



Dental Hygiene Program Curriculum and Application

School of Allied Health

Thank you for your interest in the Dental Hygiene Program at Florida SouthWestern State College. The application for admission into the program is now completed online.

The Dental Hygiene Program is a limited-access admissions program. Applicants are selected on a competitive basis from an applicant pool based upon the attached “Criteria for Admissions” form.

For further information, please contact the Allied Health Program Advisor at (239) 489-9365, [FSW website](#) and/or refer to the attached information sheet/admission criteria for the program.

Program curriculum and admission criteria are subject to change.

Programs, activities and facilities of Florida SouthWestern State College are available to all on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status or national origin. The College is an equal access, equal opportunity employer. Questions pertaining to educational equity, equal opportunity or equal access should be addressed to the Director of Human Resources.

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS – Application for the Program will be available September 1, 2026, until December 15, 2026.

Revision: January 5, 2026

FSW Dental Hygiene Program Associate of Science Degree Information Sheet

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS – Application for the Program will be available September 1, 2026, until December 15, 2026.

1) ***What will the program prepare me to do?***

- The student will obtain instruction and experience in dental hygiene assessment and treatment planning. Program goals are to provide learning experience and clinical practice which ensures that each graduate is prepared for employment.

2) ***When are students admitted to the program?***

- Students are selected in March for the start of classes in the fall semester in late August of 2024. ***The application deadline for the school year 2027 is December 15, 2026.*** The applicant must have completed three of the following sciences classes: BSC 1093C or BSC1085C, BSC 1094C or BSC 1086C, MCB 2010C, Chemistry with the corresponding Chemistry Laboratory course completed and documented on a transcript by the records check appointment by January 15, 2027.

3) ***Is there selected admission to the program?***

- Yes, due to the number of applicants and the limitations of clinical space.

4) ***Does the program keep a “waiting list”?***

- No. Individuals not accepted for a class must re-apply to the program for the next year and are not given preference.

5) ***What is the minimum length of the program?***

- This two-year program is outlined in the Dental Hygiene Program Requirements on page 17. Other enrollment sequences are possible for the general education courses. However, Dental Hygiene core courses must be taken in the specified sequence.

6) ***Will I be participating in clinic or other health agencies as part of my course work?***

- Yes, beginning second term of the program. This will require reliable transportation.

7) ***Do I need a uniform?***

- Yes, as soon as pre-clinical work begins in the first semester.

8) ***What general education coursework is required in addition to the Dental Hygiene Core courses?***

- Chemistry and a Chemistry Lab Chemistry (*selected from the courses listed in the Associate of Arts Degree General Education Program Guide (AA), under chemistry*)
- Microbiology with Lab (MCB 2010C)
- Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab BSC 1093C or BSC 1085C
- Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab BSC 1094C or BSC 1086C
- English Composition (ENC 1101)
- Introduction to Sociology (SYG 1000)
- General Psychology (PSY 2012)
- Core Humanities – UPDATED REQUIREMENT
- Core Mathematics- UPDATED REQUIREMENT
- Civics Course – POS 2041 and/or AMH 2020
- Fundamentals of Speech (SPC 1017) or Introduction to Public Speaking (SPC 2608)
- It is advised, but not required that the general education co-requisite courses be completed as early as possible. However, co-requisite courses can be taken with the Dental Core Requirements.

9) ***Are there prerequisite courses for any of these courses?***

- Yes, BSC 1010/1010L, BSC 1093C or BSC 1085/BSC 1085L, Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab is a prerequisite for MCB 2010, Microbiology. **The applicant must have completed three of the following sciences classes: BSC 1093C or BSC 1085C, BSC 1094C or BSC 1086C, MCB 2010C, Chemistry with the corresponding Chemistry Laboratory course completed and documented on a transcript by January 15, 2027. IMPORTANT** – Points will not be awarded for repeated courses that have already earned a passing grade of a “C” or better. Please consult an advisor for more specific information.

10) ***Is an interview required?***

- The top **30** applicants with the highest number of Phase I points **will** be asked to appear for a mandatory program interview on Friday February 19, 2027, from (8-6 p.m.). The program interview format will include a writing sample and a series of

questions. The interview committee will evaluate the applicant's affective and written communication skills. A passing score of 25 points must be earned during the interview phase for your application to remain valid.

11) ***Are any of my previous college courses transferable to this program?***

- If you attended another college, formal transcripts must be sent to Florida SouthWestern State College's Admissions Office at the time you apply for admission. The Admission and Record Office are involved with transfer of basic college courses such as English or psychology, etc.
- If you attended another Dental Hygiene Program, a copy of your transcript will be evaluated for transfer by the Dental Hygiene Program Director. The program will also require other documentation such as a letter of good standing in the academic and clinical coursework, course syllabi and schedules to verify content, particularly for out-of-state students from the program director indicating eligibility to continue in the previous program. Only courses in which you earned a "C" or better are transferable.

12) ***What is the cost of the program?***

- Tuition is charged per credit hour taken. Florida residents pay \$113.36 per credit. Non-residents pay \$432.63 per credit. Additional costs include insurance, books, uniforms, association dues, license fees, instruments, and lab fees as they become applicable. The student is responsible for transportation to and from assigned clinics or health agencies for curriculum course work.

13) ***Can this curriculum be used to further advance my education towards a baccalaureate degree?***

- Yes, in selected universities depending upon their degree requirements. It is suggested that an applicant contact the senior institution to which he/she wishes to transfer for specifics.

14) ***At what time of day are classes offered?***

- Classes and clinical are held during the mornings and afternoons. Some classes may meet in the evenings. Clinic may be scheduled on Saturdays.

15) ***Must I take the courses in the sequence in which they are listed in the curriculum?***

- 16) Yes. In addition, each course must be passed with a grade of "C" or better before the student may advance in the program. All courses are offered only once a year during the

term they are shown in the curriculum. Advisement for course registration each semester is done through the program director.

17) ***Does the program offer job placement assistance?***

- Yes. Although the program cannot guarantee employment, the college does offer job placement assistance. Furthermore, a list of potential job opportunities is made available to dental hygiene students.

18) ***What salary range can I expect as a graduate?***

- A starting Dental Hygienist in the Southwest Florida area may earn approximately \$70,000-79,000/annually for full-time employment.

19) ***Is there an application fee?***

- The student must officially register and meet all College entrance requirements. In addition to the College application fee, the dental hygiene program requires a separate application fee of \$15.00 which is paid online when applying to the dental hygiene program. This fee must accompany the application. **All transcripts from previous institutions must be evaluated by the College for transfer before the applicant's application will be processed for the Phase I points in January of 2027.**

20) ***Are there any potential health risks in Dentistry?***

- The dental health-care professional can be exposed to infectious and communicable diseases that can lead to illness, disability, and loss of work time. In addition, patients, family members, and community contacts can become exposed and may become ill and lose productive time or suffer permanent after-effects. Through proper infection control procedures patients, dental personnel, and immunizations as required of all health professions students that may become exposed can be protected from infections.

21) ***How and when will I know if I have been admitted to the program?***

- Notification letters of the status of each applicant will be mailed or emailed no later than 5-6 weeks following the conclusion of Phase II of the selection process. Admission is on a full-time basis. Students completing a program interview, as part of the admissions process into the Dental Hygiene Program at Florida SouthWestern State College, are required to complete a **Criminal History Background Check and be required to complete drug testing for controlled substances**. These processes must be completed **before** acceptance in the Dental Hygiene Program.

22) **What part does the Criminal background Check play for my admission to either Program?**

- Each applicant is required to inform the Criminal Background Check Committee of any criminal charges on his/her record in any state or national jurisdiction upon submission of an application for enrollment to the program. This information needs to include an explanation of circumstances for possible review by the criminal background committee.
- Applicants are notified of the procedure to complete a background check and drug screen at the conclusion of the program interview. Background checks, fingerprinting, and drug screening are completed prior to admittance into the program.

Admission – An Equal Access Institution

1. Have graduated from high school or have scored at least 250 on General Education Testing and possess a General Education Development (GED) certificate.
2. Complete all admission requirements to FSW, including FSW application and testing. (Call the Admissions Office at 239-489-9361)
3. Possess a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better on college course work taken for credit.
4. Complete the online Dental Hygiene Program Application.
5. Pay the online \$15 fee as part of the program application procedure. The fee is required at the time the applicant submits their online application.
6. Complete a Criminal Background Check and drug screening as directed after the program interview.
7. Upon admission, submit a Student Health Report verifying overall health and physical capabilities to include required immunizations.

Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening

Applicants are required to complete a Criminal Background check and Drug screening as directed after the program interview and prior to acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program.

FDLE/FBI Background Screening for Application/Clinical/ Field Placement	05-30-2026
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Purpose:

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement initiated the VECHS program in 1999 after the Florida Legislature enacted section 943.0542 of the Florida Statutes (1999). This statute is amended based on the National Child Protection Act (NCPA). The federal guidelines for the NCPA offer DH-

further interpretations of the NCPA, along with mandates for states that choose to implement corresponding legislation and programs.

Level 1 and Level 2 Background checks:

- Level 1 and Level 2 Background Checks are terms used in Florida Statutes to convey the method of the criminal record check and the extent of the data searched; however, the terms may also refer to certain disqualifying offenses if specific statutes are used as reference.
- Level 1 and Level 2 are terms that pertain only to Florida and are not used by the FBI or other states. They are defined in Chapter 435, F.S., but are used elsewhere in the statute without definition and appear not to be associated with all of the provisions in Chapter 435.

* Level 1 generally refers to a state-only name-based check AND an employment history check.

* Level 2 generally refers to a state and national fingerprint-based check and consideration of disqualifying offenses and applies to those employees designated by law as holding positions of responsibility or trust. Section 435.04 mandates that Level 2 background security investigations be conducted on employees, defined as individuals required by law to be fingerprinted pursuant to Chapter 435.

It should be noted that the state and national criminal history databases can be searched for arrests, warrants, and other information about an individual; however, neither database can search for specific offenses on an individual's records.

NOTE: Certification and/or Licensure are requirements to practice in all programs FSW's School of Allied Health provides. If there are questions as to whether a student's criminal history will prevent or restrict their ability to obtain a license and/or certification in the School of Health Profession's programs, the student should discuss the matter with the Florida Department of Health and/or associated accrediting agency **BEFORE** applying to the program.

NOTE: Any use of a controlled substance without a prescription and/or marijuana (even if medically issued) will result in **DENIAL** of entry into FSW's SoAH Programs. Use of these substances during any phase of an associated program will result in an immediate **DISMISSAL** from the program.

Procedure:

- 1) Criminal background information released to a program will be used only to assist in making programmatic admission, continuation, and/or potential dismissal decisions.
- 2) If a background check identifies issues that may preclude admission, field experience, or clinical placement, the Program Director may request additional information from the student.

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- 3) Applicants are **NOT** required to disclose any criminal conviction expunged from the public record or a deferred adjudication that did not result in the entry of a conviction judgment.
- 4) Students with pending adjudication, charges, or convictions **WILL NOT** be admitted to the program.
- 5) Program admission, continuation, and/or potential dismissal are based on an applicant's plea of nolo contendere, a guilty plea, a plea agreement, and/or a conviction.
- 6) Based on an applicant's felony criminal convictions and all other criminal convictions (felony or misdemeanor) relating to crimes involving the following, students will be **DENIED** admission or continuation in the associated program.
 - a. physical assault
 - b. use of a dangerous weapon
 - c. possession of a controlled substance
 - d. more than one (1) DUI/DWI within the last three (3) years
 - e. sexual abuse or assault of any person
 - f. embezzlement, fraud, dishonesty
 - g. crimes against property, including robbery, burglary, and theft
- 7) Additionally, for misdemeanor offenses, the Director will review students exhibiting patterned behavior of criminal history on a case-by-case basis to decide whether admission to the program is in the best interest of Florida SouthWestern State College, the associated Program, and the community.
- 8) If a background check identifies issues that the applicant considers inaccurate or incomplete, *the applicant must address these concerns or issues with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) for resolution.* Florida SouthWestern State College is NOT responsible for rectifying any background inaccuracies on the accepted applicant's behalf.
- 9) All students must disclose any new arrests, criminal proceedings, and/or criminal convictions (felony or misdemeanor) while admitted and attending any School of Allied Health (SoAH) Program immediately.
- 10) FSW's SoAH Program Directors may deny admission into any Program based on their sole discretion and/or the following considerations:
 - a. The Director determines that admittance may jeopardize public health and safety.
 - b. The severity of criminal activity.
 - c. The amount of time that has elapsed since the crime was committed.
 - d. Criminal activity which involved violence to, or abuse of, another person.
 - e. The crime involved a minor or a person of diminished capacity.
 - f. Whether the applicant's actions and conduct since the crime occurred are consistent with holding a position of public trust.
 - g. Whether the applicant's criminal history reflects patterned behavior.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your School of Allied Health Advisor or the Director of your associated Program.

Health Record / Ability to Meet Technical Standards

A completed medical health form and self-assessment Program Technical Standards must also be submitted and approved by the Program Director prior to admission to clinical rotations. This health record will contain results from a physical examination and laboratory tests including immunization records. An updated health record verified by a licensed physician or designee must be submitted on a yearly basis before attending clinical courses.

Dental Hygiene students who do not meet the standards of good physical and mental health, as required by clinical facilities for safe patient care, may reapply and be considered for application to the Dental Hygiene Program after resolution of the health problem.

Additionally, student drug screens, criminal history reports, and medical records, when submitted, will become the property of Florida SouthWestern State College, and will not be available for copying or for use to meet the requirements of outside employers or other agencies/persons. Students who have stepped out of their program for six months or more must submit new records.

Appeal Process

If a review of a criminal background check or a medical health report deems an applicant or student ineligible for admission or continuation in the Dental Hygiene Program, an appeal can be filed. The College's published appeal process is to be followed as found in the current Catalog under "Student Rights and Responsibilities".

Career Information:

The dental hygienist is a licensed member of the dental health team, dedicated to helping patients maintain good oral health and preventing dental diseases and disorders. Although dental hygiene functions vary by law from state to state, some of the functions routinely performed by a dental hygienist include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Removal of calculus and plaque from above and below the gumline.
- Thorough examination of the teeth and oral structures, including soft tissue exam.
- Exposure, processing and interpretation of dental x-rays.
- Instructing patients in home oral health care procedures.
- Placement of temporary fillings.
- Dietary analysis and counseling.
- Application of cavity-preventing agents, such as fluoride and sealants.
- Working with special populations groups such as the elderly or physically handicapped.

Employment Outlook and Career Opportunities

Employment for dental hygienists is expected to grow through the next decade due to the growing awareness for preventative health care. Hygienists have a variety of career options and may seek employment in areas such as:

- Private dental offices
- Specialty dental offices
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Dental hygiene education
- Insurance
- Federal service
- Dental product sales
- Management and consulting
- Public health
- Research
- Public school system
- Foreign service

Suggested resources: [American Dental Association website](#) and/or [American Dental Hygienist Association](#).

Technical Acceptance Standards:

A Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW), Associate level Dental Hygiene student must be aware of the technical performance standards that are essential to complete the requirements in the dental hygiene program. The profession of Dental Hygiene is both academically and physically challenging. A student will be involved in direct patient care where it is essential to be able to perform academically in a safe, reliable and efficient manner in the classroom, laboratory and clinical environment.

The Dental Hygiene Program is committed to the principle of diversity. Admission to this program is open to all qualified applicants and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any Student requiring special accommodations or classroom modifications should contact the Office of Adaptive Services at Florida SouthWestern State College.

The purpose of these technical standards is to ensure that students are aware of the minimum skills that will allow them to function successfully in their dental hygiene core courses. Throughout the program curriculum, students acquire the foundation of knowledge, attitude, performance skills and behaviors that are necessary to function as a dental hygienist.

All students must be able to meet these minimum standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, for successful completion of degree requirements. The technical standards are:

Overview of Dental Hygiene Technical Standards

Table 1: Dental Hygiene Technical Performance Standards

Standard	Performance Statement/Essential Function(s)
Motor skills	<p>Performance Statement: A student must be able to demonstrate gross and fine motor abilities using both hands and feet to execute motor movements to provide general treatment of dental hygiene services and emergency care to patients. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Be independent in mobility to move quickly in and around the classroom, laboratory and the clinical treatment rooms. 2) Provide patient safety and well-being in positioning of dental chair, dental light and x-ray equipment. 3) Demonstrate proper ergonomic positions and be able to maneuver in small spaces as well as to stand or sit with a patient in the delivery of dental hygiene care services for extended time periods to exceed four hours. 4) Perform dental hygiene skills simultaneously with both eyes and hands using a combination of small and large dental equipment. 5) Maintain adequate strength to lift materials greater than 25 pounds and to assist with patient transfers into a dental chair. 6) Perform all expanded function duties as mandated by the Florida State Statues. 7) Frequently walk to and from the sterilization area, reception room, business office, x-ray and dental treatment rooms. 8) Successfully complete a CPR certification course to include AED training for an adult, child and infant. 9) Exercise fine motor control and possess excellent hand-eye coordination in the development of manual dexterity skills. 10) Have motor skills to manipulate instruments without injury to the patient or the patient's oral cavity.
Visual	<p>Performance Statement: A student must have sufficient visual acuity and perception to accurately observe and assess patient needs at a distance and at close range to ensure safe and effective clinical performance. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Receive information via visual observation for the assessment and evaluation of oral tissues to discern differences and variations in color, shape and general appearance between normal and abnormal, soft and hard tissues. 2) Observe and assess the patient's response to treatment, design individualized oral hygiene care plans and evaluate treatment outcomes. 3) View radiographs to determine quality and identify anatomy, pathology, and other pertinent materials for patient care and professional practice. 4) Identify and detect signs and symptoms of disease, recognize non-verbal body language exhibited from patients, identify physical wounds and possible oral and systemic infections.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Read and comprehend text, numbers and graphs. 6) Read control panels and equipment gauges accurately. 7) Display visual/spatial skills necessary for safe delivery of dental hygiene care services.
Tactile	<p>Performance Statement: A student must have sufficient tactile sensitivity with all digits of both hands to manipulate dental instruments to observe, palpate and collect assessment information. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Perform direct palpation techniques to examine the intra-oral and extra-oral soft tissues and to apply appropriate vital sign techniques to ensure safe delivery of dental hygiene care services. 2) Apply tactile sensitivity skills to properly manipulate dental instruments in the patient's mouth to detect calculus, recognize lesions and to evaluate clinical procedures. 3) Apply tactile sensitivity to collect assessment data to detect calculus, recognize lesions, identify disease and to evaluate clinical procedures. 4) Apply tactile sensitivity skills to manipulate hand and cavitron instruments safely with no harm or risk to the patient's oral cavity.
Hearing	<p>Performance Statement: A student must be able to hear and process information received through such interactions as media devices, verbal communication with patients, classmates, professors and other members of the healthcare team. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Interpret communication received from many people and correctly interpret their verbal/nonverbal communication in order to synthesize course information for use in a laboratory and/or a clinical setting. 2) Apply written and/or oral communication instructions to perform clinical and laboratory skill evaluations. 3) Engage in active listening with classmates, faculty and other individuals throughout all academic, clinical, laboratory and community course assignments. 4) Interact verbally to sufficiently perceive audible information received from a patient or guardian to acquire accurate medical and dental history assessment information. 5) Audibly discern whether a patient is experiencing signs and/or symptoms of a medical emergency. 6) Demonstrate sufficient and accurate auditory perception to receive verbal communication from patients and other members of the health team using stethoscopes, dental equipment, videos, fire alarms, etc.
Communication	<p>Performance Statement: A student must be able to communicate in English to engage in both oral and written formats with patients, physicians, faculty, health professionals and/or other community members. Communication can be conveyed through verbal and nonverbal expression, reading, writing, and computer skills. The Essential Function (s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Participate in course delivery such as online, in-class and group discussions to deliver and receive information to respond to questions from a variety of sources. 2) Demonstrate an understanding of basic English written grammar and spelling skills to accurately and legibly convey concepts in course

	<p>assignments and to prevent medical errors through documentation of the patient's medical and dental record.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Demonstrate and explain treatment options to include dental hygiene preventive procedures and dental disease to a patient and/or their caregiver in a manner that is appropriate for each patient to comprehend. 4) Recognize, respect and adapt to the physical and psychological needs of others. 5) Communicate with patient and faculty regarding patient care recommendations and provide referrals as deemed necessary for achieving optimum health. 6) Communicate utilizing proper English in both orally and in a written format. 7) Recognize voice volume, using a tone that promotes effective communication in the dissemination of information and verbal interactions with faculty, staff, patients and other students. 8) Identify and comply with HIPAA regulations to protect dissemination of Personal Health Information (PHI).
Interpersonal	<p>Performance Statement: A student must be able to relate to other people from a variety of diverse social, emotional, intellectual and cultural backgrounds using observation skills and effective verbal communication. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Engage with others to incorporate an attitude that promotes a team-oriented environment. 2) Develop compassion and concern for others to include classmates, staff, patients and faculty. 3) Develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with individuals and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. 4) Acquire the ability to tolerate physical and emotional stress and to maintain poise and flexibility in stressful situations. 5) Deliver dental hygiene services to a patient that requires one to work within a close proximity with another individual. 6) Demonstrate an ethical behavior that promotes integrity and professionalism throughout one's academic endeavors.
Self-Care	<p>Performance Statement: A student must be able demonstrate a professional demeanor that promotes general good health, emotional stability and self-care in the delivery of dental hygiene patient care services always in an academic, laboratory and/or clinical setting. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Demonstrate safety and wellness behaviors in the classroom, laboratory and clinical environments. 2) Comply with industry health and safety standards, OSHA guidelines, and be familiar with dental product standards as communicated on safety data forms. 3) Demonstrate a stable emotional health that enables one to fully use one's intellectual abilities to complete all responsibilities required in the delivery of dental hygiene patient care services.
Critical Thinking	Performance Statement:

	<p>A student must be able to demonstrate critical thinking sufficient to deliver dental hygiene patient care services and to respond appropriately in the event of any medical emergency. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Apply critical thinking processes to solve work related problems in the classroom and in various laboratory and clinical settings. 2) Promote life-long learning through the process of self-evaluation. 3) Develop intellectual, conceptual and critical thinking abilities to access, analyze, reason and synthesize data to draw sound conclusions and make clinical decisions. 4) Sequence information, plan/control activities for others, identify cause-effect relationships, problem solve as well as obtain, interpret, and document information.
<p>Organizational Skills</p>	<p>Performance Statement: A student must be able to work in an environment that requires one to multi-task in an academic, clinical and/or laboratory setting to effectively and efficiently perform dental hygiene skills and procedures in a logical, sequential and orderly manner. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Coordinate a schedule that permits one to organize their academic and personal commitments effectively and efficiently in order to facilitate an environment that enables the student to learn and be successful in completing course and program requirements. 2) Be a self-starter to work effectively without prompting from others, work independently on projects and seek to exceed the minimum required. 3) Reserve approximately 25-30 additional hours/week to devote to studying course concepts beyond the required attendance for classroom, laboratory and clinical courses.
<p>Intellectual Ability</p>	<p>Performance Statement: A student must have the capacity to read, write, speak and understand English to critically think, see connections between concepts, problem solve and then recall data and concepts to recognize new information. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Comprehend and assimilate verbal and written course materials in order to transfer the theoretical concepts in a clinical environment. 2) Interpret, integrate, analyze and synthesize patient data to provide evidenced-based care in the delivery of dental hygiene care services. 3) Recall and memorize information to perform simple and repetitive tasks in a laboratory and/or a clinical setting. 4) Learn to adapt to a variety of different personalities and any given problem. 5) Implement communication strategies to resolve conflicts and/or to solve a problem. 6) Articulate ideas, dissect words and understand new words that one has yet to learn. 7) Assimilate information to use proper punctuation, grammar and spelling with both written and oral communication assignments as required in the classroom, laboratory and clinical settings. 8) Interpret verbal and written instructions to effectively and efficiently perform dental hygiene competencies in a laboratory and/or a clinical setting. 9) Respect and comply with program policies and procedures.

	<p>10) Address concerns or problems in a professional and timely manner.</p> <p>11) Develop the ability to reason, analyze, problem-solve, critically think and self-evaluate in a professional career that focuses on being a life-long learner.</p>
<p>Commitment to Learning</p>	<p>Performance Statement: A student must engage in scholarly activity to develop the skills necessary to become a life-long learner and to consistently demonstrate a professional attitude, and respect program policies and procedures. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Initiate and motivate oneself to review media, course learning activities and reading assignments on a weekly basis before each scheduled course meeting. 2) Prepare for course evaluations on a weekly basis to increase success with individual course assignments. 3) Demonstrate attentive behavior in all classroom, laboratory and clinical environments. 4) Submit course assignments in a timely manner prior to the published deadline. 5) Maintain academic integrity through the submission of one’s own work on all written and oral communication assignments throughout the program. 6) Avoid engaging in behaviors consistent with plagiarism and/or cheating. 7) Demonstrate professional behavior by arriving 20-30 minutes prior to each classroom, laboratory and clinical assignment. 8) Research additional course materials to enhance one’s understanding of concepts presented in the classroom and/or clinical setting. 9) Engage in research activities to enhance one’s knowledge in the delivery of evidence-based dental hygiene services.
<p>Behavioral/ Social/Professional Skills</p>	<p>Performance Statement: A student must be able to display the psychological health and appropriate affective behaviors to interact with their peers, faculty and the community at large to provide dental hygiene patient care services safely in all surroundings associated with the academic, laboratory and/or clinical environments. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Demonstrate respect and a caring attitude towards all patients, peers and faculty. 2) Demonstrate respect for diversity and differences in other cultures. 3) Function effectively under stress. 4) Perform in an environment where one can deliver safe dental hygiene care with multiple interruptions, distractions and/or unexpected needs of a patient. 5) Respond calmly, efficiently and quickly to the needs of the patient in a clinical environment. 6) Adapt to the academic rigors of course requirements. 7) Recognize and discuss constructive feedback provided on written and oral communication assignments designed to enhance performance skills in the delivery of dental hygiene services in an efficient and effective manner. 8) Incorporate time management tools to meet course and program deadlines.

	9) Adhere to program rules and guidelines and abide by the rules of the College.
Computer Literacy	<p>Performance Statement: The student must be able to send and retrieve information from a variety of electronic formats. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Navigate efficiently and effectively within the Colleges' Learning Module System (LMS) and the Dental Hygiene Clinic computer software program.
Occupational Exposure	<p>Performance Statement: The dental hygiene student must be immunized to prevent the spread of communicable diseases and practice protocols to ensure patient safety. The Essential Function(s) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Obtain and maintain required health immunizations throughout the program. 2) Practice safe clinical and laboratory protocols to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. 3) Maintain current CPR with AED training for a health care provider.

The applicant must have completed three of the following sciences classes: BSC 1093C and/or BSC 1085C, BSC 1094C and/or BSC 1086C, MCB 2010C, Chemistry with corresponding Chemistry Laboratory course completed and documented on a transcript by January 15, 2027.

Dental Hygiene Program Curriculum Sequence

Summer B – Freshman

Course Number	Title	Credits
MCB 2010C	Microbiology w/Lab	4
BSC 1093C and/or BSC 1085C	A&P I w/Lab	4
ENC 1101	Composition	3
Total		11

Summer C - Freshman

Course Number	Title	Credits
DEH 2804	Dental Hygiene III	2
DEH 2804L	Dental Hygiene III Clinic	5
SPC 1017 and/or SPC2608	Fundamentals of Speech or Intro to Public Speaking	3
Total		10

Fall Term – Freshman

Course Number	Title	Credits
DES 1020C	Dental Anatomy	2
DES 1100C	Dental Materials	2
DEH 1130	Oral Histology & Embry	2
DEH 1002	Dental Hygiene I	2
DEH 1002L	Dental Hygiene I Clinic	3
CHM	Chemistry Lecture w/lab	4
Total		15

Fall Term – Sophomore

Course Number	Title	Credits
DEH 2806	Dental Hygiene IV	2
DEH 2806L	Dental Hygiene IV Clinic	5
DEH 2400	Gen. & Oral Pathology	2
DEH 2702	Community Dental Hlth	2
DEH 2702L	Comm. Dental Hlth Lab	1
MATH	Core Math	3
Total		15

Spring Term - Freshman

Course Number	Title	Credits
DES 1200C	Dental Radiology	2
DEH 1602	Periodontics	2
DEH 2300	Pharmacology	2
DEH 1802L	Dental Hygiene II	2
DEH 1802L	Dental Hygiene II Clinic	3
BSC 1094C or BSC 1086C	A&P II w/Lab	4
Total		15

Spring Term – Sophomore

Course Number	Title	Credits
DEH 2808	Dental Hygiene V	2
DEH 2808L	Dental Hygiene V Clinic	5
DEH 2930	Seminar	1
DES 2832C	Expanded Functions	2
SYG	Sociology	3
HUM	Core Humanities	3
Total		16

Summer A – Freshman

Course Number	Title	Credits
PSY 2012	Psychology	3
CIVIC Course	POS 2041 and/or AMH 2020	3
Total		6

Program Total Credit Hours

Year	Credit Hours
First Year	47
Second Year	41
Total	88

Approximate Costs for Dental Hygiene Program as of January 2026

Dental Hygiene, AS Degree (88 credits)

Table 2: Dental Hygiene AS Degree Program Costs

Description	In-State	Out of State
Dental Hygiene Program Application Fee	15.00	15.00
Physical Exam - Cost Unknown		
TB Test		
Hepatitis		
Tetanus Shot		
Proof of Health Insurance is required throughout the program	Varies w/plan	Varies w/plan
Application Costs	15.00	15.00
Criminal Background/Drug Screen - Admission and Year 2	208.00	208.00
Basic Life Support Provider Certification Course	72.00	72.00
Hu-Friedy (Vendor) - Dental Instruments	1100.00	1100.00
Atlanta Dental(Vendor)- Supplies and small equipment	2500.95	2500.95
Uniform- 2 sets, shoes, stethoscope/BP cuff, safety glasses	275.00	275.00
Dental Hygiene Association Dues - Admission and Year 2	130.00	130.00
Instructional Materials	4385.25	4385.25
Textbooks - Year 1	610.00	610.00
Textbooks - Year 2	300.00	300.00
Textbooks	910.00	910.00
Tuition 47 credits (Year 1)	4987.84	20766.24
Tuition 41 credits (Year 2)	4534.40	17305.20
Tuition	9522.24	38071.44
DES 1020C - Dental Anatomy	410.00	410.00
DES 1100C - Dental Materials	410.00	410.00
DES 2832C - Expanded Functions	410.00	410.00
DEH 1002L - Dental Hygiene I Preclinic	700.00	700.00
DEH 1802L - Dental Hygiene II Clinic	700.00	700.00
DEH 2804L - Dental Hygiene III Clinic	700.00	700.00
DEH 2806L - Dental Hygiene IV Clinic	700.00	700.00
DEH 2808L - Dental Hygiene V Clinic	700.00	700.00
DEH 2702L - Community Dental Health Lab	410.00	410.00
DES 1200C - Dental Radiology	700.00	700.00
Course/Lab Fees	5840.00	5850.00
FSW Graduation Application Fee	0.00	0.00
National Board Exam Fee	550.00	550.00
Clinical Dental Hygiene Examination	1200.00	1200.00
Florida Law Examination	225.00	225.00
Florida Application for Licensure	100.00	100.00
Florida Local Anesthesia Fee	35.00	35.00
Hotel Costs for NBDHE & Clinical board examination	300.00	300.00
Graduation Picture	30.00	30.00
Graduation and Credentialing Examinations	2440.00	2440.00
Dental Hygiene Cost of Attendance	23,112.49	51,661.69

Tuition and instrument costs are subject to change yearly.

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Florida Southwestern State College

Dental Hygiene Program - Criteria for Admissions

Admission into the Dental Hygiene Program is a two-phase process. Phase I evaluates applicants according to the number of points earned through: cumulative grade point average, math/science grade point average and co-requisite points by the application deadline of December 15, 2026. Courses not completed by the end of the fall semester are not considered. Phase II evaluates the affective skills of applicants using an interview format. The top 30 candidates with the highest Phase I points are interviewed. Those with the highest total points from Phases I and II are placed in the program in rank order.

The applicant must have completed three of the following sciences classes: BSC 1093C or BSC 1085C, BSC 1094C or BSC 1086C, MCB 2010C, CHM/CHM Lab completed and documented on a transcript by January 15, 2027. Points will not be awarded for repeated courses that have already earned a passing grade of a “C” or better.

Phase I: Maximum Points 60

Overall GPA	Points	Math/Science GPA	Points	Co-requisite Course	Points
4.00-3.90	20	4.00-3.90	25	BSC 1093C or BSC 1085C	2
3.89-3.80	19	3.89-3.80	24	BSC 1094C or BSC 1086C	2
3.79-3.70	18	3.79-3.70	23	Math Requirement	2
3.69-3.60	17	3.69-3.60	22	CHM Requirement	2
3.59-3.50	16	3.59-3.50	21	CHM Lab Requirement	2
3.49-3.40	15	3.49-3.40	20	MCB 2010C	2
3.39-3.30	14	3.39-3.30	19	SYG 1000	0.5
3.29-3.20	13	3.29-3.20	18	Humanities	0.5
3.19-3.10	12	3.19-3.10	17	ENC 1101	0.5
3.09-3.00	11	3.09-3.00	16	PSY 2012	0.5
2.99-2.90	10	2.99-2.90	15	SPC 1107 or SPC 2608	0.5
2.89-2.80	09	2.89-2.80	14	POS 2041 and/or AMH 2020	0.5
2.79-2.70	08	2.79-2.70	13	Three Science Courses Met	Y or N
2.69-2.60	07	2.69-2.60	12		
2.59-2.50	06	2.59-2.50	11		
2.49-2.40	05	2.49-2.40	10		
2.39-2.30	04	2.39-2.30	09		
2.29-2.20	03	2.29-2.20	08		
2.19-2.10	02	2.19-2.10	07		
2.09-2.00	01	2.09-2.00	06		
<2.00	00	<2.00	00		

Overall Math/Science GPA points are based on college level credits. Transfer students must have their transcripts evaluated by the College before awarding points in Phase I. For any courses which did not transfer, the applicant may elect to submit a credit review request. The Credit Review form is located on the [FSW Registrar’s website](#).

Phase II: Maximum Points 60

A mandatory program interview will be required for the top 30 candidates with the most points in Phase I on Friday, February 19, 2027 (8-6 p.m.). The program interview format will include a writing sample and a series of questions. The interview committee will evaluate the applicant's affective and written communication skills. The 18 applicants with the most points from Phase I & II will be selected.

OVERALL GPA POINTS:		PHASE I POINTS:	
MATH/SCIENCE GPA POINTS:		PHASE II POINTS:	
CO-Requisites:		PHASE I/II Points Earned:	

DENLEE

FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE

Dental Hygiene Program

8099 College Parkway

Fort Myers, FL 33919

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