Dental Hygiene Program

Program description
The Rutgers, School of Health-Related Professions (SHRP) Dental Hygiene Program consists of six prerequisite courses and four semesters of a professional course sequence jointly sponsored by the Rutgers-School of Health Related Professions with Brookdale Community College, Essex County College, Raritan Valley Community College, Thomas Edison State College and Union County College. The Program consists of education in the liberal arts, basic and dental sciences, and clinical practice. Graduates are prepared for employment as dental hygienists with opportunities for career mobility. Forty students are accepted into the Program each January and are awarded a joint Associate Degree in Applied Science by Brookdale Community College, Essex County College, Raritan Valley Community College, Thomas Edison State College or Union County College and the Rutgers-School of Health Related Professions. Upon completion of the Program, graduates are eligible to take the National and North East Regional Board Dental Hygiene examinations. The Program is approved by the New Jersey Department of Higher Education and is accredited by the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation, the specialized accrediting agency recognized by the Council on Post Secondary Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. Please note that the State Board of Dentistry of New Jersey conducts criminal background checks on all applicants to licensure.

Description of the Profession
Scope of a Dental Hygienist: A dental hygienist, under the direct supervision of a dentist, removes stains and deposits from the teeth; applies agents which make teeth more resistant to decay; provides community dental health education; charts conditions for diagnosis and treatment by the dentist; exposes, processes and mounts radiographs; provides dietary counseling and patient education; and performs patient services as delegated by the dentist. The dental hygienist must possess manual dexterity, good vision, good health, and optimal personal and oral hygiene.
Traditionally, most dental hygienists have been employed in private dental offices. However, employment opportunities for dental hygienists also include: community and school health education programs, hospital dental clinics, private industrial employee clinics, armed services, dental sales, dental manufacturing companies, and administrative, research, and teaching positions within academic institutions.

**Student Expectations**
As the Program is short-term, it is very comprehensive in nature. Therefore, all students are required to attend all classes and are urged to limit any/all part-time employment which may interfere with classes and studying. All students are expected to present a professional image and to exhibit high ethical standards. The nature of the courses requires students to act as dental service providers as well as patients with fellow students. All students must achieve a grade of 80 or above in all courses.

Daily access to a computer is required in order to conduct searches, access email and download course information. Please refer to our website for a comprehensive list of requirements for on-line access to course information on our website.

**Full-time and Part-time status**
This is a full time program. Matriculation leads to the joint Associate in Applied Science Degree (AAS) and eligibility for licensing board examinations.

**Department Faculty**
Please see the department faculty under [Allied Dental Education](#) department/Scotch Plains campus.

**Primary Campus Location**
The program is based on the Scotch Plains campus with a clinical component.

**Curriculum**
See database for [program requirements](#) and course descriptions and select your program.
Comment:
Please be advised that general education credits taken at institutions other than the five (5) affiliates listed may not be accepted. Rutgers-SHRP-ADE has no pervue over transfer credits awarded by the affiliate. As each affiliate institution requires that a specific number of credits be completed at the affiliate school, please contact the institution through which you wish to apply to discuss residency requirements. See the admissions section below for more information.

Mission/Goals/Objectives
Graduates exhibit competency as clinicians through demonstrated performance on the North East Regional Board Dental Hygiene Examination, National Dental Hygiene Board Examination and feedback from Employer Surveys. Dental hygienists assume responsibility for health promotion and disease prevention for individuals and communities through participation in multiple dental health education projects, and perform multiple, advanced level dental auxiliary functions as defined in the New Jersey State Dental Practice Act under the auspices of Dental Specialties II. A passing grade of 80 is required. In all courses, and students must maintain a minimum 2.0 G.P.A. each semester to remain in the Program. Additionally, graduates obtain the RDH license and demonstrate professional development through membership in the American Dental Hygienists Association and participation in related professional activities on State and local levels.

Major Clinical Affiliates
- Rutgers-New Jersey Dental School, Newark, NJ
- Veterans Affairs (VA Hospital), East Orange, NJ

Accreditation Status
Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60601-2678

Phone: (312) 440-2500

Date of recent accreditation visit: 2005, next site visit is 2012

Admissions Requirements
A high school diploma or its recognized equivalency with a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade-point average (G.P.A.) and completion of six college level prerequisite courses are required. All basic skills requirements must have been completed prior to entry into the Program. Those persons who lack certain basic skills will have to complete the indicated remedial courses and demonstrate competence in all basic skills before beginning the Program in January. The following college level courses must be completed with a minimum grade point
average (G.P.A.) of 2.85 (C+) or above. Students are required to attend classes on both the Newark and Scotch Plains campuses as indicated by the assigned schedules each term. Please contact the affiliate college for testing dates and relative information.

- Anatomy and Physiology I 4
- Anatomy and Physiology II 4
- English Composition I 3
- College Chemistry I 4
- General Psychology I 3
- Microbiology 4

Candidates for admission are rank ordered according to G.P.A. in the six (6) prerequisite courses. Performance in additional college level course work and dental work experience are considered although not required for admission.

The following courses must also be completed with a minimum 2.0 GPA prior to start of dental courses in January:

- Effective Speech
- English Composition II
- Math, college level Algebra (please refer to each individual School of admission for Math required)
- Intro to Sociology

Applicants to the program must FIRST be admitted to Brookdale Community College, Essex County College, Raritan Valley Community College, Thomas Edison State College or Union County College, designating dental hygiene as the chosen course of study. The Application deadline is April 1st annually. Classes begin in January.

For further information and an application for admission, please contact the community college of your choice:

- **Brookdale Community College** (732) 224-2330
- **Essex County College** (973) 877-1865
- **Raritan Valley Community College** (908) 256-1200, ext, 8629
- **Thomas Edison State College** (888) 442-8372
- **Union County College** (908) 709-7596

**G.P.A. minimum requirement/credentialing requirement:**
A 2.85 cumulative grade-point average on all prerequisite courses for admissions. All courses are taught in English.
**Additional Offerings**
In addition, the Department offers a post degree certificate program of Advanced Study in Allied Dental Education.

**For More Information**
For more information contact the Office of Enrollment Services at (973) 972-5336 or via e-mail. Additional programmatic information is available at this website.

For more specific information contact the program at:
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
RBHS - School of Health Related Professions
Allied Dental Education Department
Carolyn Breen, Program Director and Chairperson
1776 Raritan Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Phone: (908) 889-2504  E-mail: breen@shrp.rutgers.edu