

DENTAL HYGIENE



THE PROGRAM

Start your career in oral healthcare with the Dental Hygiene Program at South Plains College. This new program prepares students for rewarding careers as licensed dental hygienists through a rigorous combination of science coursework, clinical training, and hands-on patient care.

Graduates will earn an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Dental Hygiene and be prepared to pursue licensure and work in dental offices, community health clinics, and public health settings.

INDUSTRY-RELEVANT CURRICULUM

The Dental Hygiene curriculum combines science, patient care, and clinical practice to prepare graduates for real-world healthcare environments. Coursework includes topics such as:

- Dental radiology and imaging
- Oral anatomy and tooth morphology
- Preventive dental hygiene care
- Periodontology and oral pathology
- Dental pharmacology
- Community dental health education
- Local anesthesia techniques
- Dental materials and clinical practice

Students also complete extensive supervised clinical training, gaining experience providing dental hygiene services to patients in a clinical setting.

PROGRAM MISSION

The Dental Hygiene Program at South Plains College aims to develop competent future dental hygiene clinicians, fostering lifelong learning and service to the dental community. We further aim to advance the vision of South Plains College by improving the lives of its students. We strive to assist each student in achieving their educational and career goals, ultimately helping them become productive and responsible citizens in a global society.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Prepare students to demonstrate competence in dental hygiene practice.
2. Exemplify the role of the dental hygienist in the community through clinical enrichment experiences and volunteer activities.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate scientific literature.
4. Students will provide quality care to patients.
5. Support a teaching culture that values clear communication, constructive feedback, and continual improvement.

*Additional information
on the back*



WHY CHOOSE DENTAL HYGIENE AT SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE?

Students in the Dental Hygiene Program benefit from:

Hands-On Clinical Training: Students provide patient care under faculty supervision in clinical learning environments.

Career-Focused Curriculum: Courses focus on preventive care, oral health education, radiology, pharmacology, and periodontal therapy.

Community Engagement: Students participate in dental health education and outreach activities that support public health initiatives.

Small Cohort Experience: The program is expected to accept approximately 20 students per year, allowing personalized instruction and clinical mentoring.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

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ACCREDITATION STATUS

South Plains College has applied for initial accreditation for the developing Dental Hygiene Program through the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Submission of an application for accreditation indicates that the program has entered the accreditation process; however, it does not mean the program is accredited. Accreditation is granted only by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. South Plains College anticipates an initial site visit on September 1–2, 2026, with an accreditation decision anticipated in February 2027. The program will not enroll students until accreditation is granted.

Crossover Program

- Before applying, students must complete:
- Anatomy & Physiology I
 - Anatomy & Physiology II
 - Microbiology
 - Introductory Chemistry
- These foundational science courses prepare students for the clinical and medical knowledge required in dental hygiene practice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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