

Community College of Philadelphia

Dental Hygiene

Helping People Keep Their Smiles

Are you interested in a health care profession with excellent opportunities and flexible schedules? Do you enjoy a hands-on approach to learning? With a dynamic and challenging career as a dental hygienist, you will have a critical role as part of a dental health care team that educates and treats patients.

As a dental hygienist, you may perform these tasks:

- medical and dental histories
- head and neck cancer screening
- taking x-rays (radiographs)
- placing temporary fillings
- finishing and polishing amalgam restorations
- scaling and polishing teeth
- applying preventive agents
- educating patients about oral health and prevention

“Pass rates for graduates taking the national certification exam are consistently on par or exceed the national average.”

The College has the only accredited dental hygiene program in Philadelphia.

The Dental Hygiene program offers:

- state-of-the art equipment
- faculty who are experts in the dental hygiene profession
- supervised hands-on experience with patients in the campus dental hygiene clinic
- excellent preparation for taking the required exams for licensing and certification

Many dental employers in the region consider the Dental Hygiene program at the College as the first source for qualified employees. Most students in the program have been offered at least one position before graduating.

Career Paths

Today's society places great value on an attractive smile. At the same time, research is discovering important links between dental health and overall health.

The U.S. Department of Labor's *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-07 Edition*, lists dental hygienist as one of the 10 fastest-growing careers through 2014. The *Handbook* says the demand for dental care is expanding, and hygienists are increasingly performing work that used to be done only by dentists. The *Handbook* adds that as the population grows and people retain their



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teeth longer than previous generations, the demand for dental hygienists will increase.

The Dental Hygiene Program

The A.A.S. program in Dental Hygiene provides the opportunity for students to learn:

- operation of dental instruments on the most current equipment in the field
- principles of educating patients about preventive oral health
- dental diseases and conditions and their treatment
- dental hygiene procedures and treatment on diverse populations in the city
- how to apply preventive agents, such as dental sealants and fluoride
- ethical and legal considerations of the profession

Salaries

Dental hygienists – \$28.05/hr*
Median hourly earnings of in May 2004.

* Courtesy of Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-07 Edition*

Graduates with an A.A.S. degree:

- are eligible to take the state and national exams for dental hygiene credentials
- can apply for a position in private dental practices, schools, public health centers, hospitals, managed care practices, correctional institutions and nursing homes, upon licensing
- can transfer seamlessly to a four-year program, such as Drexel University

College Information

Visit the College Website at www.ccp.edu to find out about:

Academic Programs

www.ccp.edu/site/academic/

Admissions Process

www.ccp.edu/site/prospective/admissions_process.php

Transfer Agreements

www.ccp.edu/site/prospective/transfer_agreements/

Financial Aid

www.ccp.edu/site/prospective/financial_aid/

Scholarships and Awards

www.ccp.edu/site/current/scholarships/

College Life

www.ccp.edu/site/current/student_life/

Directions to the College

www.ccp.edu/site/locations/main.php

This program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Areas of Study

This curriculum includes courses in Dental Radiology, Oral Pathology, Pharmacology and Pain Management, Head and Neck Anatomy and Periodontics.

Admission to the College

We accept students on an open enrollment basis, meaning that applications are accepted at all times of the year. For registration information, call **215-751-8010** or e-mail **admissions@ccp.edu**.

Affirmative Action Statement

Community College of Philadelphia is committed to the principles of equal employment and equal educational opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, ancestry, creed, national or ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation/preference, religion, sex, disability or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam Era, in the administration of its educational programs, activities, or employment in accordance with applicable Federal statutes and regulations. Any questions regarding this statement should be directed to the Director, Office of Diversity and Equity located in room M2-36; telephone number 215-751-8039.