



Dental Hygiene

Your Future. Your Career. Our Priority.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long is LCCTC's dental hygiene program?

Once accepted into LCCTC's Dental Hygiene Program, students can complete the program in five semesters which is two academic years. Students may want to complete the non-dental required courses prior to the dental hygiene courses since these courses are difficult to complete in addition to the hygiene course work. Some of the non-dental courses that you might take include: Introduction to Psychology, Introduction to Sociology, Human Anatomy 1 and 2, Microbiology, English (Composition with a Speech component) and Nutritional Biochemistry.

2. Does LCCTC have a part-time or evening dental hygiene program?

No, once accepted to the Dental Hygiene Program students must complete the program in the recommended sequence during normal class hours.

3. What is the Accuplacer placement assessment?

The Accuplacer test is LCCTC's placement assessment for math and English. This assessment will indicate if a student needs developmental work in these areas. The required prerequisite courses need to be completed with a letter grade of "C" or above before the student can take the Accuplacer.

4. If I am trying to get into the Dental Hygiene program, can I have my pre-admission requirements and developmental courses in progress during the semester that the test is given and still be eligible to take the Accuplacer test?

No. A student must have all pre-admission courses (algebra, biology, English comp I, basic computers and chemistry) and any required developmental courses, as indicated by the results of LCCTC's Accuplacer assessment completed by the application deadline date of January 5.

5. What is shadowing?

Prior to application, students are required to do 16 hours of shadowing of a dental hygienist to help students determine if dental hygiene is truly a field they wish to pursue. This shadowing experience should be documented by the supervising dental hygienist- documenting the number of hours and their recommendation. This should be sent directly to the school from the participating dental office. If a student has difficulty finding a shadowing experience, they should contact the program director of the LCCTC dental hygiene program to obtain help.

6. Is the Dental Hygiene program offered at any of the other LCCTC's other campus centers?

No, the dental hygiene courses, pre-clinical and clinical experiences are only offered at the Willow Street campus. However, students are able to take any of the general education requirements at any of our education centers, or at any accredited college.

7. If I have general education courses completed, is the Dental Hygiene program still two years?

Yes. The dental hygiene courses are offered in a sequence; therefore, making the program the full two years. However, completing general education courses that the program requires will lighten a student's course load.

8. Does LCCTC accept dental hygiene courses from other schools?

Students with dental hygiene courses from other institutions will need to submit a transfer of credit form through the admissions office, including the course description and course syllabus for all completed dental hygiene courses. The Director of Dental Hygiene then evaluates the coursework to see if any of the courses are transferable.

9. If I have general education courses completed from another college and they are required for the dental hygiene program, can they be applied to LCCTC's program?

In most cases, if the student has a degree from another college or if the courses (human anatomy & physiology and microbiology) have been taken less than ten years ago with a grade of "C" or above, the college will transfer the courses in. The proper paperwork is necessary, and the Admissions Coordinator must evaluate the transcripts to complete the process.

10. If I already have a radiology course or certification, can I use that within the program?

Pennsylvania radiology certification is not transferable to the dental hygiene program. The only possibility for radiology to transfer into the dental hygiene program is if students have taken a radiology course (minimum of 3 credits) from another CODA accredited dental hygiene program at another institution or from LCCTC Dental radiology course (if taken less than 5 years from application), the course may be considered for transfer. Students may take a CLEP test for credit. The reason for the five year limit, is that this material is on the National Board.

11. How often can I take the Accuplacer test?

You may try as many times as you wish to get into our program, however, you may only test once a year.

12. Do I need to complete all my physicals, clearances, etc. now?

Yes, some clearances are required during admission process. Please see admissions criteria for this information. . Once a student has been accepted to the program any additional requirements will be explained to the accepted students at the orientation meeting held by the Director of the Dental Hygiene Program. Students are provided with the details of the orientation meeting along with their acceptance letter.

13. How can I get back into LCCTC's Dental Hygiene program, if I was in it previously?

A previous student would get into our program just as a new student would. They must apply, meet all pre-admission requirements and score high enough on the Accuplacer test for acceptance.

14. Once I get my Associates Degree from LCCTC, can I transfer this to a four-year institution to obtain my bachelor's degree?

Yes. LCCTC's Associate Degree for Dental Hygiene program is fully CODA accredited and transferable to most four-year institutions.

15. How many students are accepted to the dental hygiene program?

15 students

16. What are the hours of the dental hygiene program including clinicals?

Dental hygiene classes are scheduled on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 am and 5:30pm. Clinical courses may be scheduled to include two evenings of clinic second spring semester. The evening clinic sessions in the second spring semester is scheduled from 5:30pm until 8:30pm. Individual class schedules will vary from semester to semester. Students are made aware of the dental hygiene schedule for the ensuing semester prior to the LCCTC registration days which are held every year in October and March.

17. Do I need to recruit my own patients?

Yes, students are responsible to secure the types and classifications of patients that they need to meet the clinic requirements for progression in the dental hygiene program. The dental hygiene clinic does have a pool of public patients that are distributed on a rotating basis to students in the program.

18. Can I still work and still complete the dental hygiene program?

Due to intense curricular demands, students are advised NOT to work while enrolled in the dental hygiene program. However, if the student has enough support at home, some students have been successful at working 10 – 20 hours per week while enrolled in the dental hygiene program. Work schedules must be flexible to accommodate the changing demands of the program from semester to semester. Students who must work more than 20 hours per week have not been successful at completing the program.

19. Are there an abundance of jobs in the dental hygiene field?

Dental hygiene is a high priority occupation with many career opportunities throughout the state and the country. However, full time jobs (40 hours) with benefits are scarce in the Lancaster county region. Many hygienists seek part time employment at several dental offices, and have the ability to create their own personal work schedule in the process.

20. Upon completion of school, may I practice dental hygiene?

No, PA requires passing of a written national board and clinical regional board that can only be taken after successful completion of a CODA accredited school. (LCCTC is CODA accredited.) After successful completion of these, application for licensure may be obtained from the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry. Each state has its own rules, regulations laws which should be consulted.

- Additional information regarding the national boards can be obtained at this web site:
<http://www.ada.org/en/jcnde/examinations/national-board-dental-hygiene-examination>
- Additional information regarding the PA dental laws and regulations regarding dental hygiene licensure can be obtained at this web site:
http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Dentistry/Pages/default.aspx#.VrXedub_FaU
- Additional information regarding the dental clinical exam can be obtained at this web site:
<http://www.cdcaexams.org/>

Other important information

Notice of Conviction

Child abuse clearance and criminal background checks are required by LCCTC. Agencies can bar students from their sites if a criminal record exists or a positive drug test is noted. The Pennsylvania Board of Dentistry advises that a drug-related conviction and/or conviction of a felonious act can result in denial and/or revocation of a license to practice dental hygiene. Inability to gain clinical or fieldwork or intern education experiences results in inability to meet program objectives and outcomes. For additional clarification, students can speak with their program director.

Accreditation

The Commission on Dental Accreditation accredit the Dental Hygiene major. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-2678. The Commission's web address is: (<http://www.ada.org/117.aspx>).

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