

There are two educational paths to become a dental hygienist:

- 1) Earn an Associate's degree in Dental Hygiene or
- 2) Earn a Bachelor's Degree (4 years)

Most students earn a two-year Associate's degree. Students can take the [National Dental Hygiene Certification Exam](#) when they complete an Associate's degree and find employment in dental offices.

Some students choose a Bachelor's degree; these students also find employment as hygienists in dental offices, or they may move into management, sales or education positions. Dental hygienists in a dental practice earn similar salaries whether they have an Associate's or a Bachelor's degree.

Montgomery College does not offer a Dental Hygiene degree; however, it is a Maryland State [Two Year Health Manpower Shortage Program](#) – students pay in-county tuition at other MD community colleges AFTER they complete prerequisites and are accepted into a Dental Hygiene program.

Nearby Maryland Schools Offering Dental Hygiene Degrees (in order of distance from MC Rockville)

Institution	Program	Degree
Howard Community College (18 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Associate Degree
Baltimore City Community College (32 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Associate Degree
Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore City (33 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Bachelor's Degree
Community College of Balt County (40 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Associate Degree
Hagerstown Community College (48 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Associate Degree
Allegany College of Maryland (95 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Associate Degree
Anne Arundel Community College	DENTAL ASSISTING	Certificate
Hagerstown Community College	DENTAL ASSISTING	Certificate

Typical Prerequisite Courses for AA Degrees in Dental Hygiene [\[Check each school for prerequisites\]](#)

BIOL 150 PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY I	ENGL 101
BIOL 210 MICROBIOLOGY	ENGL 102
BIOL 212 HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I	MATH 117 ELEMENTS OF STATISTICS
BIOL 213 HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II	NUTR 101 NUTRITION
CHEM 131 PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY	PSYC 100 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
COMM 108 HUMAN COMMUNICATION	SOCY 100 INTRO TO SOCIOLOGY

Read each school's prerequisite list and review requirements carefully; attend an information Session at each school of interest. Check with schools **every semester** to review requirements, program application deadlines, etc. Some schools require observation hours and additional entry tests or have other points ranking requirements. Most students can complete the needed science, math, English and other needed courses at Montgomery College and then apply for admission to a Dental Hygiene Program at another school.

Students may declare **General Studies STEM Code 611B as a major at Montgomery College** while taking prerequisite courses to apply to Dental Hygiene or Dental Assisting Programs at other schools.



DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS) DEGREE
Health Sciences Pathway – Program Code #280

Program Planner 2023-2024

PRE- AND CO-REQUISITE COURSEWORK

Course Number	General Education Core	Term/Planning Notes	Credits Required	Pre- / Co-Requisites
BIOL-107 <i>or</i> BIOL-200	Fundamentals of Microbiology <i>or</i> Microbiology = MC BIOL 210 MICROBIOLOGY (prerequisite is MC BIOL 150 Principles of Biology I)	Completed within 5 years of first clinical	4	Prerequisite
ENGL-121	College Composition = MC ENGL 102		3	Prerequisite
MATH-138	Statistics = MC MATH 117		4	Prerequisite
BIOL-106 <i>or</i> BIOL-203 and BIOL-204	Basic Anatomy and Physiology <i>or</i> Anatomy & Physiology I and Anatomy & Physiology II = MC BIOL 212 & 213 HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I AND II	Completed within 5 years of first clinical	4 or 8	Pre- <i>or</i> Co-requisite
CHEM-103 <i>or</i> CHEM-101	Fundamentals of General Chemistry <i>or</i> General Inorganic Chemistry I = MC CHEM 131 PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY I	Completed within 5 years of first clinical	4	Pre- <i>or</i> Co-requisite
NUTR-211	Nutrition = MC BIOL 226 or NUTR 101		3	Pre- <i>or</i> Co-requisite
PSYC-101	General Psychology = MC PSYC 100 GEN PSYC		3	Pre- <i>or</i> Co-requisite
SOCI-101	Introduction to Sociology = MC SOCY 100		3	Pre- <i>or</i> Co-requisite
COMM-101 <i>or</i> COMM-105 <i>or</i> COMM-110	Speech Requirement = MC COMM 108		3	Pre- <i>or</i> Co-requisite

CLINICAL COURSEWORK

Course Number	Course	Credits	Term
DHYG-102	Histology and Embryology	2	Summer
DHYG-100**	Dental Hygiene Theory and Clinic I	4	Fall
DHYG-106	Oral Anatomy and Tooth Morphology	3	Fall
DHYG-111	Dental Radiology	3	Fall
DHYG-150**	Dental Hygiene Theory and Clinic II	5	Spring
DHYG-208	Dental Materials	3	Spring
DHYG-209	Periodontics	2	Spring
DHYG-104	General and Oral Pathology	3	Fall
DHYG-200**	Dental Hygiene Theory and Clinic III	4	Fall
DHYG-210	Pharmacology and Pain Management	2	Fall
DHYG-207	Dental Public Health	3	Spring
DHYG-250**	Dental Hygiene Theory and Clinic IV	4	Spring

DHYG-257	Dental Hygiene Ethics and Jurisprudence	1	Spring
<i>**Students will be expected to participate in clinical sessions during the semester in addition to class time.</i> Total Program Credits:		70	