	2
^BIOL	2420	Microbiology	4
First Year Summer Semester I			
ENGL	1301	English Composition I	3
First Year Summer Semester II			
DHYG	1311	Periodontology	3
DHYG	2331	Dental Hygiene Care II	3
Second Year First Semester/ Fall			
DHYG	1235	Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist	2
DHYG	1239	General and Oral Pathology	2
DHYG	1215	Community Dentistry	2
DHYG	2360	Clinical – Dental Hygienist	3
Second Year Second Semester/Spring			
DHYG	2253	Dental Hygiene Practice	2
DHYG	2361	Clinical – Dental Hygienist	3
PSYC	2315	Psych of Adjustment or General Psychology 2301	3
SOCI		Sociology Elective	3
**	**	**Creative Arts/Language, Culture & Philosophy Elective	3
		Total Semester Hours	68

Dental Hygiene Program Cost Analysis

Approx. Cost per Semester	First Year Summer I	First Year Summer II	First Year Fall	First Year Spring
Tuition	\$256.00	\$256.00	\$960.00	\$832.00
Books	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous			\$650.00	
Additional			\$3,000.00 (instruments)	\$1,500.00 (instruments)
	Second Year Summer I	Second Year Summer II	Second Year Fall	Second Year Spring
Tuition	\$192.00	\$384.00	\$576.00	\$896.00
Books	\$175.00	\$200.00	\$1,300.00	\$300.00
Miscellaneous		\$2,000.00* (instruments)		\$2,500.00 (Licensing board exams)
Additional				

*Additional amount if magnification loupes are purchased (\$1,100.00-\$1,800.00 depends on brand & type)

Approximate Program Total Cost (based on Tarrant County Residency): \$19,677.00

*(as much as \$21,477.00 if magnification loupes are purchased)

How to Make Yourself a Competitive Dental Hygiene Applicant?

- Make A's and B's in most—if not all—college courses
- A **3.5 or higher GPA** is strongly recommended
- Complete all science courses:
 - [BIOL-2401](#) Anatomy and Physiology I
 - [BIOL-2402](#) Anatomy and Physiology II
 - [BIOL-2420](#) Microbiology Non-Science Majors
 - [CHEM-1406](#) Intro Chemistry I-Allied Health
- Hold a current Texas Registered Dental Assistant certification
- Read carefully and follow all application instructions
- **Due to a change in our degree plan hours**, it is suggested that the following *courses be taken after acceptance* to the Dental Hygiene program in order for students to maintain a “full time” status during most of the program for Financial Aid.
 - [ENGL-1301](#) English Composition I
 - [PSYC-2301](#) General Psychology
 - **or**
 - [PSYC-2315](#) Psychology of Adjustment
 - [Sociology](#) (SOC) elective of choice
 - Creative Arts/Language, Culture and Philosophy elective of choice

How will my HESI HP A2 V1 Exam results be used with my application?

Applicants have the ability to be awarded a **maximum of 0.9 bonus points** from the HESI exam. Bonus points will be determined by the average percentage of all combined scores in each one of 3 components. Components of the HESI exam will include Science, Math, and Grammar/Reading/Vocabulary.

HESI Component Overview:

Science: A2- Anatomy & Physiology, A2- Biology, A2-Chemistry

Math: A-2 Math, A2- Algebra, A2-Decimals, A2-Fractions, A2-General Math, A2-Household Measures

Grammar/Reading/Vocabulary: A2-Grammar, A2-Reading Comprehension, A2- Reading Conclusions, A2-Reading Implications, A2-Reading-Meaning-Word Use, A2-Reading Understanding, A2-Vocabulary & General Knowledge.

Overall Component Scoring Summary

90 and above = 0.3 bonus points

80 - 89 = 0.2 bonus points

75 – 79 =0.1 bonus points

Scoring Example:

Combined **Science** scores = 86

0.2 bonus points awarded

Combined **Math** scores = 90

0.3 bonus points awarded

Combined **Grammar/
Reading/Vocabulary** scores = 89

0.2 bonus points awarded

Total HESI bonus points awarded = 0.7 bonus points
(out of maximum of 0.9 bonus points)

CALCULATING GPA

Grade Point Average (GPA) - Students should be concerned about two different GPAs.

Semester GPA - At the end of each semester and summer term, the average grade for that period will be calculated.

Cumulative GPA - At the end of each semester and at the end of the summer terms, the GPA for all courses taken at TCC will be calculated.

GPA is calculated as follows:

For each semester hour of A, 4 grade points are awarded. Therefore, an A grade in a three semester hour course would result in 12 points. For each semester hour of B, three grade points are awarded, two for C, one for D, and 0 for F.

$$A = 4 \quad B = 3 \quad C = 2 \quad D = 1 \quad F = 0$$

To calculate GPA, divide the number of grade points by the number of hours attempted.

Developmental courses, courses taken as Audit, and certain repeat courses are not used in GPA calculations. All courses that receive assigned grades appear as part of the student's permanent academic record. Both grades are included in the GPA for courses taken and repeated prior to fall 1996. Effective with the fall 1996 semester, when a course is repeated, only the highest grade earned is used in calculating the student's cumulative grade point average.

Example:

GPA Calculation of Classes			
Course Taken	Course Hours	Grade Received	Total Grade Points
SOCI 1301	3	A	12
CHEM 1406	4	B	12
PSYC 2301	3	B	9
BIOL 2401	4	A	16
Total Hours	14	Total Grade Points	49

$$49 \quad / \quad 14 \quad = \quad 3.5$$

$$\text{Total Grade Points} / \text{Total Hours} = \text{GPA}$$

Check on the back of your institutional transcript to find course hours.

TCC course hours are the second number in the course number (i.e., ENGL 1301 = 3 course hours).

DHY Applicant Rating Score Sample

Best Case Scenario for 2023 Applicant:

Overall GPA = 4.0	Calculation Begins with	4.0
HESI Science Average = 100		+0.3
HESI Math Average = 100		+0.3
HESI Grammar/Reading/Vocabulary Average = 100		+0.3
BIOL 2401 = A		+0.3
BIOL 2402 = A		+0.3
BIOL 2420 = A		+0.3
CHEM 1406 = A		+0.3
120 college credit hours + a Bachelor's degree		+1.0
Current Texas RDA Certification		+0.1
Total Rating Score		7.2

****Disclaimer:** The applicant's overall GPA is the base for which bonus points are added. Final applicant GPA calculations and Overall Rating are based solely on the findings of the Selection Committee.

Distance Testing Eligibility Instructions

1. You must have an Evolve student account with HESI Assessment

To register for your HESI Distance Testing exam, you will need an Evolve student account. If you do not have an account, you can create it at: <https://evolve.elsevier.com/>

Follow the steps below:

- Go to <https://evolve.elsevier.com/cs/> and click "I'm a student."
- In the HESI Secured Exams section, click the link that says, "Register for Distance Testing."
- Click "Register" to place this in your cart, and then "Checkout/Redeem" from the cart screen.
- If you are a returning user, enter your Evolve username and password on the right side of the screen and click "Sign In." If you are new to Evolve, enter your name, email, desired password, and click "Continue."
- Click "Checkout/Redeem," once again to finalize your selection.



2. Register for Distance Testing Exam

(You will need to select a Prometric Testing Center to Test.)

- Click on "My Evolve."
- Under HESI Assessment, select "Student Access" and agree to the Terms and Conditions.
- Hover over the Distance Testing Tab and select "Register for a Distance Exam."
- Complete the required information, check box, and click the "Submit" button:

**TARRANT CC-NE CAMP - DENTAL
HYGIENE - DISTANCE TESTING**
Department ID: ***201714***

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Read Fully

1. **Do Not** use the **School's Department Id** as **your student ID** when creating your student Evolve account.

2. The first and last name on your Evolve account **must be the same** as it appears on your **Government Issued Photo ID with Signature** (i.e. Driver's License or Passport). You will **not** be admitted into the testing lab if there is any discrepancy between what is listed on your Evolve student account and what is presented on your ID.

3. Your government issued ID must include your signature and a photo that resembles your current appearance to gain admittance into the testing center (your middle name/initial is not required).

4. **Do Not** Register for **Multiple Schools** or **Multiple Exam Versions** (ex. A2 V1 & A2 V2). Register and complete testing on one version of an exam before registering for subsequent version.

You will receive an email Confirmation Notice indicating that you may schedule your exam. Please carefully review the information contained in your Confirmation Notice. If name is not correct, or has been changed, please contact Elsevier HESI Assessment at exameligibility@elsevier.com. Failure to do so could result in forfeiture of your testing appointment and associated fees.

PLEASE NOTE: You will receive your Eligibility ID in an email (this is your **evolve username**). Please add the following email address to your email's safe sender list to avoid delays: exameligibility@elsevier.com. If you do not see the notification, please check your spam/junk folder.



Dental Hygiene Program Immunizations & Vaccinations

The [Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\)](#) and [Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation Community Standards \(PDF\)](#) **require** that all students in health-related college programs complete the following immunizations **before applying to programs where direct patient contact is a component**.

If you know you will be applying to our Dental Hygiene Program **within the next year**, you will need to **start these now** because some will take up to 7 months to complete the series.

Under state law, all immunization must be complete by the first day of class.

You will be dropped from the Dental Hygiene Program for incomplete immunizations and/or vaccinations.

Direct patient contact starts with the first fall semester for new students in the Dental Hygiene program.

Once accepted, you will need to submit a **TCC Health Department Immunization and Health Record** to document that you have completed the following immunizations.

- Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis (TDaP): 1 dose
- Varicella: 2 doses
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR): 2 doses
- Influenza (Flu Shot)
- Hepatitis B: 3-shot series (initial dose, dose at 1 month & dose at 6 months)
 - *Accelerated schedules are not accepted.*

Note: Titers showing positive immunity to the diseases will be acceptable.

Required screening: Negative Tuberculosis Skin Test or negative Chest X-Ray within the last 12 months.

COVID-19 Vaccination

TCC does not require students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

However, **proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required** by the clinical rotation sites affiliated with the TCC Dental Hygiene Program and therefore required for Program Acceptance.

TSBDE Dental Hygiene Licensure Advisement

You may be ineligible for dental hygiene licensure by the **Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE)**, and you may not be able to complete extramural rotations as required by our Dental Hygiene Program if you have any of the following:

- Indictments
- Orders of deferred adjudication
- Judgments
- Probation records
- Evidence of completion of probation, misdemeanors, or felonies

If you are concerned about any items that might be flagged on a Criminal Background Screening, you must apply for a Criminal History Evaluation through the TSBDE website:

- [Apply for a TSBDE Criminal History Evaluation](#)
- [Download the TSBDE Criminal History Evaluation Application \(PDF\)](#)

Screen Shot of the TSBDE Website:

Purpose of a Criminal History Evaluation

A person enrolled or planning to enroll in an educational program that prepares the person for licensure as a dentist, dental hygienist or dental assistant who has reason to believe that he or she may be ineligible for licensure due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or a misdemeanor offense may apply for a criminal history evaluation.

Application and Supporting Document Requirements- Must be mailed to TSBDE

- Criminal History Evaluation Application.
- Required application fee.
- A letter prepared by the applicant indicating the reason(s) and basis of potential ineligibility.
- Any applicable certified court documents including, but not limited to, indictments, orders of deferred adjudication, judgments, probation records and evidence of completion of probation.
- Any other documentation requested by the TSBDE.

Once the completed application has been received, staff will email the instructions on scheduling a fingerprint session with IdentoGO. Once the applicant has completed their fingerprint session, the applicant will need to email a copy of their fingerprint receipt to Licensinghelp@tsbde.texas.gov and include their full name and date of birth.



Academic Fresh Start

Academic Fresh Start (referred to as AFS or “fresh start” from here on out) is a wonderful opportunity for any applicant who has college coursework more than 10 years old that the student would prefer not to have considered when applying for selection to a program.

The 73rd Texas Legislature amended the Texas Education Code to allow residents of this state to seek admission to public institutions of higher education without consideration of courses undertaken 10 or more years prior to enrollment. This bill has been called the “**right to an academic fresh start**,” and it gives students the option of electing to have course work taken 10 or more years prior to the starting date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll either counted as usual or ignored for admission purposes. Applicants who elect to apply for admission with AFS and who are selected for a **Health Professions Program** *may not use credit for any courses that are excluded in the analysis of the AFS review (courses 10 or more years old).*

AFS is institution specific. If you utilized AFS at another college or institution, you must also apply at TCC if you want to utilize AFS for a Health Sciences Program. If you want to participate in “fresh start,” you should contact the Registrar’s Office at least one to two months prior to the application deadline date of the program to which you are applying. **You must apply on the Northeast Campus of Tarrant County College and complete the necessary forms.** To schedule an appointment you should phone 817-515-8223. Official transcripts are required for students desiring to apply for Academic Fresh Start.

Any courses or tests taken during the time covered by AFS will not count in meeting competency standards for application to a Health Professions Program.

For additional information about AFS see the TCC Catalog, College Web site or visit www.collegeforalltexans.com. Search for “fresh start”.

Tarrant County College District is an Equal Opportunity institution that provides educational and employment opportunities on the basis of merit and without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, veteran status or disability.