

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

ADMISSION INFORMATION

APPLICATION PERIOD:

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Mesa Community College
Phoenix College
Rio Salado College

Dental Hygiene Program Locations

Mesa Community College at Red Mountain

Lectures located at:

7110 E. McKillip's Rd., Mesa, AZ 85207

480-654-7267

Clinics located at:

AT Still University Dental Clinic

5855 E Still Circle

Mesa, AZ 85206

<https://www.mesacc.edu/programs/dental-hygiene>

Phoenix College

1202 West Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013-4234

(602) 285-7777

<https://www.phoenixcollege.edu>

Program Location

Center for Excellence in Healthcare Education

3144 N 7th Ave Phoenix, AZ 85013-4107

(602) 285-7323

<https://www.phoenixcollege.edu/degrees-health-sciences/dental-hygiene>

Rio Salado College

2323 West 14th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281-6950

(480) 517-8000

<http://www.riosalado.edu>

Program Location - Tempe

2250 West 14th Street Tempe, AZ 85281-6950

(480) 377-4100

Program Location - Midwestern University

5855 W Utopia Rd, Glendale, AZ 85308

<https://www.riosalado.edu/degrees-health-sciences/dental-hygiene>

The Maricopa Community Colleges reserve the right to change, without notice, any materials, information, curriculum, requirements, and regulations in this publication.

I. PROGRAM INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION:

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Dental Hygiene prepares students to practice entry-level dental hygiene. Dental hygiene students will provide preventive and therapeutic oral health care services and will develop a commitment to the community through extramural opportunities serving diverse populations. The program is a blend of academic and clinical coursework that requires attention to detail and motivation to complete tasks on a timeline.

Mesa Community College Program:

Mesa Community College's nationally accredited Dental Hygiene Program began in 2005. Since its inception 100% of its graduates have passed both the written and clinical examinations required to apply for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist. The program consists of four traditional semesters with an online summer course culminating in a two-week lab experience prior to the beginning of the second year. Students attend classes in the afternoon and have clinics and labs from 5:00-9:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Classes are held at the MCC Red Mountain campus and clinics, and labs are held at Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health in Mesa, a state-of-the-art clinical facility. The program balances its rigorous science-based curriculum with a student centric, emotional intelligence inspired teaching approach. Emotional Intelligence awareness, and presence practices promote the development of high levels of compassionate, empathetic, and professional behaviors.

Phoenix College Program:

The Phoenix College Dental Hygiene Program, established in 1968, was the first dental hygiene program in Arizona, and has been a leader in educating dental hygienists for over 50 years. This four-semester dental hygiene program offers traditional face-to-face classes held Monday through Friday with a winter and summer break. The Phoenix College Dental Hygiene Program prides itself on their state of the art, modernized dental clinic equipment with the most current technologies. Additionally, our experienced faculty team is student focused and dedicated to ensuring student success. Overall program outcomes and high pass rates on required exams demonstrates evidence of our student support. Successful completion of the curriculum prepares graduates for the National Dental Hygiene Board exam and clinical licensure exams, which are required to obtain a dental hygiene license in any of the fifty states. The Phoenix College Dental Hygiene Program's reputation within the local dental community is long-standing and leads employers to seek out our graduates due to their excellent career preparation. The program maintains accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

Rio Salado College Program:

Rio Salado College's School of Dental Hygiene in Tempe, AZ, was developed in 1997 in partnership with the Arizona Dental Association. Our program includes four traditional semesters and offers a mix of face-to-face, online, and hybrid courses held Monday through Friday. One online summer school course after year one includes a two-week lab prior to the start of the fall semester. In addition to the core curriculum, students also complete Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR) training and the curriculum and lab skills in partial fulfillment of the Arizona Expanded Functions Restorative Dental Assistant (AzEFDA-RF) credential.

Each fall, one cohort of students enrolls at our Tempe campus and another one at our second program site at Midwestern University in Glendale, AZ. Midwestern-based students participate in lecture classes through a

livestream format delivered from our Tempe location and complete most of their clinical and laboratory experiences at Midwestern University's Dental Institute. Students at both sites are taught by highly qualified faculty and follow the same schedule and curriculum. All graduates are eligible to sit for licensure and certification examinations for clinical dental hygiene, local anesthesia and nitrous oxide, and the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination.

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION:

Graduates are employed in general or specialty dental practices, in private or public healthcare settings. Registered Dental Hygienists function within the legal scope of practice and use professional standards of care when treating patients and families across the life span. The AAS degree provides the graduate with an educational foundation for articulation into the University setting.

ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE:

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association (211 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611-2678 (312) 440-4653) grants accreditation to the Dental Hygiene Programs at Phoenix College, Rio Salado College, and Mesa Community College. CODA is the specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Graduates are eligible for board examinations and licensure in all fifty states. Licensing requirements in Arizona are the exclusive responsibility of the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners. In Arizona, the approximate cost of licensing exams and fees are \$2645. For questions about eligibility for licensure and the documents required showing eligibility, contact the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners or go to the website: <https://dentalboard.az.gov/>. Be sure you check with the state you wish to be licensed in as all states have specific licensing requirements.

COST ESTIMATE FOR THE MARICOPA DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM:

Approximately \$20,000.00 - \$24,000.00; subject to change.

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM ADVISEMENT/ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

Maricopa Dental Hygiene Programs Web Page:

[https://www.maricopa.edu/Dental Hygiene Programs](https://www.maricopa.edu/Dental%20Hygiene%20Programs)

Email for general Dental Hygiene program questions: dental.hygiene@domail.maricopa.edu

Placement/Waitlist Hotline: 480.731.8264

Advisement:

Following review of the Admissions Information, see an Advisor/Admissions Officer at the college of first choice.

College	Advisor/Admission Officers	Phone Number/Email
Mesa Community College at Red Mountain	Enrollment Services	480-654-7600 https://www.mesacc.edu/enrollment-center
Phoenix College	Advisement Center	602-285-7777 https://www.phoenixcollege.edu/become-student/admissions-and-records/enrollment-center
Rio Salado College	Advisement Department	480-517-8580 https://www.riosalado.edu/student-resources/admissions-records-and-registration

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM DIRECTORS CONTACT INFORMATION

The following list identifies the Directors for each of the Maricopa Dental Hygiene Programs as well as the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council Chair. The Dental Hygiene Program Directors serve as members of the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council, which represents the governing body of the Maricopa Dental program, and the Chair leads the council. Unresolved issues about the admission and progression through the program may be directed to one of the following members. Requests for five (5) year science waivers should be directed to the Dental Health Professions Council Chair (see page 10).

College	Dental Hygiene Director	E-mail	Phone Number
Mesa Community College at Red Mountain	Kim Zitek RDH, MAEd Program Director	kimberlee.zitek@mesacc.edu	480-654-7267
Phoenix College	Rosa Query RDH, BSDH, MEd Program Director	rosa.query@phoenixcollege.edu	602-285-7611
Rio Salado College	Monica Williamson Nenad, RDH, MEd, DHed, CHES Faculty Chair/Program Director of Dental Programs	monica.nenad@riosalado.edu	480-517-8288
Dental Health Professions Instructional Council Chair		E-mail	Phone Number
Kristi Deela, MHA, CDA, CRFDA, CPFDA, CDIIPC		Kristina.Deela@phoenixcollege.edu dental.health.professions@domail.maricopa.edu	602-285-7324

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

1. Advisement:

The first step for applicants seeking admission to the Dental Hygiene Program is to meet with an Academic Advisor. ***Please see the section regarding reapplication if you have attended but did not complete a previous dental hygiene or other healthcare program.**

2. Dental Hygiene Application:

Complete and submit all information required in the online MCCCDC Dental Hygiene Application. When applying to an MCCCDC Dental Hygiene Program, an applicant will indicate their preferred campus for admission. The applicant will then rank the locations of all dental hygiene programs within Maricopa in order of their preference. If a student is only wanting a specific campus, they should only rank the college(s) that they would accept admission to - do not rank all campuses if you are not able to commit to the two year program at a single campus. When ranking the campus locations, consider all aspects of attending classes at the campus you rank. Applicants should consider their ability to attend classes for a full two years, transportation to the campus, times classes are offered, and methods in which courses are delivered when ranking campuses. Speak to your advisor for more information about each of the campus locations should you have questions.

3. High School graduation or GED:

High school graduation or GED is required for the Associate in Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene. Applicants must signify that they meet this requirement by providing an attestation of completing their High School diploma or the GED as a component of the application and signing the Dental Hygiene application prior to submission.

4. Transcripts:

Request that **ALL** official colleges/universities transcripts be sent to the Admissions Office at the college of first choice. Please request that the institution include a current name and student identification number. It is the students' responsibility to confirm the receipt and evaluation of all transcripts with the Academic Advisor. Please note each college has their own evaluation processing times, which can vary. Transcripts sent to the Dental Hygiene Office at the Maricopa Community Colleges District address cannot be accepted and will be returned to the college of origin. All transcripts must be sent to the Admissions Office at one of the college locations.

5. Fingerprint Requirement:

A level one Fingerprint Clearance Card is required as part of the application. You can apply for a level one Fingerprint Clearance Card through the Arizona Department of Public Safety by going to the following website: <https://www.azdps.gov/services/public/fingerprint>. Allow a minimum of 4 to 8 weeks to receive the card.

When submitting your completed application, upload a copy of both the front and back of your current, level one Fingerprint Clearance Card.

6. General Education Course Requirements:

ACE and CLEP are not permitted for credit towards the general education courses when applying to the dental hygiene program.

GPA for General Education Basic Sciences is **3.50**.

GPA for all other General Education Courses is **3.25**. Students who wish to retake a course in order to improve

their GPA may repeat a course up to three times after the initial attempt, for a total of four attempts per course. (aligns with Maricopa Student Policy 2.3.3).

FYE - this is a required course for all first or second semester students and is not calculated into the GPA for the dental hygiene program

General Education Courses Required for Application - must be completed prior to application submission		
BASIC SCIENCES: Minimum GPA = 3.5 . Basic Science courses must have been completed within the last 5 years or as determined by the Dental Health Professions Instructional Council.		
CHM130+130LL OR Higher	Fundamental Chemistry CHM130+130LL required for bachelor's degree completion, University transfer, or to complete the AGEC-A.	4 credits
BIO201	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4 credits
BIO202	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4 credits
BIO205	Microbiology	4 credits
GENERAL EDUCATION: Minimum GPA 3.25		
FYE101	Introduction to College, Career and Personal Success - not included in GPA calculation	1 credit
ENG101 OR ENG107	First-Year Composition	3 credits
ENG102 OR ENG108	First-Year Composition	3 credits
COM (100, 110, 225, or 230)	Communication COM225 is recommended for students pursuing the Bachelor's Degree Completion Program, or to complete the AGEC-A to meet the Oral Communication and the Literacy [L] designation.	3 credits
MAT140 or MAT141 or MAT142 or MAT145 or MAT146 or Higher course in the Mathematical Applications [MA] area for BSDH	Mathematical Concepts and Applications. College Mathematics (MAT140, 141, or 142, 145, or 146, OR Higher course in the Mathematical Applications [MA] area is required for Bachelor's Degree Completion (CEP) Program through (NAU), or University transfer or to complete the AGEC-A. <i>For any student planning to apply, but who has not done so by July 1, 2025, and has already completed the required CHM130, may still apply until June 30, 2031 with their current MAT course and an exception will be granted. Any student who has not completed CHM130 by July 1, 2025, will need to complete MAT140 or higher prior to taking CHM130.</i>	3-6 credits
Any SOC course meeting the Social Behavioral [SB] designation.	Intro to Sociology, SOC101 course is recommended	3 credits
Any PSY course meeting the Social Behavioral [SB] designation.	Intro to Psychology, PSY101 course is recommended to meet the [SB] designation and general education requirement Bachelor's Degree Completion Program through (NAU) for courses PSY230 OR PSY230WL.	3-4 credits
CRE101	Critical & Evaluative Reading I OR Test exempt Students who are exempt from CRE101 must complete a course with an [L] designation if pursuing University Transfer or to complete the AGEC-A.	0-3 credits

Any approved AGEC-A course from the Humanities Fine Arts for AAS	MHL155 AND PHI213 are recommended courses for the Humanities, Arts and Design HU/HUM areas for students pursuing a (CEP) Bachelor's Degree Completion Program through (NAU) or to complete the AGEC-A.	3-6 credits
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CANDIDATE FOR UNIVERSITY TRANSFER

All potential applicants are encouraged to take general education courses to prepare them to transfer to a Baccalaureate Degree Program. If you are interested in university transfer for advanced degree completion within Arizona, please note the general education options below that best fit your plan. Be sure you work with a college transfer specialist to complete the necessary application.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES FOR UNIVERSITY TRANSFER:		
COM 225	Public Speaking	3 credits
MHL 155	Survey of American Music (<i>recommended, as it meets the AGEC requirements for university transfer</i>)	3 credits
PHI 213	Medical and Bioethics (<i>recommended, as it meets the AGEC requirements for university transfer</i>)	3 credits

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. How to Apply:

- **Complete Online Application:**

- Apply through [Phoenix College](#)
- Apply through [Rio Salado College](#)
- Apply through [Mesa Community College](#)

When all admission requirements have been met and the Academic Advisor determines the application complete, the application is accepted. Under no circumstances will an incomplete application be accepted.

- **Requirements for a Complete Application:**

1. Fingerprint Clearance Card – Upload a copy of the front and back of your current, valid card.
 - The required fingerprint clearance card is an Arizona Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance card designated as a Non-IVP card; if you currently have a Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance card that is IVP designated, this is acceptable.
2. Official transcripts on file at the college of first choice
 - Meets Science GPA requirement of 3.5 and General Education GPA requirement of 3.25.
3. Approval letter from the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council (if indicated; see page 10, 13, and 14 for details)

2. When to Apply:

- The Dental Hygiene Program only accepts completed applications; no provisional or incomplete applications are accepted. Applications that meet all admission requirements are accepted at any time during regular campus business hours. If the applicant meets all requirements the campus advisor will enter the student's application information into a computer database. All complete applications will receive a date and time stamp, this will secure a position in the Dental Hygiene Programs' queue. Dates are approximate to reflect Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

3. Notification of Application and Admission Status:

- You will receive an email to your Maricopa student email account indicating acceptance of your application. To inquire about your placement on the Dental Hygiene Programs' queue (wait list), please email dental.hygiene@domail.maricopa.edu or call (480) 731-8264.
- Applicants can update their preferred school choices via email sent to dental.hygiene@domail.maricopa.edu. **It is very important to update your name, e-mail address, mailing address and phone numbers through <https://www.maricopa.edu/>.** The District placement office will send a "Letter of Intent" via Maricopa student email account offering program placement approximately six (6) months prior to the subsequent Fall semester and program start date.
- An annual email will be sent out to all students confirming their continued interest in the program. Response to the email is required in order to maintain position on the program waitlist (if applicable).

Students will be required to attend an annual virtual information session prior to program placement each year.

- Student schedules must be flexible to accommodate the required days and hours of the program. Educational experiences may occur during the day, evening, or weekend hours.
- Applicants are placed in open positions according to their indicated preferred school choices. Once placed, the applicant receives a letter with the placement information and has 7 business days to respond and accept or to defer to the next placement cycle. After the 7-day return period, the placement offer expires, and the applicant is removed from the dental hygiene waiting list.
- Applicants receiving placement within two (2) weeks before the start of a semester must respond within 48 hours to secure their placement status via e-mail or phone.
- Applicants accepting placements will receive an admission letter and orientation information from the college where placed within 4 to 6 weeks. The admission letter will contain the dates of the Dental Hygiene student orientation dates and details regarding program preparation.

4. Deferring Placement:

- Once the applicant receives the placement offer email, he/she/they have 7 business days to either accept placement or to defer placement before being placed back onto the dental hygiene waiting list. **Applicants may elect to defer placement into the dental hygiene program for one year and can only defer program placement ONE time.**
- A student applicant may petition the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council to defer program placement for more than a one-year period of time. To make such a request, the student applicant will submit a written letter to the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council explaining the reason for the extended deferral request along with their unofficial college transcripts for the council's review and consideration. The Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council will review student deferral requests on a case-by-case basis.

5. Program Retention:

- Program retention is managed by the individual program, in accordance with program guidelines and syllabi. Should a student not meet requirements to retain their seat in the program, they will be notified in accordance with individual program guidelines and provided due process prior to dismissal from the program.

6. Science 5-Year Waiver Requests:

- A student may petition the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council for review and consideration to waive the 5-year basic science general education courses. Student applicants who choose to petition the council must demonstrate valid and current application of science course knowledge along with ongoing experiential application. In addition, the basic science general education courses must meet the GPA requirement of 3.5 for the council's consideration. Student applicants meeting the criteria described above may petition the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council by submitting a written letter explaining how they have been applying their science course knowledge and describing their experiential application. The letter, along with their unofficial college transcripts, should be emailed to the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council Chair (at the email address listed on page 5).
- **In addition, applicants** will need to provide employment verification from a direct supervisor who can attest

to the type of work performed and how it relates to the application of basic sciences information. The Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council Chair will verify employment of applicants.

- The final determination for student general education science course waiver requests for admissions to a MCCC dental hygiene program is made by the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council. Students submitting general education science course waiver requests will be notified in writing by the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council and/or council representative once the council has reviewed and voted on the waiver request.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

A. ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:

The Dental Hygiene Program supports a Zero Tolerance Policy for the following behaviors:

- Intentionally or recklessly causing physical harm to any person on the campus or at a clinical site, or intentionally or recklessly causing reasonable apprehension of such harm.
- Unauthorized use or possession of any weapon or explosive device on the campus or at a clinical site.
- Unauthorized use, distribution, or possession for purposes of distribution of alcohol or any controlled substance or illegal drug on the campus or at a clinical site.

Dental Hygiene students engaging in this misconduct are subject to immediate dismissal from the Dental Hygiene program and disciplinary action as described in the **Student Handbook** of the college, located in the Allied Health webpage at [Maricopa Allied Health Information](#).

B. PATIENT RECRUITMENT

Dental hygiene students are required to complete a predetermined number of patients meeting various clinical criteria. Students are required to recruit their patients in order to meet program requirements. While the campus may have opportunities for students to see patients who have contacted the college for an appointment, students must be proactive in their patient recruitment efforts in order to meet program requirements.

C. HEALTH DECLARATION:

It is essential that Dental Hygiene students be able to perform a number of physical activities in the clinical portion of the program. Students will be required to lift patients, stand for several hours at a time, and perform bending activities. Students who have a chronic illness or condition must be maintained on current treatment and be able to implement direct patient care. The clinical Dental Hygiene experience also places students under considerable mental and emotional stress as they undertake responsibilities and duties impacting patients' lives. Students must be able to demonstrate rational and appropriate behavior under stressful conditions. Individuals should consider the mental and physical demands of the program prior to completing application.

All students enrolled in the dental hygiene program must provide documentation of compliance with all health and safety requirements required to protect patient safety. Only students demonstrating compliance with all health and safety requirements are permitted to enroll in Dental Hygiene courses. Additionally, proof of active personal health insurance may be required for some clinical placements

and experiences.

Students will meet these requirements by providing the required documentation for the Health/Safety Requirements Documentation Checklist and the signed Health Declaration and or Declination Form(s). For additional information on Maricopa Allied Health Programs' Health and Safety Requirements, Please see the [Maricopa Allied Health Information](#) webpage and download the Student Handbook and/or the Health and Safety Requirements information. Health/Safety Declaration and or Declination Form(s) may be available in the American Databank/Complio account once created if not located in the Student Handbook and/or Health and Safety Requirements section of the webpage link provided.

Students must be able to fully participate in program activities whether in the classroom, laboratory, or clinical settings. This is inclusive of externships which may have additional requirements and or restrictions for participation.

Should a student become unable to participate partially or fully in the programs' activities he/she may be withdrawn from the program.

Invasive procedures are innate in the dental hygiene program and include, but are not limited to digital palpation of a needle tip in a body cavity or the simultaneous presence of the Health Care Workers (HCW) fingers and a needle or other sharp instrument or object in a poorly visualized or highly confined anatomic site. The performance of exposure prone procedures presents a recognized risk of the percutaneous injury to the HCW, and— if such injury occurs—the HCW's blood is likely to contact the patient's body cavity, subcutaneous tissues, and/or mucous membranes. This can pose a material risk to patients and students in the program should the HCW have a communicable chronic illness.

Please refer to the following website for the CDC's MMWR for recommendations for **Preventing Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis B Virus to Patients During Exposure Prone Invasive Procedures**. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00014845.htm>

The Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council will review the ability for a student to fully participate in and complete the program on a case-by-case basis.

D. DRUG SCREENING:

All students are required to complete the urine drug screening procedure under the program account number, within the specified timeframe, and according to directions given at the time of notification. Only students in compliance with the screening guidelines and receiving a negative drug screen, as reported by the Medical Review Officer (MRO), will be permitted to continue their enrollment in Dental Hygiene courses.

E. BACKGROUND CLEARANCES:

The level 1 fingerprint clearance card must remain current and valid throughout enrollment in the program. All Dental Hygiene students must undergo a background check to verify identity, social security number, and to show proof that they do not appear on the OIG/LEIE databases. Any student who becomes sanctioned or excluded while enrolled in the program will not be permitted to continue in the Dental Hygiene program.

Supplemental Background Check

Many of MCCC's largest clinical partners have established stringent background check standards that preclude MCCC from assigning students to those sites who cannot meet their set standards. In order

for MCCC students to be able to continue to complete clinical experiences at local hospitals, students must meet these standards.

Each student must provide documentation that they have completed and “passed” a MCCC-supplemental background check through the approved vendor. Students are required to pay the cost of obtaining this background check. Information on completing the required background check will be provided to the candidate upon placement in February prior to program start date in August. Please refer to the [Background Check Requirements](#) and the [Maricopa Allied Health Information](#) at Maricopa Community Colleges website for further instructions.

Should the applicant fail the background check, they will be removed from the application process and cue. The applicant who does not pass the supplemental background check has the prerogative to appeal the failure. Should the applicant win the appeal and be cleared of the failure, they may be reinstated to the program applicant list and take the old date stamp in the next placement for the program.

F. DUE PROCESS:

If a student has his/her/their continuation in a class or the academic program called into question based upon a positive drug test, a failed background check, or a code of conduct violation that violates professional clinical standards, the student will be afforded due process prior to being removed from the class/program.

G. CPR CERTIFICATION:

Prior to enrollment into the dental hygiene program, students are required to obtain a CPR certification at the Healthcare Provider level which must remain current for the duration of the program. The course must be an in-person/hands on course from the American Heart Association. NO online courses will be accepted.

H. WAIVER OF LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION GUARANTEE:

Admission or graduation from the Dental Hygiene Program does not guarantee obtaining a license to practice Dental Hygiene. Licensure IS the exclusive right and responsibility of the State Boards of Dentistry in each state. Students must satisfy the requirements of the state Dental Practice Act including the Statutes, Rules and Regulations, independently of any college or school requirements for graduation. State licensure of dental hygienists requires background information prior to licensing a candidate. It is recommended that you consult the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners for All current licensure requirements, at 602-242-1492 or <https://dentalboard.az.gov/>.

I. STATEMENT REGARDING CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS

Although shadowing is not required as part of the application process, students who are unfamiliar with the role and responsibilities of a clinical dental hygienist are encouraged to participate in a shadowing experience. Prospective students may contact their family dentist, local dental offices, or community dental clinics to inquire about observation opportunities. Direct exposure to the clinical setting can provide valuable insight into the dental hygiene profession and patient care environment.

MCCCD DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM REAPPLICATION GUIDELINES

Any student who leaves an MCCCD dental hygiene program for any reason must complete an Exit Interview Form with the Dental Hygiene Program Director within 30 days of leaving the program. Students who plan to request re-entry into the dental hygiene program without submitting a new application must have this form submitted to the Leadership Council. All petitions must be sent directly to the Chair of the Leadership Council, along with all required supporting documentation.

Readmission to a Maricopa Dental Hygiene Program is NOT guaranteed. A student **may be granted ONE** readmission if there is space available; the student has had no previous readmissions; the student meets current admission criteria and provides evidence of how/ they will be successful if awarded readmission. The student must meet all current admission requirements.

All readmissions are subject to space availability and approval by the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council.

The Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council will specify certain criteria necessary for readmission. Criteria may include repeating of academic courses, work experience, remediation classes, counseling, or other activities to promote the success of the student.

The Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council reserves the right to deny a request for readmission if the student was dismissed for issues relating to poor academic standing, academic integrity, failure to meet allied health/safety requirements, unsafe patient care, inappropriate conduct, and/or withdrawal from any allied health programs.

The Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council reserves the right to approve an admission or readmission/reapplication for a student in good standing who has been withdrawn.

ADDITIONAL ADMISSION STEPS TO COMPLETE IF ATTENDED A PREVIOUS DENTAL HYGIENE OR OTHER HEALTHCARE PROGRAM:

1. Any previous enrollment in a Dental Hygiene or other allied health or nursing program in which you did not graduate will require additional documentation. You must request a letter from the program director explaining the reasons for withdrawal or dismissal.
 - a. You will need to submit evidence that you have requested this letter from your prior program director (a copy of the email you sent to the director). Your program director will submit their letter directly to our council.
2. Submit a letter to the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council stating what circumstances have changed for you **and** why you would be successful if readmitted/accepted.
3. Submit **ALL** college transcripts including those from any dental hygiene, nursing program, or other allied health programs.
4. Submit copies of **ALL** letters and transcript required documentation via email to the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council Chair along with the Dental Hygiene Program Director at the college of first choice for attendance; see page 5 of the Dental Hygiene Admissions Application for the Council Chair and Program Director contact information.

All documents must be received by the Dental Health Professionals Council at least 5 business days prior to the

meeting in which your petition is reviewed by the council. All information from the previous college experience is subject to review by the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council.

The **final determination** for any student admission or readmission/reapplication to a Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Dental Hygiene Program is pending until the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council has reviewed the applicant's file. The Council reserves the right to **deny** acceptance of this application if the applicant was dismissed for issues relating to poor academic standing, academic integrity, failure to meet allied health/safety requirements, unsafe patient care, inappropriate conduct, and/or withdrawal from any allied health program. The application is complete only when all letters have been received and reasons for exiting the program identified. Students submitting requests for admission or readmission/reapplication will be notified in writing by the Dental Health Professions Instructional Leadership Council Chair. Additional consultation may be necessary with other (MCCCD) department representatives during the final determination process on a case by case basis.