



2009 - 2010  
**Dental  
Hygiene**  
PROGRAM

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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# Dental Hygiene Program

2009 - 2010

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# Important Message to Applicant

**W**e are pleased that you are interested in the Dental Hygiene Program at Shoreline Community College. The program seeks motivated students who are dedicated to a career in the dental hygiene profession. Applicants are advised to explore all aspects of a dental hygiene career and to work in the dental field prior to applying to the program. Admission is selective and highly competitive. The Dental Hygiene program itself is two years in length (7 quarters).

We encourage you to read this brochure very carefully and to follow all instructions exactly. You must meet deadlines and specific requirements in order to be considered as an applicant to the Shoreline Community College Dental Hygiene Program. It is important for every applicant (new or reapplying) to obtain the most current information for this program before applying. Admission requirements and the selection process are subject to change. Please note that once your signed application has been received in the Dental Hygiene office your application can not be changed in any way. It is imperative that you review the application before submitting it.

**If you have specific questions after reading this brochure**, make an advising appointment by calling the secretary at (206) 546-4713, or send an email with your questions to: [dentalhygiene@shoreline.edu](mailto:dentalhygiene@shoreline.edu). Please read this entire brochure before calling or emailing us with your questions.

**Falsifying information on your application will result in disqualification.**

**Note:** If you do not have permanent resident status in the United States, you must first apply and be accepted by the International Student Program before your application to the Dental Hygiene Program can be considered. Please contact the International Student Office (206/546-4697) for information regarding application procedures and deadlines.

# Prerequisite Courses

Students must complete the following courses *before* applying to this program with a minimum grade of 2.5 for each course.

- English Composition:** 5 college credits  
SCC Course Number: ENGL& 101 (*Formerly ENG 101*)
- Communication Studies:** 5 college credits  
SCC Course Numbers: CMST& 101 (*Formerly SPCH 101*), CMST& 105 or CMST& 220 (*Formerly SPCH 220*)
- General Psychology:** 5 college credits  
SCC Course Number: PSYC& 101 (*Formerly PSYCH 101*)
- Quantitative Reasoning—MATH 107** or higher  
—or—  
**Intro to Chemistry:** 5 college credits  
SCC Course Number: CHEM& 121 (*Formerly CHEM 101*)

The following courses must be completed within 5 years of the application date:

- Intro to Organic/Biochemistry:** 5 college credits  
SCC Course Number: CHEM& 131 (*Formerly CHEM 220*)
- Human Anatomy:** 5 college credits  
SCC Course Number: BIOL& 231 (*Formerly BIOSC 210*)  
Prerequisite: BIOL& 211, Majors Cellular Biology (*Formerly BIOSC 201*)
- Human Physiology:** 5 college credits  
SCC Course Number: BIOL& 232 (*Formerly BIOSC 211*)
- Microbiology:** 5 college credits  
SCC Course Number: BIOL& 260 (*Formerly BIOSC 215*)
- Nutrition:** 5 college credits  
SCC Course Number: NUTR& 101 (*Formerly NDF 110*)

**Note:** Science courses with “virtual” labs with will not be accepted.

**The courses below may be completed *after* applying to the Dental Hygiene Program, but they must be completed *before* entering the program:**

- Multicultural:** 5 college credits

*See list of approved courses in the college catalog or the quarterly class schedule*

- Human Relations:** 2-5 college credits

*See list of approved courses in the college catalog or the quarterly class schedule*

- First Aid and Safety:** 3 college credits

SCC Course Number: PE 284 (*Formerly PE 292*)

### **Notes Regarding Prerequisite Courses:**

■ This checklist does not guarantee acceptance of courses from other institutions. If you have taken courses at other institutions, review the Course Equivalence Chart on our website: [www.shoreline.edu/dental/dental\\_brochure\\_pdf.aspx](http://www.shoreline.edu/dental/dental_brochure_pdf.aspx) or complete the “Review of Course Equivalence Form” also accessed from the above website.

■ Using a higher level course (e.g. English 102 instead of English 101): The required prerequisite course must first be passed with a grade of 2.5 or higher before a higher level course may be considered to increase your score.

■ An applicant seeking to challenge a course must contact the dean of the appropriate division to determine whether this option is available. After an applicant has successfully passed a challenge examination, written documentation on college letterhead must be submitted to the Dental Hygiene Program and should include course title and number, date taken, grade earned, and instructor name, title and signature. Usually the institution providing this service charges a fee.

# Essential Requirements

A successful student should possess the potential to perform the essential requirements listed below:

- 1. Gross and fine motor skills:** have the capability to administer local anesthetic and handle sharps safely; place silver and resin restorations; handle rotary hand-pieces (dental drills) and hand carving instruments; manipulate equipment such as x-ray machines, nitrous oxide and oxygen tanks; manage emergency situations and perform CPR; maintain repetitive hand and arm motions associated with daily dental hygiene tasks.
- 2. Intellectual and conceptual skills:** apply geometric principles to perform radiographic procedures; calculate maximum dosages of local anesthetics and vasoconstrictors; carry a heavy academic course load for several consecutive quarters.
- 3. Communication skills:** interpret patient medical records and references in English; document dental hygiene care clearly and accurately in English; communicate effectively with patients, students and faculty.
- 4. Behavioral and social skills:** maintain composure in stressful situations, project a professional image, and demonstrate willingness to be a team player.
- 5. Observation and assessment skills:** learn from visual demonstrations and activities in the classroom, labs and clinic. Be ready to perform self-assessments in clinical situations.
- 6. Work experience** in a dental office is highly recommended though not required.

# Application Procedures

Applicants must apply online. In order to apply, you must have a SCC student ID number. To obtain an ID number you must first apply to the college (see below). The application form and a copy of your transcripts through fall quarter of 2009, showing the necessary pre-requisites, **must be submitted by Friday, February 12, 2010**. There is a processing fee of \$15.00 that must accompany these forms as a check or money order payable to Shoreline Community College. Send the dental hygiene application, your transcripts (official or unofficial), and check or money order in **one envelope** to:

Dental Hygiene Admissions  
 Shoreline Community College  
 16101 Greenwood Ave. N  
 Shoreline, WA 98133

**Please note: It may take up to 3 weeks before you are able to use your new student identification number.**

1. Print the entire application using the designated button on the screen and **sign the pages indicated**.
2. Submit this with your transcripts, your processing fee check in the amount of \$15.00 and a color passport photograph in one envelope by **February 12, 2010**. Check should be made payable to Shoreline Community College.

**ONLY APPLICANTS WITH COMPLETE FILES WILL BE CONSIDERED.**

The following checklist needs to be completed and included as part of your application.

## **Document Submission Check List**

- Completed and signed application form
- Transcripts through fall quarter
- Check or money order for \$15.00
- Color passport photograph (*available at Kinko's, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Costco*)
- An **evaluated and signed** Review of Course Equivalency Form **IF** you completed your pre-requisites at a college outside of Washington or if your courses are not listed in the Course Equivalence Chart in the forms packet.

The deadline for submitting the dental hygiene application form is February 12, 2010. If hand-delivered, the application must be received no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, February 12, 2010. If mailed, postmarks must be dated no later than Friday, February 12, 2010. **Late application forms will not be accepted.**

**Note: If you do not have permanent resident status in the United States, you must first apply and be accepted by the International Student Program before your application to enter the Dental Hygiene Program can be considered. Please contact the International Student Office at (206) 546-4697 for information regarding the application procedure and deadlines.**

Under no circumstance will we accept late applications. We cannot make any exceptions to the deadline. The volume of applicants makes it necessary to strictly adhere to the timeline. Applicants with an incomplete file will need to wait until the next year to apply.

## Selection Process

**Please Note: There will not be an entrance exam for the Fall 2010 application.**

A point system is used to determine acceptance into the program. Initial ranking will be based on points assigned for academic performance (grades) and work experience. The top 50 applicants will then be interviewed. Points from the interview will be added to previous points. The top 24 will be accepted into the program. At this time the top 24 applicants must complete and submit a criminal history background check.

The remaining 26 applicants will be on our alternate list. If a position becomes available the next alternate would be notified. Selection of alternates may be as late as September.

# Notification

All persons submitting a Dental Hygiene Application will receive written and/or electronic notification of their selection status for the Dental Hygiene Program, usually in April. Please do not call the program admissions office prior to receiving this status notification. After class selection is completed there will be further notification.

Applicants who are not selected may attend a group advising session with the director of the program to discuss the selection process and options for reapplication. Call the secretary at (206) 546-4713 for an advising appointment.

## Reapplication Procedures

All information submitted for the first application will be retained for two years. If you feel it is necessary you may retake any prerequisite courses. However, you will need to resubmit a new application and processing fee by the new deadline. If you have updated transcripts you want us to consider, include those as well. Make sure you get updated information from our website early Fall Quarter, as admission requirements and class selection procedures are subject to change.

## Program Costs and Financial Aid

Costs of the two-year (seven-quarter) program, not including pre-dental hygiene years, are approximately \$22,500 (2009-10 estimate), which includes tuition (in-state), books, instruments, equipment, lab fees, uniforms, etc. Room and board are not included (Shoreline Community College does not have dormitories). Campus parking fees are extra (approximately \$25 per quarter). **Access to a computer is required.**

**Due to the intensity and rigorous nature of the program, we strongly advise relying on financial aid rather than a part-time job while in the program.**

Students seeking information about financial aid (grants, loans, and scholarships) may obtain information and application forms from the Office of Financial Aid, Room 2131, Faculty Offices/Student Services (FOSS) Building, Shoreline Community College, 16101 Greenwood Avenue North, Shoreline, Washington 98133, (206) 546-4762. Students seeking financial aid are urged to apply as early as

possible in order to meet advanced application deadlines and receive awards in a timely manner to meet Dental Hygiene Program expenses.

**Note:** It is imperative that financial arrangements are secured prior to acceptance in the program.

## Degrees in Dental Hygiene

Students completing the Dental Hygiene Program earn an Associate of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree in Dental Hygiene. They may earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene from Eastern Washington University, after finishing the associate degree at Shoreline Community College. This is an innovative and new way for graduates of the Dental Hygiene Program to earn a Bachelor's degree while working part or full time as a clinical dental hygienists. The classes will be held evenings and weekends at Shoreline Community College and on the Web, with classes meeting much less often than in a traditional college program. A minimum of 61 upper-division credits is required beyond the associate's degree, and 45 of these credits must be earned from Eastern Washington University. The Eastern Washington Degree Completion Program typically takes two years; however, graduates can choose to finish it in one year. The program director may be contacted for more information by leaving a message at (206) 533-6625.

Earning your Bachelor's degree opens many doors for the future. Dental Hygienists who wish to broaden their options would be wise to consider completing their Bachelor's degree. Positions such as teaching, research, community health and sales representatives for private oral health product companies usually require this degree.

## The Dental Hygiene Profession

Dental hygiene offers a dynamic and challenging career. As a licensed health care professional, the dental hygienist works with individuals and community groups to achieve optimum oral health. Employment compensation compares favorably with other allied health professions. Flexible hours and pleasant working conditions are also attractive advantages. Dental hygienists perform oral examinations, dental cleanings and fluoride treatments. They also take x-ray films, give oral hygiene instructions, administer local anesthetic injections, and place dental fillings and enamel sealants. Positions are available in various settings, in the United States and abroad. Dental hygienists provide patient care in private dental offices, community

health centers, hospitals and the military. Dental hygienists may also work in alternate roles as college and university professors, researchers, oral health product sales representatives and professional health journal editors.

While dental hygiene is a rewarding profession, it is physically demanding and involves repetitive motion. This may exacerbate existing neck, back, wrist, and other physical problems. In order to increase awareness of the specific challenges presented by the program and the profession, applicants are strongly encouraged to review the essential requirements for this program before beginning the pre-requisite studies.

## The Dental Hygiene Program

Over 800 students have graduated from The Shoreline Community College Dental Hygiene Program since it began in 1968. The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Students earn an Associate of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree (AAAS). Our program prepares students for the written National Board examination and the regional and state board examinations required for licensure as a registered dental hygienist (RDH). Dental hygiene graduates from Shoreline Community College are respected and in high demand by dental employers. Job placement is typically 100%.

In order to develop a comprehensive knowledge base and strong clinical skills within two years, the program is intense. During the week, students are in class up to eight hours each day, and often have heavy homework demands. Familiarity with computers is necessary since some courses are online or are hybrid classes. Students will be both clinicians and patients while developing the skills necessary to provide total patient care. Faculty are experienced educators and practitioners who take pride in offering high quality instruction that focuses on individual needs of students in a supportive learning atmosphere.

The Dental Hygiene Program has established and implemented policies and procedures related to individuals who have bloodborne infectious diseases such as hepatitis B and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV or AIDS). These policies prevent discrimination against any individual (applicant, student, patient, faculty, or staff) based on perceived or actual conditions associated with bloodborne infectious diseases. Standard precautions for bloodborne pathogen exposure control are routinely enforced in laboratory and clinical settings to ensure safety of all students, patients, and personnel. Confidentiality of information pertaining to the health status of all individuals is strictly maintained at all times.

Shoreline Community College provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, color, religion, national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

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