

**Q. I am interested in pursuing a career in Dental Hygiene, how do I get started?**

**A.** It is recommended that you start by reviewing the information on the Dental Hygiene web page. Here you will find information about the program and can continue to explore specific questions by clicking on each link. Make an appointment with a Health Sciences Counselor to develop your educational plan. (707 527-4451) or (707) 778-3914

**Q. Do I need to apply to the College and the Dental Hygiene Program?**

**A.** If you are not already a student at SRJC, you must complete an application for admission to the College. The Dental Hygiene Program also requires you to complete a separate application for the Dental Hygiene Program. The program application must contain all the required documentation and be submitted to the Health Sciences Department by the deadline.

**Q. What are the prerequisite classes required for the Dental Hygiene Program?**

**A.** The prerequisite classes include Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association requirements, and Dental Hygiene program prerequisites. A list of these classes is found on the major's web page: **Pre-requisites-Programs of Study**

NOTE: all prerequisite classes are given in Semester units; you must complete the required Semester units. If your college units are in Quarter units you will need to convert these to Semester units to determine if you have the required prerequisite course credit. Science pre-requisites can be no less than 3.33 semester units when converted from quarter units, and non-Science pre-requisites can be no less than 2 semester units when converted from quarter units.

**Q. Do I need to have all my prerequisites classes completed before applying to the program?**

**A.** Applicants for any incoming class must complete their prerequisite courses by the end of the preceding fall semester.

**Q. Does SRJC accept AP Coursework from high school?**

**A.** The Dental Hygiene Program at SRJC does **not** accept any AP Coursework for any of the program pre-requisites however you can use AP Coursework for General Education at SRJC.

**Q. How do I determine if the classes I have taken in other colleges/universities are equivalent to the prerequisites for the Dental Hygiene Program?**

**A.** Complete an application to SRJC and submit a Transfer Credit Evaluation request to the SRJC Admissions and Records office. This form can be found on the Admissions Forms Page (can you hyperlink this? <https://admissions.santarosa.edu/transfer-credit-evaluation-form> ) Official transcripts from all other Colleges will be required. The Dental Programs will not be able to evaluate your courses unless you have completed and submitted the SRJC application and Transfer Credit Evaluation request.

**Q. Is there a minimum GPA required for admission to the program?**

**A.** The grades from the science prerequisite courses must average a minimum GPA of 2.7. Grades from the non-science prerequisite courses must average a minimum GPA of 2.5. Science pre-requisites include: Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology and Chemistry.

**Q. If I have an Associate's degree from another college, does that meet the Associate degree requirements for SRJC?**

**A. No. Most students coming to SRJC from other California Community Colleges or Universities are missing at least two to three General Education courses to complete the requirements for the SRJC degree. After you are admitted to the program, you will have to meet with a Counselor to determine what General Education classes you may be missing.**

**Q. If I have a Bachelor's degree does that meet the General Education requirements for the Dental Hygiene degree?**

**A. If the degree is from a U.S. Regionally Accredited Institution, this will most likely meet the General Education requirements for the Dental Hygiene degree. You can contact our Evaluations Office at (707) 527-4517 to see if your Bachelor's Degree meets the requirements to waive General Education at SRJC.**

**Q. Must I complete the requirements for the Associate in Science degree before I can apply to the Dental Hygiene Program?**

**A. No, however the Dental Hygiene Program is a full-time program; there is very little opportunity to take additional classes while enrolled in this program. Students must have their SRJC Associate of Science degree courses completed before they can graduate and sit for their state licensure boards. It is strongly suggested that the Associate Degree courses are completed before beginning the full-time Dental Hygiene program.**

**Q. Must I complete the requirements for the Associate in Science degree before I can graduate from the Dental Hygiene Program?**

**A. Yes, the Associate in Science Degree is required for completion of the program.**

**Q. Do I have to take the SRJC Dental Assisting Program first?**

**A. No, it is not required to have a Dental Assisting background to be accepted into the Dental Hygiene Program.**

**Q. How many students will be accepted?**

**A. 24 students will be accepted each fall.**

**Q. Is there a waiting list?**

**A. No, there will be a new pool every year.**

**Q. Is there an interview required?**

**A. No.**

**Q. How are students selected into the program?**

**A. The class selection process will be conducted each year for the Fall semester. Please refer to the Getting Started: Requirements link for a complete description of the selection process.**

**Q. Does the SRJC use a lottery for selection? How does that work?**

A. A computerized process from the SRJC Institutional Research department is utilized to randomly select qualified applicants.

**Q. Can I drop off my Dental Hygiene application?**

A. All applications **must** be sent via Certified Mail to the Health Sciences Department postmarked by the application deadline. **(Hand delivered applications will not be accepted.)**

**Q. How do I know if my application was received?**

A. It must be mailed and it is recommended that you use certified mail.

**Q. When will I know if I have been accepted into the program?**

A. Acceptance letters will be emailed by approximately 8-10 weeks after the application deadline. Acceptance and status information will not be given out over the telephone. You will be notified by email of your acceptance to the program.

**Q. What is the length of the program?**

A. After program prerequisites are completed, the Dental Hygiene Program is completed in five semesters, including one summer session. Associate Degree requirements must be completed before completing the program. It is strongly suggested that these Associate Degree courses are completed before beginning the full-time Dental Hygiene program.

**Q. Are there any recommended courses in addition to the required courses?**

A. It is recommended students be comfortable with computers including basic word processing and the Internet.

**Q. What degree will I have when I finish the Dental Hygiene program?**

A. Upon completion of the program, and all SRJC General Education requirements, you will receive an Associate Degree in Science with a major of Dental Hygiene. You will be eligible to take the Dental Hygiene National Boards and the Dental Hygiene Western Regional Examination Boards or Central Regional Dental Hygiene Boards. After successful completion of the National Boards and the Western **or** Central Regional Boards you will be eligible to apply for licensure with the Dental Hygiene Board of California.

**Q. Can this curriculum be used to advance my education toward a baccalaureate degree?**

A. See a Health Science Counselor for Educational Plan.

**Q. How much will the program cost?**

A. In addition to college tuition there are number of special costs associated with the Dental Hygiene program. These costs are listed on the program web page.

**Q. Must I take the dental hygiene courses in sequence?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Can I take the program part-time?**

**A.** The Dental Hygiene program is not offered in a part time schedule. Classes are scheduled 5-days a week with hours some classes/clinic beginning as early a 7:00 AM and some classes ending at 7:00 PM.

**Q. Can I work while I am in the program?**

**A.** The Dental Hygiene program requires full time attendance and studies. Most students find it difficult to work while in the program. Courses in the programs require students to be available five days per week.

**Q. Are there physical or health requirements for the program?**

**A.** There are physical, health and immunization requirement for the program. These requirements must be met before beginning the program. Please refer to the program web page for a description of Technical Standards required for the program.

**Q. Where will I do my clinical training?**

**A.** Students in the Dental Hygiene program will do the majority of their clinical training in the Santa Rosa Junior College Dental Clinic located on the first floor of the Race Health Science building. There are minimal outside clinical rotation requirements in the second year of the course of study in various clinical sites within Sonoma County.