
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACCREDITATION

- The Dental Hygiene program is a limited enrollment program; to maintain compliance with the American Dental Association's *Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Programs* regarding required clinical hours, only thirty-six (36) students can be accommodated in the program. Thirty-six students are admitted each year.
- Admission to the program is competitive and begins anew each year; the Dental Hygiene program does not keep a waiting list.
- Dental office experience is not required for admission to the program.
- Dental assisting experience or graduation from a dental assisting program does not exempt students from any courses, labs or clinical experiences.
- Once admitted, the program begins in the fall semester.
- The Dental Hygiene program is a full-time, two-year, five-semester curriculum. In the first year of the program dental hygiene class meets during the fall, spring and summer semesters. The summer semester is 8 weeks. In the second year the dental hygiene class meets during the fall and spring semesters, with graduation in May.
- The Dental Hygiene program cannot be completed as a part-time student at this time.
- **Transfer Students, Advanced Placement and Course Transferability**
Transfer students who have withdrawn in good standing from no more than one professional program may be considered for admission on an individual basis. Applicants must submit all of the required admission materials and meet the entire program's admission requirements. Applications will be reviewed by the program's admission committee. Potential placement will be made according to current program objectives as well as on a space-available basis.

Students requesting advanced standing via transfer of credits from another dental hygiene program may be considered for admission with advanced placement if the following requirements are met:

1. The previous program is accredited by the American Dental Association.
2. The student grade point average in all dental hygiene course previously completed is 3.0 or better.
3. Previous enrollment is not more than three years from the date of anticipated enrollment in the Harper College Dental Hygiene Program.

4. Course work received in transfer is evaluated as equivalent to Harper College Dental Hygiene courses. Validation of previous didactic and clinical course work will be required.

The dental hygiene program faculty reviews the credentials of each student who requests advanced standing and decides which courses will be accepted for credit. If the criteria listed above are present, course credit may be granted. Didactic, laboratory, or clinical proficiency of the student in each course in which credit is to be given must be validated.

In the event of a sudden and/or unexpected program closure, the program and institution will assist students in a timely fashion in transferring to other accredited programs in order to complete their educational program.

- **Accreditation:** The Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of approval without reporting requirements until the next accreditation site visit in 2021. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312-440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60611-2678.
- **Commission on Dental Accreditation's Complaint Policy**
The Commission on Dental Accreditation will review complaints that relate to a program's compliance with the accreditation standards. The Commission is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dental and dental-related education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for treatment received by patients or individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff or students.

A copy of the appropriate accreditation standards and/or the Commission's policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-2678 or by calling 1-800-621-8099 extension 4653.