

at a glance



Dental Hygiene

Department: Allied Health

Degree: Associate of Applied Science

Entry time: Fall

Length: 2 years (5 semesters, including 1 summer)

- Kirkwood is one of the few colleges in the country that has a **Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, and Dental Technology** program.
- The program has consistently received the **highest level of accreditation** given by The Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- Students get their **clinical experience** at the **College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics** and public health settings.
- The program has a **state-of-the-art lab** that promotes a great learning environment with **long-term faculty**.
- Students benefit from **small class sizes** and a **mentor program**.
- An on-campus **dental hygiene student club** provides students the opportunity to join the **American Dental Hygienists' Association** at the local, state, and national level.
- The program features **award-winning, knowledgeable faculty** who are experts in their field and focused on **student success**.
- **Kibbie Grant:** Students in this program may be eligible to have half their tuition paid for by the Kibbie Grant. Go to www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie for more details.

Program Description

Dental hygienists help prevent, detect and treat diseases of the mouth, playing a key role in the pursuit of optimal patient health via education and treatment planning. Hygienists work independently with patients.

Kirkwood Dental Hygiene students will learn to remove calculus deposits and stains from teeth, polish teeth, apply sealants and fluoride, take X-rays, record medical and dental histories, and educate patients on how proper brushing, flossing, and eating habits can help maintain a healthy mouth.

Career Opportunities

Dental offices/clinics/hospitals
Government agencies
Insurance claims processing
Specialty dental practices
Sales
Teaching

Sample Classes

Human Anatomy and Physiology
Fundamentals of Dentistry
Dental Anatomy
Preventive Dentistry
Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry
Dental Radiography
General and Oral Pathology
Dental Nutrition
Dental Materials
Local Anesthesia for the Dental Hygienist
Therapeutics and Pain Control
Periodontology

Accreditation

The Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, and Dental Technology programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Dental Hygiene graduates are eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and the regional board examinations of their choice. Successful completion of both board examinations is required to receive a license to practice dental hygiene. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312-440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-2678.

Scholarships

Kirkwood will help you pay for college! Kirkwood awards more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa. For more information and to apply, visit www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships.

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