



DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

ADMISSION INFORMATION

APPLICATION PERIOD:
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

**Mesa Community College
Phoenix College
Rio Salado College**

Dental Hygiene Program Locations

Mesa Community College at Red Mountain
7110 E. McKillip's Rd., Mesa, AZ 85207
(480) 654-7221

<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://phoenixcollege.edu/programs/dental-hygiene>

Rio Salado College
2323 West 14th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281-6950
(480) 517-8000

<http://www.riosalado.edu>

Program Location
2250 West 14th Street Tempe, AZ 85281-6950
(480) 377-4100

http://www.riosalado.edu/programs/dental_hygiene/Pages/default.aspx

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

I. PROGRAM INFORMATION

A. 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, mindfulness inspired teaching approach. Mindfulness, awareness, and presence practices promote the development of high levels of emotional intelligence and the cultivation 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 equip 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:

The Rio Salado College School of Dental Hygiene was developed in 1997 in partnership with the Arizona Dental Association. We continue to work closely with this partnership through educational offerings and community service events. The program is 15 months long and accepts 22 students each September. It is designed as a fast-paced, accelerated program that provides accessible, innovative, high quality education. The curriculum which is shared with Phoenix College and Mesa Community College dental hygiene programs is delivered with a blend of formats including in-person, hybrid and online giving the student high quality learning design. Rio Salado Dental Hygiene Program has a long-standing tradition of being nationally recognized, delivering above the national average on board examination scores and completing a 100% pass rate on clinical examinations.

B. 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.

C. 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, is \$2300.00. 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.

D. COST ESTIMATE FOR THE MARICOPA DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM:

Approximately \$18,000.00 - \$22,000.00; subject to change.

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

 Web Page: <https://www.maricopa.edu/academics/healthcare/dental>

 E-mail for general 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
Mesa Community College at Red Mountain	Enrollment Services	480-654-7600
Phoenix College	Advisement Center	602-285-7777
Rio Salado College	Advisement Department	480-517-8580

The following list identifies the Directors for each of the Maricopa Dental Hygiene Programs. The Dental Hygiene Program Directors serve as members of the Oral Health Council, which represents the governing body of the Maricopa Dental program. Unresolved issues about the admission and progression through the program may be directed to one of the following members:

College	Dental Hygiene Director	E-mail	Phone Number
Mesa Community College at Red Mountain	Debi Sparks RDH, MEd Program Director	deborah.sparks@mesacc.edu	480-654-7266
Phoenix College	LaQuera Darrow RDH, MEd Program Director	laquera.darrow@phoenixcollege.edu	602-285-7328
Rio Salado College	Patty Price RDH, CDA, MEd Interim Program Director	patricia.price@riosalado.edu	480-377-4101

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 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. It is recommended that you meet with a college advisor prior to submitting the online application to ensure that you meet all application requirements and prevent any possible delay in the acceptance of your application.

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 the necessary application information related to High School Graduation or GED completion, 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 GPA Requirements:

GPA for Pre-requisite Basic Sciences is **3.50**

GPA for Pre-requisite General Education Courses is **3.25**

Prerequisite General Education Courses Required for Application:		
BASIC SCIENCES: Minimum GPA 3.5 (Basic Science courses must have been completed within the last 5 years or as determined by the Program Director)		
*CHM130+130LL	Fundamental Chemistry	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		
ENG101 OR ENG107	First-Year Composition	3 credits
ENG102 OR ENG108	First-Year Composition	3 credits
COM (100, 110, 225, or 230)	Communication COM225 required for CEP or Baccalaureate Degree.	3 credits
MAT112 or MAT140, 141, or 142	Mathematical Concepts and Applications OR higher level. College Mathematics (MAT140, 141, or 142) required for bachelor's degree Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) through Northern Arizona University (NAU), bachelor's degree completion, or University transfer. <i>MAT 102 is no longer accepted as a prerequisite course requirement for admission into the Maricopa dental hygiene program as of 12/31/20. Any dental hygiene application submitted and accepted prior to 12/31/20 meets the MAT requirement for program admittance.</i>	3 credits
SOC101	Intro to Sociology	3 credits
PSY101	Intro to Psychology	3 credits
CRE101	Critical & Evaluative Reading I OR Test exempt	0-3 credits
HU or HUM	Refer to the college catalog for approved list of Humanities and & Fine Arts courses.	3 credits

*Students that have completed CHM138 or CHM230 lecture and lab **before August 2019** have fulfilled the CHM requirement for acceptance into the dental hygiene program. Please note that CHM 130 is required for participation in the CEP program through NAU.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (CEP) AND UNIVERSITY TRANSFER

All potential applicants are encouraged to take pre-requisite courses to prepare them for the Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) with Northern Arizona University (NAU) or to transfer to a Baccalaureate Degree Program. For more information on NAU's CEP or degree completion program please contact Madalyn Smolinsky, Program Coordinator at 928- 523-7147 or email Madalyn.Smolinski@nau.edu, or contact Jill Cooney, Academic Advisor at 928-523-2517 or email Jill.cooney@nau.edu, or Chhs.advisor@nau.edu.

If you are interested in the Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) with Northern Arizona University (NAU) to complete your Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene as you complete your Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in dental hygiene, or if you are interested in university transfer for advanced degree completion within Arizona, please note the prerequisite options below that best fit your plan. Be sure you work with a college transfer specialist to complete the necessary application.

PREREQUISITE COURSES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NAU CEP PROGRAM OR UNIVERSITY TRANSFER:		
MAT 140, 141, or 142	College Mathematics (MAT140, 141, or 142) required for CEP or Baccalaureate Degree.	3 credits
MAT 206 or PSY230	Elements of Statistics or Introduction to Statistics	3 credits
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 Bio-Ethics (<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 deems 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.
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 Oral Health Leadership Council (if indicated; see page 11 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 e-mail 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 my.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.
- 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 10-day return period, the placement offer expires, and the applicant is placed back onto 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, registration information, and directions on completing the Health and Safety Documentation Checklist and Health Care Provider Signature Forms.

4. Deferring Placement:

- Once the applicant receives the placement offer email, he/she/they have 10 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 Oral Health 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 Oral Health Council explaining the reason for the extended deferral request along with their unofficial college transcripts for the council's review and consideration. The Oral Health Council will review student deferral requests on a case-by-case basis.

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 Dental Hygiene program and disciplinary action as described in the Student Handbook of the college.

B. 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 making 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.

Students will meet these requirements by providing the required documentation for the Health/Safety Requirements Documentation Checklist and the signed Health Declaration Form(s). For additional information on Maricopa Allied Health Programs' Health and Safety Requirements, please see the [Maricopa Health and Safety Requirements](#) webpage.

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 and 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 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 Oral Health Council will review the ability for a student to fully participate in and complete the program on a case-by-case basis.

C. 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.

D. 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 Dental Hygiene program.

Supplemental Background Check

Many of MCCCDC's largest clinical partners have established stringent background check standards that preclude MCCCDC from assigning students to those sites who cannot meet their set standards. In order for MCCCDC students to be able to continue to complete clinical experiences at local hospitals, students must meet these standards.

Each student must provide documentation that he or she has completed and "passed" a MCCCDC-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 [Health and Safety Requirements](#) 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.

E. 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 may prevent the program's ability to place the student at a clinical site, the student will be afforded due process prior to being removed from the class/program.

F. 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. NO online courses will be accepted.

G. 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/>.

MCCCDC DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM REAPPLICATION GUIDELINES

A student exiting a MCCCDC dental hygiene program for any reason must complete an Exit Interview Form with the Dental Hygiene Program Director to be eligible for readmission.

No student is guaranteed readmission. 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 Oral Health Leadership Council.

The Program Director and/or Oral Health 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 Program Director and/or the Oral Health 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, unsafe patient care, inappropriate conduct, and /or withdrawal from any dental hygiene program.

The Dental Hygiene Program Director and/or the Oral Health Leadership Council reserve the right to approve an admission or readmission for a student in good standing who has been withdrawn.

The final determination for any student readmission to a MCCCDC dental hygiene program is made by the Oral Health Leadership Council. Students submitting requests for reapplication will be notified in writing by the Oral Health Leadership Council and/or council representative.

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.
2. Submit a letter to the Oral Health 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 along with the letter.
4. Address each letter to the Oral Health Leadership Council and submit to the dental hygiene program director at the college of first choice for attendance; see page 4 for the program director contact information.

All information from the previous college experience is subject to review by the Oral Health Leadership Council.

Final acceptance into the dental hygiene program is pending until the Oral Health Leadership Council has reviewed the applicant's file. The Council reserves the right to deny acceptance of this application if applicant was dismissed for issues relating to poor academic standing, academic integrity, 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.