

St. Cloud Technical & Community College Dental Hygienist Program

Prospective Student - Information Packet

Welcome!

Health programs have specific requirements for students to complete.

This material is to help guide you through the process from beginning to graduating from your intended health major.

Staff and faculty are here to assist with your educational journey and look forward to seeing you on campus!

Dental Hygienist Program Description

The Dental Hygienist Program is a full-time, 4-semester program.

- Dental Hygienist program begins each fall semester.
- 14 students are accepted each fall semester.
- 4 semesters: fall, spring, fall, spring.

It is a competitive program that requires a 2-application process.

With a dental hygiene degree from SCTCC, graduates are licensed primary healthcare professionals. After learning skills in the classroom, students will take the National Dental Hygiene Board exam, the Central Regional Board exam, and then get a license in the state where they want to practice.

Hygienists work in clinical dental settings and provide preventative, educational, and therapeutic services to patients. By promoting public health, dental hygienists help people learn the importance of dental health.

Duties include patient assessment, teeth cleaning, taking radiographs and dental images, applying fluoride treatments, providing periodontal therapy, and administering local anesthesia and nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation.

Dental Hygienist Careers

Potential employers include clinical dental offices, nursing homes, public health agencies, dental and pharmaceutical companies, teaching in dental hygiene education programs and doing dental research.

- The two-year placement rate for the Dental Hygienist program is 100%.
- The average Central MN hourly salary range is \$36.00 per hour.

Dental Hygienist Program Admissions Process – 1st Steps

First application

- Complete online application found at <http://www.sctcc.edu/application>
- Apply as a Pre-Dental Hygienist/AA student
- Pay \$20.00 application fee
- Submit high school / college transcripts
 - MN State college transcripts are available to SCTCC once student applies.
 - Official college transcripts are required from University of MN and all private colleges.

Students returning to St. Cloud Technical & Community College (SCTCC) will contact Admissions office to re-open and update student file.

Admissions Office: 320-308-5089 ● Email: enroll@sctcc.edu

If Transferring to SCTCC

If you have previously earned credits and want to know if they will transfer to meet the program pre-requisites, please apply to SCTCC as a Pre-Dental Hygienist student (see steps above) so the Registration Office can review your transcript(s).

Check <http://www.transferology.com> for unofficial course equivalency information.

e-orientation

Applicants that are fully accepted to SCTCC will be notified by the Admissions office about when and how to complete e-orientation and meet with an academic advisor.

Students starting Fall Semester: e-orientation and advisor appointments begin in April.

Students starting Spring Semester: e-orientation and advisor appointments begin in November.

Students starting Summer Semester: e-orientation and advisor appointments begin in February.

Academic Advising Center - Current Student / Advisor Meetings

Current students are required to meet with an advisor at least once a semester to receive a registration access code and review their academic plan.

We encourage students to visit more often with any questions or concerns they may have.

We are here to align you with resources that are available and help guide you through your educational journey at SCTCC!

Definition of a Current Student is one that has:

- Completed the Admissions process and fully accepted to SCTCC AND
- Completed e-orientation and scheduled an initial appointment with an academic advisor OR
- Currently registered for classes at SCTCC as a current, accepted student.

Academic Advising Center: 320-308-5741 ● Email: aac@sctcc.edu

Dental Hygienist Program Requirements

All pre-requisite courses must be complete before applying to the program.

A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for program acceptance.

Effective Fall 2020 program start date: HESI Exam will be used in the selection process.

• **RE-Take Options** (consult with an advisor about the impact of repeated courses).

- 1 of the Science (BLGY/CHEM) pre-requisites may be re-taken one time.
- 1 of the remaining general education courses may be re-taken one time.

When applying to the program, applicants must be in *Good Academic Standing* at SCTCC (not on warning or probation - cumulative GPA 2.0 & cumulative completion rate of 67%).

General Education pre-requisites include:

BLGY 2310 Human Anatomy/Physiology I (Prereq is BLGY 1351)	4 credit
BLGY 2320 Human Anatomy/Physiology II (Prereq is BLGY 2310)	4 credit
BLGY 2330 Microbiology	4 credit
CHEM 1340 Introduction to General Chemistry	4 credit
PHIL 1320 Ethics	3 credit
Goal area 1 Communication – Oral (Example CMST 2310)	3 credit
Goal area 1 Communication – Written (Example: ENGL 1302)	3 credit
Psychology Course (Example PSYC 1304)	3 credit
Sociology Course (Example: SOCI 1350)	3 credit

Students MUST supply documentation OR take course work at SCTCC:

CPR requirement: American Heart Association OR American Red Cross

- Provide a copy of CPR card to the college when applying to the program (if not taken at SCTCC).
- Course options at SCTCC: EMSC 1480 (1 credit course) **OR** HBHE 1510 (Hour based course).
- MUST be complete by the start of the program, NOT required at time of application.

MATH Requirement:

- Accuplacer - minimum score of "44" **OR** "225".
If scores are not met, consult with an Academic Advisor to discuss course options.
- Students may meet the math requirement due to previous college math course work, consult with an Academic Advisor.

HESI Exam: The HESI Exam is being used by the Dental Hygiene program to help evaluate students' readiness as part of the selection process.

Dental Hygienist Program application (2nd application):

Applicant MUST be a *Current Student* (applied and accepted to SCTCC).

Students can apply to the program upon completion ALL pre-requisite courses (see previous page).

Applicants must be in *Good Academic Standing* at SCTCC.
(cumulative GPA of 2.0 and cumulative completion rate of 67%)

Students who are on academic warning or probation will only be considered through an appeals process.

- The Dental Hygienist application is open December 1st through January 15th
- Application is found at <https://www.sctcc.edu/dental-hygienist-apply-online>
- Qualified applicants will be invited to take the HESI exam mid-February (*approximate date*)

The Dental Hygienist program is a competitive and the college may not be able to accept all applicants that meet the minimum admission standards.

Historical Applicant Data – Dental Hygienist Program (Previous years – Student Data)

Program Start Date	Number of Seats Available	Total # of Applicants	* Total # of Qualified Applicants	** Average GPA in pre-requisites	** Average GPA in General Edu Courses	** All pre-requisites complete at time of app.	** (FYI) Hold a Dental Asst. License	** HESI Exam Score (starting Fall 2020)
Fall 2014	14	53	47	3.60	3.75	NA	2	
Fall 2015	14	60	32	3.91	3.71	14	0	
Fall 2016	14	59	42	3.90	3.83	14	0	
Fall 2017	14	67	38	3.93	3.85	14	1	
Fall 2018	14	73	50	3.95	3.92	14	0	
Fall 2019	14	77	53	3.95	3.96	14	0	

* All pre-requisites complete with a GPA of 3.0 or higher

** Students accepted to the dental Hygienist program earned/ completed areas

Fall 2019 Dental Hygienist program acceptance: All pre-requisites MUST be complete before applying to the Dental Hygienist program.

Fall 2020 Dental Hygienist program acceptance: Applicants meeting the minimum program requirements will be invited to take the HESI examination. Letters & emails will be sent for February exam dates and times.

Application Timeline for the Dental Hygienist Program at SCTCC Estimated dates and are subject to Change!

Must be a current SCTCC student to apply to the program

The Dental Hygienist application is open December 1st through January 15th
Application is found at <https://www.sctcc.edu/dental-hygienist-apply-online>

Mid-February qualified applicants will be invited and take the HESI exam
(effective February 2020 for Fall 2020 program acceptance).

7 weeks after application period closes:

Acceptance letters sent to the top ranking 14 students.

- Students offered admission to the Dental Hygienist program must respond by the date noted in the acceptance letter to reserve their seat in the program.

Alternate List applicants will be notified of their status (not accepted to the program, currently on the alternate list).

Non-accepted applicants are notified and encouraged to meet with an Academic Advisor to discuss:

- ways to improve your application before reapplying to the program
- your educational options / course selection for next semester
- other programs and opportunities at SCTCC

Students admitted to the Dental Hygienist program

• Students will be notified of the date and time for the mandatory Dental Hygienist student orientation, usually held in May.

• Students must complete 3 hours of observation in the SCTCC Dental Clinic. (Call the clinic to set up an observation time 320-308-5919). Details on dress code, forms and other pertinent information on this clinical observation will be mailed to accepted students.

• Students are required to complete 2 dental office observations in dental clinics of their choice. The students will contact 2 dental offices and set up these observations and spend 4 hours at each office observing and interacting with the dental hygienist. Accepted students will receive documentation forms for these dental office observations.

• Students MUST supply documentation of current AHA/Basic Life Support.

• Students will be required to take and pass a MN Criminal Background study, electronic fingerprinting AND drug testing (paid for by the student).

Students placed on the *Alternate List* for the Dental Hygienist program

- Applicants who meet the requirements but were not admitted because the program was full will be placed on a ranked alternate list.
- Students placed on this list will be eligible for admission to the program if spaces open prior to the beginning of the fall semester.
- ALL students who wish to gain admission to the Dental Hygienist Program in the future must reapply, including those who were on the previous year's alternate list.

If an applicant is accepted and declines to be admitted into the program, no preference will be given to the applicant should he or she choose to apply in any subsequent year. In order to be considered for admission in any subsequent year, such students will need to go through the entire application process again.

FAQs – Dental Hygienist Program

Can I apply directly to the Dental Hygienist program?

Students MUST be a *Current Student* (applied and accepted to SCTCC).

Can I apply to the program without all of the pre-requisites complete?

All pre-requisite courses MUST be complete prior to applying to the program.

Can I re-take a pre-requisite course to improve my GPA?

- 1 of the Science(BLGY/CHEM) pre-requisites may be re-taken one time.
- 1 of the remaining pre-requisite courses may be re-taken one time.

Please consult with an advisor about the impact of repeated courses.

Beside my Pre-Requisite GPA, what can I do to improve program acceptance?

HESI Exam score (effective for Fall 2020 program start date). Please see HESI FAQs

When does the Dental Hygienist program start?

The Dental Hygienist program is a 4-semester program that begins each Fall Semester.

How many students are accepted?

14 students are accepted each Fall Semester.

Can I attend Part-Time?

The Dental Hygienist program is a *full-time* program only.

Can I take the Dental Hygiene classes online?

Once accepted to the program, classes are all held on-campus or at Clinical sites.

When can I apply to the program?

The Dental Hygienist application window is open December 1st through January 15th

Application found at <https://www.sctcc.edu/dental-hygienist-apply-online>

Once accepted to the Dental Hygienist program, what is the schedule like?

First year classes (semester 1 & 2) are held Mon-Friday from 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

(8 hours a week in lab, 12 hours of lecture/didactic and additional open lab practice sessions).

- Study time and practice time is roughly double time spent in classes.
- The focus is on learning dental hygiene theory, terminology and basic clinic skills.
- Students will start seeing dental patients in spring of second semester.

Second year classes (semester 3 & 4) are 4-5 days per week depending on the semester.

- Majority of hours per week in the dental clinic with patients (12 hours per week).
- Lecture and lab hours amount to 10-12 hours per week.
- Additional time is spent on skills and practicing with instruments and equipment to increase experience and competency.
- Spring (semester 4) includes off campus activities at various community dental health sites providing oral hygiene instruction to underserved populations in the community.

Is the Dental Hygienist Program accredited?

The St. Cloud Technical and Community College (SCTCC) Dental Hygienist program is accredited by the [Commission on Dental Accreditation](#).

St. Cloud Technical & Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

FAQs Dental Hygiene Program and HESI Admission Assessment Exam (A2)

What does HESI stand for?

Health Education Systems, Inc., and A2 stands for Admission Assessment

Why is the HESI admission exam being used?

The HESI exam is being used by the Dental Hygiene Program to help evaluate students' academic readiness as part of the selection process. Students will also be completing a learning style and personality profile assessment. The learning style and personality profile assessment will not be scored.

When can I take the HESI exam?

Student MUST be invited to take the HESI exam after the Dental Hygiene Program applications have been reviewed. Students that have completed all of the program requirements and scored a minimum GPA of 3.0 for the required prerequisites will be eligible to take the HESI examination. Explicit directions are included in the invitation that is sent via email and mailed letter.

What is covered in the HESI exam?

Eligible students will take the following components of the HESI exam for application to the Dental Hygiene Program:

English:

- Reading Comprehension (60 minutes)
- Vocabulary and General Knowledge (50 minutes)

Science:

- Biology (25 minutes)
- Anatomy and Physiology (25 minutes)

Learner Profile

- Learning Style (14 items)
- Personality Profile (15 items)

How long will the HESI exam take?

Students will be permitted short breaks between components if needed. Registering for the test will take about 30 minutes, so students should allow about 4 hours to complete the exam.

FAQs Dental Hygiene Program and HESI Admission Assessment Exam (A2) (con't)

What is the cost of the HESI examination?

The exam will cost approximately \$50.

Applicants will register online and pay for the exam online.

What the student accommodations?

Students will be permitted the use of scratch paper which will be collected by the Testing Center staff and immediately shredded after the test.

How many times can I take the HESI exam?

Students are allowed to take the HESI exam 2 times. The HESI exam must be taken at St. Cloud Technical & Community College and will only be offered once each year in February.

Is there an expiration date of my HESI exam?

The HESI exam has to be taken within two years of applying to the Dental Hygiene Program for the score to be eligible for consideration in the selection process.

When will the HESI exam be administered?

The testing window for the Dental Hygiene HESI exam will take place mid-February. Eligible students will receive an email with detailed information (*this is an approximate date window*).

What is the minimum score accepted for the HESI exam?

There will not be a minimum score needed to achieve for admission to the Dental Hygiene Program. Students will receive points based off their comprehensive score on a percent set forth by program faculty.

When will I know the results of the HESI exam?

Within 48 hours, students will receive a detailed email regarding their score.

How can I study for the HESI exam?

A study guide is available:

<https://evolve.elsevier.com/cs/product/9780323353786?role=student>

HESI Admission Assessment Exam Review, 4th edition

ISBN: 9780323353786

Students can use promo code 70456 to save 20% on this item.

Checklist to Acceptance

Health Programs at St. Cloud Technical & Community College

Cardiovascular Technology • Dental Assistant • **Dental Hygienist** • Paramedicine
Practical Nursing • Nursing (2-year RN) • Sonography • Surgical Technology

- Complete Admissions Process – 1st Steps
- Complete e-orientation
- Schedule an Advising & Registration appointment
(available after completion of e-orientation)
- Register for pre-requisite courses for your intended health major
(each semester you and an advisor will review your academic plan).
- Earn a high GPA to be considered for health majors.
- Apply to the health major when requirements have been met
and the program application window is open.

For details, please refer back to the Packet Information.

Visit SCTCC! – Dental Hygienist Information Session

Thank you for your interest in the Dental Hygienist Program at SCTCC!
We invite you to sign up for a Dental Hygienist Information Session to learn more about the program. <https://www.sctcc.edu/infosessions/HEALTH>

After reviewing this information, if you need further assistance, please contact:

Admissions Office 320-308-5089 enroll@sctcc.edu
Academic Advising Center 320-308-5741 aac@sctcc.edu