Registered Dental Hygienist

- a professional, licensed member of the dental care team
- use their knowledge and clinical skills to provide direct patient care
- need strong interpersonal skills to motivate and educate patients on methods to prevent oral disease and to maintain oral health
Skills Needed to Be a Dental Hygienist

- Good manual dexterity and hand-eye coordination
- Good communication skills
- Team player
- Sensitive to diverse cultural backgrounds
Is Dental Hygiene the Right Choice for You?

- If you enjoy helping people, working with your hands as well as your mind, and are interested in improving oral health, dental hygiene may be for you!
Job Description/Duties

- Perform oral cancer screening
- Examine periodontal (gum and bone) structure around and supporting teeth
- Expose and interpret radiographs
- Design & implement treatment plans for patient
- Provide dental health and nutritional education for individuals and groups
- Remove deposits from teeth from above and below the gumline by scaling, root planing, & polishing teeth
- Administer local anesthetic/nitrous oxide sedation
- Administer topical fluoride treatments
- Place dental sealants
Employment Opportunities

- Full time and part time
- Private practice
  - General and specialty practices
- Public health/ consumer advocate
- Teaching/ administration
- Research
- Legislative advocate
- Corporate representative
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Public health clinics
- Schools
Salary and Benefits

- Varies depending upon responsibilities and geographic location.
- Benefit packages may be provided through employer +/or as a member of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association.

Annual mean wage of dental hygienists, by state, May 2011

http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm
Career Development

- Life-long learning is an essential component for knowledge and required for licensure
- Local and national opportunities for professional development
- Bachelor and Master online degree completion programs available
- Articulation agreements with some programs
  - accept completed general education and DH courses
Education/Licensing Requirements

- A minimum 2-year education once accepted into an accredited program
  - Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)

- DH Program requires specific prerequisites for admission eligibility

- TMCC offers an Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene
Examination and Licensure

All states require that dental hygienists be licensed

1. Must successfully graduate from an accredited dental hygiene program
2. Must pass the written Dental Hygiene National Board Examination
3. Must pass the NV State Clinical Board or Western Regional Board Examination (WREB) in order to practice dental hygiene in Nevada
4. The Nevada Dental Practice Act (NRS631.290) requires that candidates for licensure be of good moral character and be citizens of the US or lawfully entitled to remain and work in the US.
Prospective Students

- Must have the following capabilities:
  - good hand/eye coordination and dexterity for instrumentation skills necessary for direct patient care
  - a current Health Care Provider CPR card
  - be free from health conditions which put others at risk

- Be advised:
  - A felony or misdemeanor conviction or a history of substance abuse or infectious disease may preclude subsequent licensure as a dental hygienist in Nevada (NAC 631.050)
Preparation for Dental Hygiene School

- Contact several DH programs for admissions criteria (recommended)

- High school: strong in chemistry, biology, algebra

- College: strong in biological science & humanities foundation

- Visit college academic advisors

- Talk to your dental hygienist!
Why TMCC Dental Hygiene?

- **Cost**
  - Community College
  - Two-year program
  - Decreased student cost

- **Reputation**
  - High standards for admission and graduation
  - State-of-the art dental hygiene clinic
  - Ranks in top 3 in US on National DH Board Examination scoring
  - Excellent passing rates (first attempt) on clinical state board exams (NV, Western Regional, CA)
Why TMCC Dental Hygiene?

- **University Transfer**
  - General education courses required help facilitate baccalaureate completion
  - DH curriculum transferable to BSDH completion programs
    - Many available on-line

- **Small Classes**
  - 12-14 students admitted each fall
  - Excellent student-faculty ratios
Why TMCC Dental Hygiene?

- Diverse patient population

- **Financial Aid**
  - Scholarships from community, Nevada, Northern Nevada & National Dental Hygiene Associations

- **Professional Socialization**
  - Students are strongly supported and mentored by faculty and members of local professional associations
The DH Program at TMCC

- 4 semester, 2-year program
- Located on Dandini Campus
- State-of-the-art dental clinic
- Comprehensive DH curriculum
  - Dental hygiene sciences
  - Clinical dental hygiene treatment
## General Education Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>REQUIRED COURSES</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>ENG 101 and 102</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>THTR 210</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Satisfies Diversity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>PHIL 135</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>MATH 126 or higher</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>BIOL 190/190L</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHEM 121</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>PSY 101</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Education Requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Additional Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>REQUIRED COURSES</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>See TMCC Course Catalog for choices</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science course fulfilling 6 credits included:</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• BIO 190 (1 credit from Gen Ed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• BIO 190L (1 credit from Gen Ed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• BIO 251 (4 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S and Nevada Constitutions</td>
<td>PSC 101</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Additional Degree Requirements**: 9
Core Requirements
Must be completed prior to submitting application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 223</td>
<td>Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 224</td>
<td>Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 220</td>
<td>Intro to Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 113</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Speech Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Core Requirements** 15
All General Education and Degree Requirements strongly recommended to be completed prior to submitting an application
Please Note!

- As of fall 2012 dental hygiene applicants are limited to repeating program prerequisite science courses (BIO 223, 224, 251 and CHEM 220) once. This means students will take the course for the first time, and may repeat the same course once. Proof will be required with application in the form of transcripts or DARS.
Minimum Requirements for Admission to TMCC’s DH Program

- High school diploma or GED
- Completed TMCC new student application
- Completed TMCC DH program application
- Completed TMCC DH pre-requisite courses
- Minimum GPA 2.75 (4.0 scale) in general education & pre-requisite courses
- Minimum 8 hours of observation in a dental office
- DH Accuplacer test (within 2 yrs of application)
Application Process

subject to review and changes annually

Admission to TMCC does not imply or guarantee admission to the DH program

- Students are admitted in fall semester each year in limited and competitive admission process
- **Students are ranked based on:**
  - Cumulative GPA (minimum 2.75)
  - Science GPA (minimum 2.75)
  - Completion of general education courses
  - DH Accuplacer Test scores
    - reading comprehension, sentence skills, writing skills
  - F/T or P/T dental office employment
  - Graduate of accredited DA program or current CDA/RDA license
  - NV Resident
  - Baccalaureate Degree
**First Year in the DH Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DH 102 Oral Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>DH 113 General &amp; Oral Pathology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH 103 Head &amp; Neck Anatomy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DH 115 Clinical Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH 104 DH 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>DH 118 Advanced Clinical Topics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH 105 Intro to Clinical Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DH 120 Fundamentals of Nutrition in Dentistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH 110 Concepts of Oral Health</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DH 202 Pharmacology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH 112 Oral Radiology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>DH 209 Pain &amp; Anxiety Control</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Second Year in the DH Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DH 203 Special Patients</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DH 215 Clinical Practice III</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH 205 Clinical Practice II</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>DH 216 Principles of Dental Practice</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH 207 Periodontics I</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DH 107 Legal &amp; Ethical Implications of DH</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH 208 Community Dental Health I</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DH 214 Periodontics II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH 211 Dental Materials</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DH 218 Community Dental Health II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Estimated Program Costs

- For 2-year program ≈ $12,000 (subject to change)
  - Tuition
  - Textbooks
  - Student instrument kit
  - Health examinations
  - Health insurance
  - Miscellaneous expenses

Financial Aid
- Various financial aid programs are available to students
  - Grants, loans, scholarships
Need More Information?

- Contact:
  - TMCC Dental Hygiene Program
  - 70000 Dandini Blvd.
  - RDMT 415-A
  - Reno, NV 89512
  - 775-673-8247
  - www.tmcc.edu/dental/hygiene