

Applications are accepted  
ONLINE ONLY, beginning  
December 1, 2024.



# Guidelines for Admission

Application period:  
December 1, 2024 to February 1, 2025

AAS Dental Hygiene Program

NEW DEADLINE

Department Chair:  
Carrie Hobbs, MEd, RDH  
Tel: 903.510.2341



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Nature of the Occupation _____	3
Dental Hygienist _____	3
Curriculum _____	3
Education and Training _____	4
Employment Outlook _____	5
Mission _____	6
Goals _____	6
Qualities and Skills Necessary to be a Successful Dental Hygiene Student	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Academic Criteria _____	10
Program Costs _____	11
Degree Plan _____	12
Admission Process - Fully Online _____	13
Minimum Requirements _____	13
Summary of Steps to Apply _____	13
1. Complete Prerequisite Courses _____	14
2. Apply for General Admission to TJC _____	15
3. Submit Official College Transcripts to Registrar's Office _____	16
4. Complete a Transcript Evaluation Request _____	17
5. Download the Pre-Admission Observation Form _____	17
6. Take the HESI Exam (Schedule appointment online) _____	17
7. Download and Complete the AAS Dental Hygiene Worksheet _____	19
8. Complete Dental Hygiene Associate Degree Program Application _____	21
Review and Submit Application Packet - Online ONLY _____	22
Immunization Requirements _____	23
Drug Screen and Background Check _____	24
TJC CDA Graduate - Rules for Course Credit _____	25
Previous Enrollment in a Nursing or Health Science Program _____	25
Interview Process _____	26
Possible Interview Criteria _____	26
Selection Process _____	26
Confirmation Agreement _____	27
Dental Hygiene Student Orientation _____	27

# NATURE OF THE OCCUPATION

## Dental Hygienist

Dental hygienists are licensed oral health professionals who focus on preventing and treating oral diseases, both to protect teeth and gums, and also to protect overall health. They are graduates of accredited dental hygiene education programs in colleges and universities, and must take written and clinical exams before they are allowed to practice. In addition to treating patients directly, dental hygienists also work as educators, researchers and administrators. Dental hygienists are considered an integral part of the dental team providing education and preventive services to ensure delivery of long-term oral health.

*If you have a passion for the dental profession and are interested in serving the oral health needs of your community, we can help you put those aspirations to work.*

## Curriculum

The TJC AAS Dental Hygiene curriculum leads to an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene and begins in the summer long session of each year. The curriculum is classified as a workforce program and is transferable as outlined in the Texas Higher Education Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM). Students should visit with an Academic Advisor to ensure that they take the correct courses for their Associate of Arts, Associate of Arts in Teaching, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, Bachelor of Applied Technology, Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Applied Science or Bachelor of Science degree program at TJC in addition to the major for their chosen transfer college or university. The selection of science, math, and elective credit courses is often based on the requirements.

Enrollment is limited to selected applicants. The application process is outlined in this document. The AAS dental hygiene curriculum at TJC holds full accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Whether the individual's interest is working in a general or specialized dental office, dental clinic, public health, schools or research, the program provides the student with the basics for furthering his or her professional and educational needs.

## Education and Training

The dental hygiene facility is located in the Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center. The state-of-the-art facilities and highly skilled faculty provide learning experiences that go above and beyond expectations. Graduates of this program are considered among the highest qualified for employment.





## Employment Outlook

Salaries, benefits, and job opportunities for licensed dental hygienists vary according to experience and geographic location. In 2023, the full-time annual, median salary in Texas was \$87,270, and job openings were projected to increase 9 % by the year 2031, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Individuals who are involved in the provision of dental services may be exposed to blood borne pathogens that may result in human disease.**

***Dental Studies Infection Control Policies & Procedures***

# MISSION

The mission of the TJC Dental Hygiene Program is to advance the mission of the college by providing a quality education that respects the individual, encourages student learning, and promotes lifelong advancement. It is the expectation that this program will meet the needs of the dental profession and those of the community by preparing students to be clinically competent, think critically, to utilize evidence-based decisions, to foster ethical principles and to meet the changing demands of oral health care.

# GOALS

The following goals are integral to accomplish the mission of the TJC Dental Hygiene Program:

- Prepare competent entry-level dental hygiene professionals who possess the knowledge, skills, professional values, and ethics to provide the dental hygiene process of care.
- Develop skills to advance the dental hygiene profession through lifelong learning.
- Serve as a resource for service activities that are essential to the public and to allied dental communities.
- To support the application of evidence-based decision-making skills to all aspects of dental hygiene practice.

# ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS

Tyler Junior College recognizes the unique cognitive, technical, and attitudinal aspects of the dental hygiene curriculum. Students must possess the skills and abilities that will allow them to successfully complete the course of study and receive the full benefit of the educational program.

The student must be able to meet or perform the following essential functions with or without accommodation.

## **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities**

- Ability to perceive events realistically, to think clearly and rationally, and to function appropriately in routine and stressful situations.
- Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information in a timely fashion. For example, the student must be able to synthesize knowledge and integrate the relevant aspects of a patient's history and examination findings to develop an effective treatment plan.
- Ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand spatial relationships of anatomical structures.
- Ability to think critically to determine the cause-effect relationships in clinical situations; evaluate patient or disease responses; synthesize data; and draw sound conclusions.

## **Visual Acuity**

- Ability to read small numbers on instruments.
- Ability to determine detail in small areas of the mouth varying from less than 5mm to several cm.
- Ability to read and comprehend text, numbers, and graphs displayed in print or on a monitor.
- Ability to apply depth perception to evaluate size, shape, and texture in small areas with minimal contrast.
- Ability to determine very slight color variations.
- Ability to perform safe dental care.

## Students must be able...

### Speaking Ability

- Ability to express verbally in a clear and distinct enough manner to enunciate dental terminology while wearing a face mask.
- Ability to express thoughts clearly.

### Motor Skills

- Ability to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and treatment to patients.
- Ability to directly operate foot controls and hand and mechanical dental hygiene instruments around the teeth and structures in the oral cavity using fine movements.
- Ability to perform palpation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers and procedures.
- Ability to transfer and position disabled patients and to physically restrain patients who lack motor control.
- Ability to position and reposition self around patient and chair in a sitting or standing position.
- Ability to coordinate both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and integrated use of the senses of touch and vision to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and treatment to patients as detailed above.
- Ability to safely and effectively perform procedures requiring manual dexterity.
- Ability to control clinical equipment and adjust instruments to safely perform clinical procedures.
- Ability to use dental hygiene instruments with light tactile sense and strong grasp for extended periods in a variety of motions.



### Adaptive Ability

- Ability to complete required tasks/functions under stressful conditions.
- Ability to perform with minimal supervision.
- Ability to interact appropriately with all members of the dental team, patients, and patient representatives (e.g. parents, guardians, family members, interpreters, etc.).



## Students must be able...

### English Proficiency

- Ability to read, write, speak, record, and report in English.
- Ability to comprehend written and oral directions given in English and the ability to carry them out.
- Ability to have conversations in English on the telephone and in person.

### Observation

- Ability to observe, which requires the functional use of vision, hearing, and somatic sensations.

### Communication

- Ability to communicate concisely, effectively, and sensitively with patients, and patient representatives (e.g. parents, guardians, family members, interpreters, etc.), as well as perceive nonverbal communications.
- Ability to communicate effectively and efficiently with other members of the dental team and health care community to convey information essential for safe and effective care.
- Ability to communicate effectively, including speech, language, reading, writing, and computer literacy.
- Ability to use auditory acuity to hear normal conversation and/or assess health needs.
- Ability to maintain clear, concise, and accurate clinical records and reports.

### Behavioral and Social Attributes

- Ability to fully utilize their intellectual abilities to include the exercise of good judgment and the prompt completion of all responsibilities with honesty and forthrightness.
- Ability to demonstrate attributes of empathy, integrity, and concern for others.
- Ability to develop mature, sensitive, empathetic, and effective relationships with patients from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
- Ability to critically evaluate performance, accept constructive criticism professionally and be responsible for improving performance.
- Ability to work within the context of a group or a team of peers.
- Ability to demonstrate intrapersonal coping skills.
- Ability to maintain a professional appearance and hygiene.
- Ability to be timely and dependable.
- Ability to demonstrate professionally ethical behavior, including the ability to comply with rules, regulations, professional Code of Ethics, and policies of the College and Affiliates.

# ACADEMIC CRITERIA

Only students accepted into the dental hygiene program may take any course with the DHYG prefix. After a student is accepted to the program, enrollment is necessary for two years to completion to be eligible to apply for licensure.

Students must earn a grade of 75 or higher in each DHYG course to progress to the next semester. Failure to maintain a 75 or better in any course will cause dismissal from the program.



# PROGRAM COSTS

## College Tuition and Fees

Check out the TJC website for a tuition and fees calculator.

<https://tjcreources.net/tjc-cost-calculator/>

## Additional Supply and Equipment Costs

Each semester, decisions are made to determine the number and type of supplies necessary for student success. Hence, the cost varies from one



semester to the next. In an attempt to prepare students for the costs that can be expected, an estimated cost list will be provided at the 1st Student Orientation. Currently the costs of the program supplies and equipment are roughly estimated at \$4000 each

year, totaling approximately \$8000. These supply and equipment costs include the cost of scrubs, central supplies, individual supplies, individual instruments and equipment, and the cost of licensure exams, BUT DO NOT include the cost of tuition and college fees, textbooks (class resources), room, board, or any living expenses.

# DEGREE PLAN

Tyler Junior College  
Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science  
Degree Plan

<b>Courses in this section MUST be completed before applying</b>		
CHEM 1406	Fundamentals of Chemistry OR 1405 Intro to Chemistry	4
BIOL 2401	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIOL 2402	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIOL 2420	Microbiology for Non-Science Majors	4
<b>Courses in this section SHOULD be completed before applying</b>		
ENGL 1301	Composition I	3
SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology	3
*ARTS 1301	Art Appreciation	3
PSYC 2301	Intro to Psychology OR PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth & Dev	3
SPCH 1315	Public Speaking OR SPCH 1321 Business & Professional Speaking	3
<b>Prerequisite Totals</b>		<b>31</b>
<b>Bonus Courses in this section SHOULD be completed before applying (to earn points)</b>		
HITT 1305	Medical Terminology	3
HPRS 1201	Intro to Health Professions	2
		<b>5</b>
<small>These 5 credits are not included in the total hours for the degree.</small>		
<b>DHYG Courses to be taken AFTER acceptance in program.</b>		
<b>1st Year Summer Semester</b>		
DHYG 1201	Orofacial Anatomy, Histology & Embryology	2
<b>1st Year Summer Semester Totals</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>1st Year Fall</b>		
DHYG 1207	General and Dental Nutrition	2
DHYG 1304	Dental Radiology	3
DHYG 1431	Preclinical Dental Hygiene	4
DHYG 1103	Preventive Dental Hygiene I	1
<b>1st Year Fall Semester Totals</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>1st Year Spring</b>		
DHYG 1339	General and Oral Pathology	3
DHYG 1215	Community Dentistry	2
DHYG 2201	Dental Hygiene Care I	2
DHYG 1260	Clinical Dental Hygiene	2
DHYG 2133	Preventive Dental Hygiene II	1
<b>1st Year Spring Semester Totals</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>2nd Year Fall</b>		
DHYG 1211	Periodontology	2
DHYG 1235	Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist	2
DHYG 2231	Dental Hygiene Care II	2
DHYG 2360	Clinical Dental Hygiene	3
<b>2nd Year Fall Semester Totals</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>2nd Year Spring</b>		
DHYG 1219	Dental Materials	2
DHYG 2153	Dental Hygiene Practice	1
DHYG 2362	Clinical Dental Hygiene	3
<b>2nd Year Semester Totals</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Program Totals</b>		<b>68</b>

\*A list of Creative Art/Language, Philosophy, and Culture course offerings can be found in the TJC Catalog or in Degree Works.

# ADMISSION PROCESS - FULLY ONLINE

## Minimum Requirements

- 4 pre-requisites science courses completed with a C or better
- Completion of HESI A2 Exam with a minimum score of 75% in reading and math
- Cumulative 2.5 GPA (minimum)
- Observe 2 dental hygienists in 2 separate dental offices for a minimum of 12 hours

## Summary of Steps to Apply

*Applications accepted online ONLY*

- Complete Pre-Requisite Courses
- Apply for general admission to TJC
- Submit official college transcripts to registrar's office (if necessary)
- Request evaluation of transcripts (if necessary)
- Download Pre-Admission Observation hours form and take to dental offices for completion. (form available online) - must be renewed each year
- Take HESI exam (1 re-take is allowed and recommended)
- Download and complete AAS Worksheet (points calculation)
- Download and complete Dental Hygiene Associate Degree Program Application (form available online)
- Download and complete the Verification of Good Standing Form (available online) ONLY if you were previously enrolled in a Nursing and/or Health Science program that you did NOT complete.
  - Note: If the completed Verification of Good Standing Form indicates that you are not eligible to continue in the program OR you are not eligible to reapply for admission to the program, you will be ineligible to apply to the TJC Dental Hygiene Program. However, if your previous enrollment occurred 5 or more years prior, you may submit a letter of appeal to the Department Chair, stating the reasons your application should be considered by the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee.
- Review and submit required forms through the online submission process.



# 8 Detailed Steps to Apply

## 1. Complete Prerequisite Courses

Grades in your prerequisite courses are very important. Striving toward high grades is strongly recommended to be a competitive applicant.

### *Science Prerequisite Courses*

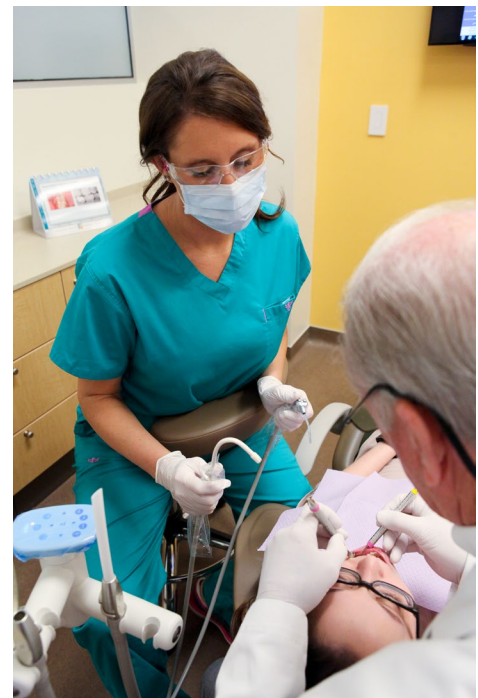
Complete all of the following **science prerequisites** with a grade of “C” or higher: (Only courses that transfer to TJC as listed):

- BIOL 2401 Anatomy & Physiology I;
- BIOL 2402 Anatomy & Physiology II;
- BIOL 2420 Microbiology;
- CHEM 1406 Introductory Chemistry - Allied Health Emphasis OR CHEM 1405 Introductory Chemistry I.

All science courses must have been taken within 5 years prior to admission. For the application period Dec 2024-Feb 2025, this means only sciences completed in or after the year 2020 will be considered.

If BIOL 2401 and/or BIOL 2402 were taken more than 5 years ago, [you can take a refresher course called SCIT 6003](#), for those two specific sciences only. Your original course grade in BIOL 2401 and BIOL 2402 will

be used for calculating points; taking SCIT 6003 only renews the date on the grades, it does not replace the grades. No bonus points are giving for sciences completed at TJC more than 5 years ago. The refresher course will not “renew” the bonus points, only the date.



Courses “in progress” are not considered. Only courses with a grade of “C” or above will be used to calculate admission points.

Reminder: All four **science pre-requisites** listed above must be completed before applying.

### **Degree Required Courses**

- ENGL 1301 *Composition I*
- PSYC 2301 *General Psychology* OR PSYC 2314 *Lifespan Growth & Development*
- SOCI 1301 *Introductory Sociology*
- SPCH 1315 *Public Speaking* OR SPCH 1321 *Business & Professional Communication*
- Any Creative Arts course (ARTS 1301, DANC 2303, DRAM 1310, MUSI 1306, MUSI 1310) OR Language, Philosophy & Culture course (DANC 1305, ENGL 2322, 2323, 2327, 2328, 2332, 2333; HIST 2311, 2312; HUMA 1301; PHIL 1301, 1304, 2306)

*The above courses are not required prior to applying. HOWEVER, they carry point value for the admission process, and you are encouraged to take these prior to applying to the program. Also, these must be completed to receive your degree.*

### **Bonus Courses (Optional)**

- HPRS 1201 *Intro to Health Professions*
- HITT 1305 *Medical Terminology*

The above bonus courses are not required but are helpful to build your points.

Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher (or hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college)

## **2. Apply for General Admission to TJC**

In order to apply to the AAS Dental Hygiene Program, you must have been admitted as a TJC student. Your application to TJC can be completed and

submitted online at <https://www.tjc.edu/future> . Before you apply to the AAS Dental Hygiene Program, you must meet the following criteria:

- accepted as a TJC student and have an A Number (student ID).
- at least 18 years of age on the date you submit the application.

### 3. Submit Official College Transcripts to Registrar's Office

**IF...** TJC is the **ONLY** college you have attended, this step does not need to be completed.

**IF...** you have been enrolled in any other college, you will need to submit official transcripts to the TJC registrar's office from every college you have attended.

**IF...** you have previously submitted a transcript and no additional course work was completed at that college since your submission, you do not need to resubmit.



**IF...** you previously submitted a transcript and have completed additional coursework you will need to submit an updated transcript to the registrar's office.

**Only** courses posted on your transcript will be considered. Courses that are “in progress” at the time of the submission will not count toward your points.



## 4. Complete a Transcript Evaluation Request

If TJC is the ONLY college you have attended, this step does not need to be completed.

If you have submitted official transcripts to the TJC registrar's office, from another college or submitted an updated transcript from another college you need to complete the evaluation request form.

<https://www.tjc.edu/info/20006/academics/26/transcripts/2> Please allow up to 6 weeks for the registrar's office to evaluate and post transcripts to Degree Works.

## 5. Download the Pre-Admission Observation Form

Download the Pre-Admission Observation Form and take it with you to the dental office where you observe. Ensure that you obtain the signature, RDH license number, and number of hours observed from the hygienist. You **must observe a dental hygienist** for a total of 12 hours. Hours can be completed in either 2 or 3 different dental offices. Each office observation must be a **minimum of 3 hours** or it will not be counted toward your requirement. Time spent observing a dentist or dental assistant will not count toward your requirement.

**You are not required to observe all the different procedures listed on the form, if those procedures are not scheduled during the day of your observation. Just observe as many as you can.**

Observation hours are only valid for one application period. Only observation hours completed on or after Feb 16, 2023, will be accepted for the application period beginning December 2024 and ending February 2025.

## 6. Take the HESI Exam (Schedule appointment online)

- All applicants are required to take the HESI A2 Entrance Exam.

- In order to take the HESI exam at TJC, you must visit the scheduling website ([tjctesting.setmore.com](http://tjctesting.setmore.com)) to request an appointment with the [TJC Testing Center](#).
- The applicant must bring a TJC ID with an ID number (A-Number).
- Prior to arriving at the testing center, Applicants should set up an Evolve/HESI account by going to <https://evolve.elsevier.com> . He or she will need to click on the Login link and then click on the Create Account link. **The student will need to write down the user ID and password he/she created.**
- All the required five sections of the HESI A2 Exam must be completed (only one retest allowed per application year). **It is the responsibility of the applicant to request the HESI A2 exam upon arrival at the testing center.**
- Test scores are good for two application periods which means a **HESI test dated February 16, 2023 or later** will be accepted for the application period beginning Dec 1, 2024 and ending Feb 1, 2025.



**The following five sections of the HESI test need to be completed:**

- Math (minimum score of 75% required)
- Reading (minimum score of 75% required)
- Vocabulary and General Knowledge
- Chemistry

- Anatomy & Physiology

The HESI exam is offered for dental hygiene applicants, by appointment only, anytime during the year. Please check with the [TJC Testing Center](#) for available hours and current pricing.

HESI A2 exam scores from other testing centers/colleges will be accepted. If you are completing the HESI A2 exam at another campus, please make sure to complete all of the above sections and follow testing protocol for that particular location.



## 7. Download and Complete the AAS Dental Hygiene Worksheet

Acceptance into the AAS Dental Hygiene Program is based on a combined point system of preliminary points and interview/writing skills points. Applicants will be invited for an interview/writing sample appointment if the total preliminary points rank them in the top 50 applicants, according to score.

Preliminary points are calculated based on the following criteria:

- Pre-requisite science courses (Anatomy & Physiology I, Anatomy & Physiology II, Microbiology, Chemistry) have the following points value:
  - A=11 points
  - B=8 points
  - C=5 points
  - D/F=0 points

One additional point will be given for each science course completed at TJC. If a science is repeated (within the 5-year time frame) for a higher

grade, one point will be deducted for retaking the course. If an equal or lesser grade is earned, there will be no point deduction for retaking.

- General education courses have the following point value (English, Psychology, Sociology, Speech, and Creative Arts or Language/Philosophy/Culture):
  - A or B = 2 points
  - C = 1 point
  - D/F = 0 points

There is no point deduction for retaking a general education course.

- Bonus courses (Medical Terminology, Introduction to Health Professions) have the following point value:
  - A or B = 1 point
  - C/D/F = 0 points

There is no point deduction for retaking a bonus course.

- The HESI A2 Entrance Exam has the following point value:
  - Composite score X 0.30 = total HESI points
- Residency within the Tyler Junior College District is worth 1 point (based on information collected by the TJC Registrar's office).
- Applicants who previously applied will receive 1 bonus point if the following criteria is met:
  - Applicant applied during the 2022-2023 application period and met all requirements for qualification.
  - Candidate has improved the pre-interview points from the previous application year by
    - retaking the HESI and earning a higher score,
    - retaking a science and earning a higher grade,
    - taking a bonus class,

- taking an additional class to increase points,
- completing an associate or bachelor's degree, OR
- current enrollment in and/or completion of the TJC CDA program.

\*Please note, a change in residency status will not qualify as an effort to improve points in this category.

- Applicants currently holding an associate degree or higher will receive 1 bonus point.
- Certified Dental Assistant points value:
  - Current enrollment in the spring semester of the TJC Certified Dental Assisting Program (accredited program only) = 2 points
- Current CDA License\* (copy of license must be submitted with application) = 4 points

*\* Note: No points will be awarded for an RDA license. You must have obtained a Certified Dental Assisting License to receive the points. This license is issued upon successful completion of all sections of the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exam. This is not the same as a state certification, it is a national certification. Please visit <https://www.danb.org/> for details about the CDA license.*

## **8. Complete Dental Hygiene Associate Degree Program Application**

The Dental Hygiene Associate Degree Program Application is available on the dental hygiene webpage. You will need to download and complete the application and save it as a PDF file.

## Review and Submit Application Packet - Online ONLY

*If you have ONLY attended TJC, make sure you have completed/uploaded the following steps:*

- ✓ I have applied to TJC and received my student ID number.
- ✓ I have completed the required pre-requisite science courses (2018 or later)
- ✓ I have completed observation hours Feb 16, 2022 or later (*Pre-admission Observation Form*), scanned and saved as a PDF file.
- ✓ I have taken the HESI exam, scanned or downloaded my scores and saved as a PDF file.
- ✓ I have taken the HESI exam a second time, scanned or downloaded my scores and saved as a PDF file. (optional but recommended)
- ✓ I have completed the *AAS Dental Hygiene Worksheet* (points calculation form) available on the website and saved as a PDF file.
- ✓ I have completed the *Dental Hygiene Associate Degree Program Application*, and saved as a PDF file.
- ✓ I have completed the *Verification of Good Standing Form* (ONLY if previously enrolled in a Nursing and/or Health Science program that was NOT completed).
- ✓ I have visited the TJC AAS Dental Hygiene website and clicked on the ***Application Submission Form*** where I answered the questions and uploaded all required documents online.

*If you have attended TJC AND/OR any other college, make sure you have completed/submitted the following steps:*

- ✓ I have completed the required pre-requisite science courses. (2018 or later)
- ✓ I have applied to TJC and received my student ID number.
- ✓ I have submitted official college transcripts to the registrar's office (only applies to applicants who have attended colleges OTHER than TJC).
- ✓ I have completed the transcript evaluation.
- ✓ I have completed observation hours Feb 16, 2022 or later (*Pre-admission Observation Form*), scanned and saved as a PDF file.
- ✓ I have taken the HESI exam, scanned or downloaded (from my personal Evolve account) my scores and saved as a PDF file.
- ✓ I have taken the HESI exam a second time, scanned or downloaded my scores and saved as a PDF file. (optional but recommended)
- ✓ I have completed the *AAS Dental Hygiene Worksheet* (points calculation form) available on the website and saved as a PDF file.
- ✓ I have completed the *Dental Hygiene Associate Degree Program Application*, and saved as a PDF file.
- ✓ I have completed the *Verification of Good Standing Form* (ONLY if previously enrolled in a Nursing and/or Health Science program that was NOT completed).
- ✓ I have visited the TJC AAS Dental Hygiene website and clicked on the ***Application Submission Form*** where I answered the questions and uploaded all required documents online.

# IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Healthcare Students must have all the following vaccinations before they may engage in course activities which will involve direct patient contact with potential exposure to blood or bodily fluids in educational, medical, or dental care facilities. Please do not include immunization records with the application.



- **Tetanus-Diphtheria Vaccine**

Students must show receipt of one dose of tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis vaccine (Tdap). In addition, one dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine must have been received within the last ten years. Td (tetanus-diphtheria vaccine) is an acceptable substitute, if Tdap vaccine is medically contraindicated.

- **Measles Vaccine**

Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of a measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968 (preferably MMR vaccine).

- **Mumps Vaccine**

Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of a mumps vaccine.

- **Rubella Vaccine**

Students must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of one dose of rubella vaccine.

- **Hepatitis B Vaccine**

Students are required to receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine prior to the start of direct patient care.

- **Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine**

Students are required to have received two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.

- **Influenza (Flu) Vaccine**

Students are required to have flu shots at the start of each flu season.

- **TB test**

Students must receive a negative TB skin test within one year of application to the program. If the skin test results in a positive reading, the student must provide a clear chest x-ray and lab report to Castle Branch for evaluation. This TB test will need to be repeated annually.

- **COVID 19 Vaccine**

Students are encouraged to obtain a COVID19 vaccine(s) prior to enrollment in clinical courses.

*Students offered a position in the dental hygiene program must meet the above immunizations requirements. AFTER a position is offered, Inability to meet these requirements could result in forfeiture of acceptance.*

# DRUG SCREEN AND BACKGROUND CHECK

All applicants that accept a position in the dental hygiene program will be required to submit to a background and drug screening through a third party. Applicants must have a clear background and a clear drug screening to be eligible for enrollment.

Substances tested:

- Amphetamines
- Barbiturate
- Benzodiazepines
- Cannabinoids
- Cocaine
- Methadone
- Methaqualone
- Opiates
- Phencyclidine
- Propoxyphene

Applicants who fail a criminal background check or drug screening will be notified that their application is denied.

- **Applicants will not be admitted to the AAS Dental Hygiene Program with a positive drug screening.**
- **Applicants will be advised that a criminal background may prohibit dental hygiene licensure by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners. If a criminal background is reported to the Department Chair, the applicant will be required to request a criminal history evaluation from the licensing agency.**

The student's name, immunization records, drug screen and criminal background information will be submitted and tracked through Complio, an online system used to track and screen for compliance. This information will be housed electronically. It is the responsibility of TJC to inform students of requirements prior to enrollment in this curriculum. This will give students prior notice and an opportunity to decline the acceptance offer before investing time and money in the class. In the event the student feels that an error has been made in the criminal background check, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the agency who conducts the screening.

***Applicants will not be admitted to the AAS Dental Hygiene Program with a positive drug screening. Applicants are advised that a criminal background may prohibit dental hygiene licensure by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners. If a criminal background is reported to the Department Chair, the applicant will be required to request a criminal history evaluation from the licensing agency.***



# CODA ACCREDITED DA GRADUATE – RULES FOR COURSE CREDIT

AAS Dental Hygiene students who have successfully completed a CODA accredited Dental Assisting program with an academic certification or associate degree within 2 years of applying to the Dental Hygiene program and who have passed all sections of the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exam may choose to pay a fee to receive “credit for prior learning” for the following two dental hygiene courses:

- DHYG 1304 – Dental Radiology.
- DHYG 1219 – Dental Materials.

Students choosing to receive “credit for prior learning” will be required to pay a single, one-time fee to the TJC registrar to receive credit for the two courses.

Students who earned a CDA and earned an academic certificate or associate degree from a CODA accredited program prior to the 2-year time frame will be required to successfully complete the two above mentioned DHYG courses to graduate from the TJC AAS Dental Hygiene program.

## Previous Enrollment in a Nursing or Health Science Program

If you have been enrolled in, but have not completed any Nursing or Health Science program



at TJC or any other college, you are **required** to submit the “Verification of Good Standing Form”. The form can be downloaded from the website. You will complete and sign the top section and forward the form to the Department Chair/Program Director of the program where you did not complete. You will ask the Chair or Director of that program to

complete the bottom section and return the form to you. You will submit the form with your application documents at the time you apply.

# INTERVIEW PROCESS

Applicants who rank in the top 50 according to preliminary admission points will be asked to participate in an interview process. This portion of the application will include an MMI (multiple mini interviews) style of interview. A date and time will be scheduled in March. **Applicants will be notified through official TJC email ONLY.**

In addition to participation in the MMI process, the top ranked applicants will be asked to submit a short writing sample onsite at the time of the interview.

## Possible Interview Criteria

- Professionalism
- Critical thinking
- Ethical decision making
- Interpersonal communication
- Leadership skills
- Commitment to team environment



## Selection Process

Total preliminary points will be calculated for each applicant and the 50 applicants with the highest points will be contacted **through official TJC email** with a scheduled appointment for an interview. The interview and writing sample will result in a maximum of 25 additional points. Once the interview points/writing points are calculated and added to the preliminary points, applicants will be ranked by total points. The 30 applicants with the highest total points will be considered for admission by the TJC Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee. Upon approval of the committee, they will be offered conditional acceptance in the program. The next 10 students, in ranking order, will be selected as alternates. If a position in the program becomes available, an alternate will be contacted (in ranking order) via phone to fill the position. The remaining applicants will be declined. Every applicant, no matter their status, will be notified via official TJC email.

## Confirmation Agreement

If you are offered a position in the program (via TJC email), a link to complete a confirmation agreement will be sent to you via email. You will be asked to pay a non-refundable \$100 deposit to hold your position. You must complete the online confirmation and upload a receipt of payment of the non-refundable deposit to hold your position in the program. The \$100 deposit will be applied to your supply costs, during the first fall semester of the program.



## Dental Hygiene Student Orientation

If you choose to accept a position in the dental hygiene program, you will be required to attend two mandatory orientations. One will be scheduled in late May or early June and the other will be scheduled in late summer prior to the start of the fall semester. Attendance is **mandatory** for both sessions.

