

WHO WE ARE



Department of Dental Hygiene

Upon being accepted into the Dental Hygiene program, you will join a group of students who are part of the School of Professional Studies at New York City College of Technology, City University of New York.

Dental Hygiene Profession

A dental hygienist is a licensed member of the dental healthcare team who provides educational, clinical, and therapeutic services to their patients within the scope of their state Dental Hygiene Practice Act. Patient care provided by a Dental Hygienist includes collection of assessment data and creating a treatment plan, implementation of care, and evaluation of the treatment provided.

To practice dental hygiene, graduates are required to pass a National Board Examination on the theory of dental hygiene and a Clinical Board Examination on the clinical practice of dental hygiene. Application for licensure must be made to the individual state(s) where the applicant intends to practice.

Mission

Aligning with the [Mission and Educational Goals of the New York City College of Technology](#), the City Tech's Dental Hygiene Program is committed to academic excellence while providing accessibility and equity through an inclusive and welcoming learning environment. Our program appreciates the distinctiveness of our culturally and ethnically diverse student body and considers each learner's unique potential as future dental hygienists and their impact on the public's oral and overall health. Our mission is to foster the development of our students to become the influential professionals devoted to lifelong learning, who can address real-world oral health issues using critical thinking and reasoning skills, evidence-based practices, and emerging technologies and are motivated to contribute to the field of research, academics, and interprofessional collaboration.

To support our mission, the educational program at CityTech will:

- Offer a course of study that integrates various fields of study and is grounded in research, reflecting modern practices in health care.
- Inspire a passion for scientific inquiry and lifelong learning in dental hygiene students so that they may contribute to the advancement of the field and its practice.
- Promote the appreciation of good oral and systemic health through clinical education based on a preventative strategy, with the ultimate objective of reducing oral health inequities.
- Educate future dental hygienists to practice ethically and professionally while providing patient-centered, comprehensive dental hygiene treatments supported by evidence.
- Offer students the opportunity to participate in community service initiatives that further the goals of their educational institution, their profession, and society at large.

Educational Program

In the educational curriculum, the dental hygiene student will learn critical thinking skills to develop professional judgement, ethical conduct, and prevention of disease transmission by utilizing infection control guidelines. Students will develop communication skills for healthcare professionals, which will enable them to engage the patient as a partner in their own oral healthcare. The student will learn all aspects of documentation and standard chart entries, which are considered the standard in the profession. Students will provide care to a broad range of patients with a variety of systemic health conditions on campus at the City Tech patient care clinic. Students must complete all requirements for the AAS degree within five years of the date of their matriculation into the dental hygiene program.

After completion of the educational program, graduates will be eligible to take the series of licensing examinations namely, the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination (NDHBE) and the CDCA-WREB-CITA Examination.

Students in this major can:

Join the Student American Dental Hygiene Association (SADHA):

The mission and purpose of SADHA is to serve as a vehicle for increasing awareness of dental hygiene education, practice, and research to all NYCCT dental hygiene students. Regular information is provided regarding innovative technology and equipment, legislative and policy issues that affect the dental hygiene profession. An effort is made to become visible within and outside of the college community by participation in NYCCT activities along with attendance at local, regional, and national meetings. Continuing Education speakers are invited during the school year to apprise students of the most current and applicable information.

Engage in other opportunities:

Our affiliation with industry professionals nationally, regionally, and locally affords our students the significant privilege of connecting with organizations for additional advancement opportunities. The following are some of our affiliations:

- Second District Dental Society
- Long Island Academy of Odontology
- Johnson & Johnson Health Care Products
- Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals
- Crest/Oral B Products
- Phillips Sonicare
- Orapharma
- GlaxoSmithKline

Dental Hygiene Full-time Faculty and Research Areas of Interest

Chairperson:

- Anna Matthews (Novel Pharmacotherapeutics and Emerging Diseases and their Implications for Dental Profession)

Faculty and Staff:

Professors:

- Anty Lam (Preventive Measures for Public Health and Transmittable Diseases)
- Gwen Cohen-Brown (HIV, Oral Cancer, Emerging Medical Technologies for Diagnosis of Oral Cancer, and Infection Control)
- Susan Davide (Infection Control and Community Service)

Assistant Professors:

- Audra Haynes (Dental Oral Health of Special Needs Populations and Dental Public Health)
- Christopher Bowers (Pain Management and Local Anesthesia)
- Dora-Ann Oddo (Infective Endocarditis, Dental Implants, and Dental Caries)
- Khrystyna Vyprynyuk (Periodontal Instrumentation, Infection Control, Disparities in Access to Dental Care, and Dental Care in Long Term Care Facilities)

Lecturers:

- Isis Marsh (Multi-faceted Ways Students Learn, Teaching Strategies and Types of Curriculums that Guide Education and Help Students Achieve Academic Success)
- Cristina Masino (Oral Manifestations and Systemic Disorders, Geriatric Care, and Dental Restorations)

Senior CLT:

Robert Mahalko

Students in the Dental Hygiene Department will be provided with the following important resources:

- Each student has an assigned faculty advisor while in the program.
- Online video resources are available for students to use outside of clinic as they continue to develop their skill set.
- Tutoring is available for students who need the support.
- Senior students are available to help Freshman students navigate the first year in the dental hygiene program.
- Provided with the opportunity for community outreach.

Options for employment and further study

Licensed Dental Hygienists* are employed in:

- Clinical Practice-dental offices
- Public health agencies, hospitals, and community health clinics
- Dental hygiene programs and dental schools as educators
- Pharmaceutical companies, research, product development and marketing
- Dental equipment and product sales
- Government agencies
- U.S. Armed Forces

*Some of these employment opportunities require further education

Three Fun Facts about the Dental Hygiene Department

Advice from your professors:

Stay above water; never wait until the last minute, plan, plan, plan!!!! The workload is intense and the students who navigate the potential pitfalls best tend to be the best organized students. Time management is a critical skill that must be practiced in order to succeed, not only within the program, but in the profession as well.

Graduates of the program:

Over the years, thousands of students have successfully completed our program. Many have completed or are currently in dental schools, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree and PhD programs. Several have returned to NYCCT to teach in the dental hygiene program.

Department History:

- We are the oldest and largest Dental Hygiene Program in the New York City area, established in 1947.
- The longest faculty member served 50+ years at NYCCT in the Dental Hygiene and Restorative Dentistry Departments.