

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
REGARDING
DENTAL HYGIENE**

WHAT DO DENTAL HYGIENISTS DO?

- Perform prophylaxis (clean teeth)
- Administer fluoride
- Provide patient education and nutritional counseling
- Expose, process, and mount radiographs
- Place sealants
- Perform a variety of intraoral expanded functions
- Fabricate mouthguards
- Polish amalgam restorations
- Work as members of the dental health team
- Perform basic laboratory procedures

WHERE DO DENTAL HYGIENISTS WORK?

- Private dental offices
- Group practices
- Hospitals
- Dental clinics
- Insurance companies
- Dental suppliers
- Dental manufacturing companies
- Armed services
- Educational institutions
- Public health offices

WHAT IS THE EMPLOYMENT FORECAST FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS?

- The current job market is stable and future projections indicate an continued high demand for hygiene services.

ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS?

- Yes. Dental hygienists have become office managers, educators, researchers, and dentists. There are also educational opportunities available for dental hygienists who wish to obtain certificates or degrees beyond the associate degree level. Credits from the Dental Hygiene Program transfer into the Bachelor of Science in Health Science on-line degree program with UMDNJ and Thomas Edison State College (TESC).

WHAT ARE DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS?

- Interest in science
- Understanding of the human body in health and disease
- Ability to communicate effectively with others
- Manual dexterity
- Desire for continual learning
- Ability to utilize problem-solving skills
- Concern for others
- Team player

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A CAREER IN DENTAL HYGIENE?

- Opportunities for career advancement
- Gainful employment
- High hourly wages
- Good working environment
- Flexible hours
- Health care delivery team member
- Ability to help others

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE SALARY FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS?

- Most dental hygienists may command a minimum hourly wage of \$38 upon graduation. Most employers offer uniform allowances, reimbursement for continuing education and professional dues, health benefits, and pension plans.

WHERE ARE THE DENTAL HYGIENE CLASSES OFFERED?

- General education classes are offered by Brookdale Community College, Essex County College, Raritan Valley Community College Thomas Edison State College and Union County College. Professional coursework is offered on both the Scotch Plains and Newark campuses of the University of Medicine and Dentistry, School of Health Related Professions and the New Jersey Dental School (NJDS).

IN ADDITION TO TUITION AND LABORATORY FEES, ARE THERE OTHER STUDENT EXPENSES?

- All students are required to purchase uniforms and textbooks, and lease instruments and supplies. Students are also responsible for fees for parking, professional meetings and licensing examinations. It is also strongly recommended that students apply for membership in their