



DARTON COLLEGE OF
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Health Sciences Division

Dental Hygiene Application Packet

University System of Georgia • An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution

Revised: January 2019

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Dental Hygiene Program at Albany State University's Darton College of Health Professions. Please note the DH program has a selective admissions process, therefore due to the competitive nature, careful preparation of the application and all requirements is highly recommended.

The DH program is made up of 2 phases: (1) the pre-professional phase and (2) the professional phase. The pre-professional phase is considered the time required to complete prerequisite coursework, DH core curriculum, and application requirements for the program. While in the *pre-professional* phase, students at ASU's Darton College of Health Professions and students transferring from another institution should list the degree of Health Science as the primary major with pre-DH listed as the secondary major. Transfer students should refer all questions concerning *transfer credit equivalency* of courses to the Registrar's office (229-500-2035) to make sure the courses they wish to transfer to ASU are equivalent to the courses required for the DH program. After the student has applied and been selected to the *professional* phase, the primary major will then be changed to the professional phase of the DH program.

The DH program admits one class of 24 students per year that begins each fall semester. The deadline to apply is **June 1** of the year the student wishes to enter the professional phase. The professional phase is completed over a time of 5-semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Spring) with the student graduating in May of the second Spring semester. Upon successful completion of the five-semester program (including one summer of study), students will be eligible to take the national written examination, and a state or regional clinical examination. Upon passing these examinations and receiving licensure, graduates will then be qualified for employment in private dental offices, hospitals, military dental clinics, local or state health departments, or may transfer the A.S. in Dental Hygiene toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene.

Understanding that the deadline of June 1 occurs during the summer semester prior to the fall semester start date, a student may still submit an application to the program even though they have prerequisite coursework to be completed during the spring semester. This applies only to those that are enrolled or intend to enroll in coursework that will complete all requirements during the spring semester before the fall semester that the professional phase begins.

Please note that due to the competitive nature of the application process and the high volume of applicants, taking the prerequisite coursework, as well as meeting all of the minimum requirements, does not guarantee acceptance into the professional phase of the program.

Tammy C. Deese, RDH, BSDH, MEd
Program Director
Dental Hygiene Program
Darton College of Health Professions
Albany State University West Campus
229-500-2236

ADMISSION CRITERIA

To be considered for admission to the Dental Hygiene program, the applicant must:

1. Be admitted to Albany State University.

- [Click here to apply to the University.](#)
- Declare Health Science as your primary major and Pre-Dental Hygiene as the secondary major.
- Please do not send the ASU application or the \$25 application fee to the DH Program. The two application processes are separate and no additional fee is required when submitting the DH Program application.
- [Click here for additional university admission requirements.](#)
- For transfer students, official transcripts must be sent to the ASU Registrar's Office and must be received by the June 1 deadline.
- Note that admission to the college **does not** ensure admission to the DH program.

2. Submit the completed DH application packet and requirements by the June 1 deadline.

- The student must complete a Dental Hygiene Application and all required forms. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all application material has been completed by utilizing the **checklist** at the end of the application.
- Any submitted incomplete applications will not be given full considerations.

3. Observation Hours

- Must complete a minimum of **24** observational hours in two separate general dentist office locations.
- The hours must be documented and verified/signed by a dentist or registered dental hygienist.
- Observation hours should be spent observing a registered dental hygienist (RDH) performing direct patient care.
- An Observational Hours Form is located within the application packet.
- You may observe more than the required 24 hours, but all hours must be verified.
- Observation hours are considered applicable for a period of two years.

4. Essay

- Must include a hand written essay explaining why you have chosen DH as a career and why you would be an asset to the profession. (no required length for the essay)

5. TEAS Testing

- Include an unofficial copy of your TEAS Score Report
- [TEAS information & registration through ATI testing can be found by clicking here.](#)
- Registration and fees for testing are the responsibility of the applicant.
- TEAS scores are considered applicable for a period of two years.

6. Dental Hygiene Admission Orientation

- Students will be required to sign an acknowledgement form stating he/she will have to attend the mandatory Dental Hygiene Admission Orientation. This will be offered late summer only for those accepted into the professional phase. The orientation will be held on the ASU West campus and will be available via internet viewing for students more than 60 miles away from campus only. While internet viewing will be available, attendance is encouraged as a tour of the dental hygiene clinic will be included in the orientation.

7. Completion of courses required for program admission.

- See below for a complete list of required DH courses that are required for program admission.
- A minimum of a 2.5 GPA on DH **courses required for program admission** is mandatory.
- While it is strongly advised that all general education courses be completed prior to application to the professional phase of the program, it is not mandatory. Only the following courses **MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO PROGRAM ADMISSION FOR FALL SEMESTER**:

- [MATH 1111](#); [BIOL 1100K](#) OR [BIOL 2411K](#) and [BIOL 2412K](#); [CHEM 1151K](#) OR [BIOL 2211K](#).
- Science courses must not be older than 10 years at the time of program application.
- The courses required for program admission must be completed or in progress for spring semester of the year of application.
- ALL courses required for program admission must be passed with a grade of C or better.
- Potential students should be advised that while a “C” is an acceptable passing grade for general education courses, too many “C’s” will not achieve the required 2.5 GPA of general education core curriculum for dental hygiene.
- The Dental Hygiene GPA is calculated strictly on required DH courses required for program admission.
- All course attempts will be calculated in the GPA for competitive admission.
- Students who have completed all of the courses required for program admission will likely have higher scores in the competitive admission process.

DH PROGRAM: Pre-Professional (Course Required for Program Admission) and Professional Phase
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While in the pre-professional phase, a student shall work towards the following DH core curriculum:

Course	credit hours
ASU 1101 First Year Experience	1
ENGL 1101	3
Humanities Elective (ART 1100, MUSC 1100, or THEA 1100)	3
* MATH 1111 (or higher)	3
COMM 1000	2
**BIOL 1100K	4
*CHEM 1151K	4
SOCI 1101	3
*BIOL 2211K	4
PSYC 1101	3
POLS 1101	3

**BIOL 1100K, MATH 1111, and EITHER CHEM 1151K or BIOL 2211K must be taken prior to acceptance into the program and are considered pre-requisites. BOTH CHEM 1151 K and BIOL 2211K are required for degree completion.*

***Although BIOL 1100K is acceptable, BIOL 2411K & BIOL 2412K series may be taken in lieu. BIOL 1100K may not transfer to other institutions or career programs.*

After acceptance into the program, the student will complete the following DHYG professional coursework as noted below:

Fall Semester	credit hours
DHYG 1101 Orofacial Anatomy	4
DHYG 1121 Dental Hygiene Lecture I	3
DHYG 1131 Dental Hygiene Clinic I	2
Spring Semester	
DHYG 1110 Nutrition	1
DHYG 1114 Radiology	3
DHYG 1122 Dental Hygiene Lecture II	2
DHYG 1132 Dental Hygiene Clinic II	3
DHGY 2100 Periodontics	2
Summer Semester	
DHYG 1133 Dental Hygiene Clinic III	2
DHYG 2550 Dental Specialties & Materials	2
Fall Semester	
DHYG 2150 Pharmacology	2
DHYG 2210 Dental Hygiene Lecture IV	1
DHYG 2250 General and Oral Pathology	3

DHYG 2310 Dental Hygiene Clinic IV	
Spring Semester	
DHYG 2220 Dental Hygiene Lecture V	1
DHYG 2320 Dental Hygiene Clinic V	4
DHYG 2400 Community Dental Health	4

SELECTION PROCESS

After the June 1 deadline, the DH Selection Committee reviews and scores each application. Please do not call to inquire about the status of an application. The DH Program Director or faculty/staff will not return calls or emails regarding the status of an application (with the exception being after July 15th and the applicant never received a letter). Therefore, if you wish to know the application was received, please send the application as certified mail so that you receive a confirmation from the postal service that it was delivered or hand-deliver the application.

Scoring is based on the following criteria: *DH core GPA, the number of hours observed in dental hygiene settings, the hand written essay, the completion status & GPA of courses required for program admission, number of completed DH core classes, possession of previous college degree, and the results of the TEAS exam.*

After applications are reviewed and scored, the top 24 applicants will be selected. Correspondence of acceptance or regret will be made via US Postal Service and should be postmarked no later than **July 15**. Instructions for acceptance will be included. The ASU DH program does not utilize a waiting list and those denied acceptance must reapply the following year.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Mission: The ASU Darton College of Health Professions Dental Hygiene Program strives to graduate students who will be able to:

- Competently and ethically perform those functions delegated to the dental hygienist by the practice act of the State of Georgia.
- Contribute to the improvement of the oral health status of society by providing instructions to diverse populations in a variety of settings.
- Seek professional growth and excellence throughout their careers, incorporating advances in scientific concepts to address the changing needs of society.

Degree: Upon successful completion of the program, students will earn an Associate of Science degree and will be academically eligible to sit for licensure by examination.

Accreditation: The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and has been granted the accreditation status of approval. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

ASU Darton College of Health Professions, in compliance with Federal law, does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, handicap, sex, religion, or age in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

The faculty of the Dental Hygiene program acknowledges Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and PL 103-336, The **Americans with Disabilities Act** and will consider for admission, progression, and graduation candidates who demonstrate the ability to perform the essential abilities listed below. These standards are admission guidelines and are subject to continuing revision and improvement.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

To progress successfully through the curriculum and function as a practicing dental hygienist after graduation, the individual must have:

- Visual acuity with or without corrective lenses to read an instrument calibrated in mm and to detect subtle dental stains;
- Hearing with or without auditory aids to measure blood pressure using an aneroid sphygmomanometer and to obtain a medical/dental history by interview;
- Physical ability to operate equipment (unit, stool, x-ray machine, etc.)
- Manual dexterity to perform the fine motor functions associated with intra-oral instrumentation.

LEGAL LIMITATIONS

Individuals who have a criminal record may not be eligible for licensure. Therefore, it is recommended that he or she contact the dental board in the state where he or she plans to seek licensure to verify eligibility for licensure.

[Click here for the GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY](#)

FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid is available for students who qualify.

**Albany State University
Darton College of Health Professions
Financial Aid Department**

Contact Information:

Telephone: (229) 500-2020

E-mail Address: ifinaid@asurams.edu

Office Location: Student Center 1150 (C Building 1150)
2400 Gillionville Road, Albany, GA 31707

Also, visit the **ADHA (American Dental Hygiene Association)** for information regarding scholarships and financial aid: <http://www.adha.org/>

COSTS (subject to change)

In addition to your tuition fees, the following list is a "ballpark" of your estimated expenses for the dental hygiene program at Albany State University:

Books	\$ 1,000.00
Instruments & Clinic Supplies	\$ 2,500.00
Uniforms	\$ 225.00
Shoes	\$ 75.00
Liability Insurance	\$ 39.00
HBV (Hepatitis-B Vaccinations) & Titer	\$ 200.00
SADHA Dues	\$ 130.00
Dental Hygiene National Board Exam	\$ 440.00
Central Regional Dental Testing Services	\$ 1,350.00
State of Georgia License	\$ 75.00
Review Course for National Board*	\$ 440.00

(* optional cost, but recommended)

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE**

It is the policy of the University System of Georgia (USG) that all students of Health Science Programs are required to have student health insurance that meets the minimum standards as set by the USG. Students who are not covered by a policy held by a parent, spouse, company or organization on the approved waiver list or if the policy does not meet the minimum standards must purchase the USG SHIP policy. Students who are already covered by an insurance policy can easily opt out of the plan through a secure on-line process. Once the information has been verified, all changes will be waived. Students who fail to submit creditable health insurance information will automatically be enrolled in and billed for the system-wide student health insurance plan. Check

with the Business and Financial Services Department (229-500-2036) for the exact deadlines for submitting a waiver. The waiver period at our institution is strictly enforced.

****This is done after the semester starts and must be repeated each semester.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“How do I go about getting the required observational hours?”

All applicants must complete a **minimum of 24 hours** of observation at a general dentistry office or facility by JUNE 1st. This requirement is designed to give the applicant a better understanding of the role of the dental hygienist. Applicants who currently work in a dental setting may complete 12 hours at that facility, however, they must be directly under a registered dental hygienist observing patient care and not part of the secretarial staff or assisting the dentist. This is not a service performed by the college; the applicant must independently seek out a dental hygiene setting and speak with the appropriate staff/personnel regarding observational hours. There are many dental providers to choose from, check out your local yellow pages or internet. Call the providers in your area; explain that you are applying to a DH Program and that you would like to observe a dental hygienist at their facility. All observations hours must be verified using the proper form found in the application packet. Observational hours must be completed within 2 years of submission of the application.

“Can I work and still go thru the program?”

It is possible for a student to work part-time while in the program, however, it is definitely **not advised** due to the intense nature of the program. Each semester, the student will have a full load of coursework and a grade of 75 or higher must be achieved in order to pass each class. Course and clinical/lab schedules will not be changed to accommodate a work schedule and a work excuse will not be acceptable for any absence. The program also requires mandatory courses and seminars that are scheduled each semester in addition to regularly scheduled classes and clinic/lab times.

“What are the typical hours while in the program?”

The DH program classes are full-time and vary on days and times each semester. Some semesters of the program, expect to be in class Monday thru Friday 8+ hours per day. Hours may start as early as 7:15 am and end as late as 5:30pm.

“How long is the program?”

The degree is designed to be completed in 5 semesters; fall, spring, summer, fall, and spring.

“I want to eventually become a dentist, but am I right in using the DH program as a stepping-stone to achieving this goal?”

No, the DH program is NOT a stepping-stone to dental school and seats in the ASU DH program are not used as such. Students wishing to become a dentist must first complete a 4-yr. B.S. degree and then apply for admission to a dental school. Obtaining an Associate's Degree in DH is not necessary to pursue a dental degree.

“Where can I learn more about dental hygiene?”

The American Dental Hygiene Association (www.adha.org)

“How do I sign up to take the TEAS?” [Click here for the ATI TEAS Testing website.](#)

Go to website and click on **“Register for the ATI TEAS Test”** then answer with the following information:

Program Type: TEAS for Allied Health > **Country:** USA > **State:** Georgia > **City:** Albany, then click Next and a list of dates/times will appear. You will need to register and pay the fee for testing. May only test twice for the DH program and repeat test must be scheduled at least 6 weeks apart. TEAS scores must be within 2 years of submission of the application.

“Do I have to take Anatomy & Physiology I & II or may I substitute those 2 courses with the one course offered from ASU (Anatomy & Physiology for the Healthcare Professional)?”

The DH program accepts BIOL 1100K to meet this program requirement, however it is recommended to take the sequence courses if you plan to transfer to another institution or career program, as they may not accept this course.

“How will I know if my application was received?”

Please do not call to inquire about the status of an application. The DH Program Director or faculty/staff will not return calls or emails regarding the status of an application (with the exception being after July 15th and the applicant never received a letter). Therefore, if you wish to know the application was received, please send the application as certified mail so that you receive a confirmation from the postal service that it was delivered or hand-deliver the application.

“When and will I be contacted if I am accepted or regretted?”

Correspondence of acceptance or regret will be made via US Postal service and should be postmarked no later than July 15. Please **do not** phone the DH department concerning the status of your application.

“Will I receive more consideration into the program if I am already possess a dental assistant certificate or another college degree?”

Yes, if you have graduated from a dental assisting program and/or have obtained another associate's level or higher degree, you will receive more points in the scoring process of selection for admission.