

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

Program Code: 10-508-1

Total Credits: 68

Mid-State's Dental Hygienist program is ideal for students who want to combine science, technology, and patient care to improve oral health. Graduates are prepared for careers as licensed dental hygienists, with the knowledge and clinical skills to perform patient assessments, dental radiographs, preventive treatments, periodontal therapy, and patient education while working with dentists and other healthcare professionals.

The program combines classroom learning with extensive hands-on experience in state-of-the-art dental labs and clinical settings. Students train with industry-standard equipment, including digital radiography systems, ultrasonic scalers, and electronic patient records, while providing supervised patient care that builds the confidence and professional judgment needed for licensure and practice.

To learn more about this program, visit mstc.edu/programs.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

To schedule an appointment with an academic advisor, call 715-422-5300. Academic advisors will travel to other campuses as necessary to accommodate student needs. For more information about advising, visit mstc.edu/advising.

NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST

Complete the following steps to prepare for your New Student Advising appointment with your academic advisor:

- Submit a Mid-State application at mstc.edu/apply.
- Send official transcripts to:
Mid-State Technical College
Student Services
500 32nd Street North
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov. Mid-State's Financial Aid team is available to assist with your FAFSA application and to answer your financial aid questions. Contact Financial Aid or schedule an appointment at mstc.edu/financial-aid.
- Set up student MyCampus account at mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance.
- Schedule a New Student Advising appointment at mstc.edu/advising.

mstc.edu • 888-575-6782 • TTY: 711



Adams Campus • Marshfield Campus • Stevens Point Downtown Campus • Wisconsin Rapids Campus • Virtual Campus • AMETA® Center

Mid-State does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its program, activity, or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President - Human Resources; 500 32nd Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494; 715-422-5325 • AAEO@mstc.edu. 3/2026-AC

CAREER PATHWAY



Career pathways help you build your education step by step. Each stage offers one or more credentials that are recognized by employers and lead to real jobs—and you can keep building toward your career goals as you go.

Begin at any point.

Prior Learning

Credit for Prior Learning

- Certifications and Licenses
- Military Experience
- National/Standardized Exams
- Transfer Credit
- Work and Life Experience

Learn about Credit for Prior Learning at mstc.edu/cpl.

High School Credit

- High School Dual Credit
- Mid-State Fast Track

Learn about High School Credit at mstc.edu/dc.

Associate Degree

- Dental Hygienist (68 Credits)
Start Your Career: Dental Hygienist, Dental Treatment Coordinator, Dental Sales Representative

Bachelor's Degree

For those interested in continuing their education, Mid-State offers transfer guides with various four-year colleges and universities. For more information, visit mstc.edu/transfer.

Other Options

Related Programs: Dental Assistant, Health & Wellness Promotion, Health Information Management, Medical Assistant, Medical Coder, Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy Technician, Radiography, Respiratory Therapy, Sterile Processing Technician, Surgical Technology

OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as a Dental Hygienist graduate, to be able to:

- Provide comprehensive, patient-centered dental hygiene care using the dental hygiene process of care.
- Assess patient health histories, oral health conditions, and risk factors to support accurate dental hygiene diagnoses and individualized care planning.
- Develop evidence-based dental hygiene care plans that promote oral and overall health across the lifespan.
- Evaluate patient outcomes and modify dental hygiene care plans based on assessment findings and evidence-based practice.
- Apply current scientific evidence, critical thinking, and clinical judgment to support safe and effective patient care.
- Demonstrate ethical, legal, and professional behavior consistent with the standards of the dental hygiene profession.
- Communicate effectively with patients, families, and members of the interprofessional healthcare team.
- Integrate infection prevention, safety protocols, and quality assurance principles into all aspects of clinical practice.
- Utilize current technologies, informatics, and emerging innovations to enhance patient care and professional practice.
- Advocate for oral health promotion, disease prevention, and increased access to care for diverse populations.

TECHNICAL SKILLS ATTAINMENT

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) has implemented a requirement that all technical colleges measure outcomes attained by students. This requirement is called Technical Skills Attainment (TSA). The main objective of TSA is to ensure graduates have the technical skills needed by employers. Faculty will let students know when and how the TSA is being assessed in the program.

ACCREDITATION

The Dental Hygienist program is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and has been granted the accreditation status of Initial Accreditation.

American Dental Association
Commission on Dental Accreditation
401 North Michigan Avenue
Suite 3300, Chicago, IL 60611-4250



ENTRY CRITERIA

To apply to the Dental Hygienist program, please complete the following steps:

1. Complete a Mid-State application at mstc.edu/apply.
2. Meet with an advisor for your new student advising appointment. Completion of the Background Information Disclosure (BID) will be done at the appointment. These forms can also be found at mstc.edu/programs/dental-hygienist.
3. Complete placement testing if requirements not met via High School Grade Point Average.
4. Complete two semesters of lab based high school Chemistry or college level lab-based Chemistry with a final grade of "C" or better.

5. Submit the following documents to Mid-State Admissions:

- Criminal Background Statement of Understanding and Release of Information form.

Mid-State Technical College • Admissions
500 32nd Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

A list of specific physical, emotional, and mental tasks needed to function as a Dental Hygienist is available at mstc.edu/programs/dental-hygienist. Contact the Accessibility Services Coordinator in the Student Services & Information Center to receive assistance.

CLINICAL-RELATED REQUIREMENTS

Prior to placement at a clinical site, students need to pay for a criminal background check and provide documentation of required health work.

Students are responsible for ensuring all requirements remain current during program enrollment.

Clinical sites have the right to refuse a student's placement based on inadequate health records, pending charges, or conviction records. Students with a criminal history may not be able to complete clinical courses. Mid-State will make two attempts to place a student in an appropriate clinical experience. If Mid-State is unable to place the student after two attempts, the student will be withdrawn from the clinical course and will not be able to advance in the program.

PROGRAM PROGRESSION AND COMPLETION

In order to maintain a passing status and progress in the program, students must:

- Repeat courses not completed with a grade of "C" or better prior to progressing in program courses with co- or prerequisites.
- Receive a grade of "C" or better in all courses required for graduation.
- Please note that the ability to repeat courses is dependent upon availability in courses. Students may be required to apply for program re-entry in order to repeat courses within the program's instructional area.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Visit mstc.edu/studenthandbook to view Mid-State's student handbook, which contains information about admissions, enrollment, appeals processes, services for people with disabilities, financial aid, graduation, privacy, Mid-State's Student Code of Conduct, and technology.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The GPS for Student Success course is required for all Mid-State program students and is recommended to be completed before obtaining 12 credits. Some students are exempt from this requirement. Please see your academic advisor for more information.

ADDITIONAL COURSES AS NEEDED

The following courses may be recommended or required if the student does not achieve minimum placement scores.

College Reading and Writing 1

10831104

3 credits

Provides learners with opportunities to develop and expand reading and writing skills to prepare for college-level academic work. Students will employ critical reading strategies to improve comprehension, analysis, and retention of texts. Students will apply the writing process to produce well-developed, coherent, and unified written work.

Pre-Algebra

10834109

3 credits

Provides an introduction to algebra. Includes operations on real numbers, solving linear equations, percent and proportion, and an introduction to polynomials and statistics. Prepares students for elementary algebra and subsequent algebra-related courses.

MULTIPLE MEASURES

Students can place into courses using high school GPA and completed classes. Placement can be determined in the following ways:

- **Multiple Measures Writing (MMW)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school writing courses with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Reading (MMR)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school literature courses with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 1 (MMM_1)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school math (Algebra 1 or equivalent) with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 2 (MMM_2)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school math including Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 1 (MMS_1)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school lab science course with a “C” or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 2 (MMS_2)**
High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school chemistry with a “C” or better

Past high school and college transcripts are used in making course placement decisions.

SAMPLE FULL-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

Dental Hygienist • 68 Total Credits

Term 13 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10806177	General Anatomy & Physiology	No	4
	10806186	Intro to Biochemistry	No	4
	10806197	Microbiology	Yes	4
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 14 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	31508301	Dental Health Safety	No	1
	10809196	Introduction to Sociology	Yes	3
	10508102	Oral Anatomy, Embryology, Histology	No	4
	10508103	Dental Radiography	No	2
	10508105	Dental Hygiene Process 1	No	4

Term 14 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10508106	Dental Process 2	No	4
	10508107	Dental Hygiene Ethics and Professionalism	No	1
	10508108	Periodontology	No	3
	10508109	Cariology	No	1
	10508110	Nutrition and Dental Health	No	2
	10508111	General & Oral Pathology	No	3

Term 14 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10508112	Dental Hygiene Process 3	No	5
	10508113	Dental Materials	No	2
	10508114	Dental Pharmacology	No	2
	10508115	Community Dental Health	No	2
	10809198	Introduction to Psychology	Yes	3

Term 13 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10508117	Dental Hygiene Process 4	No	4
	10508118	Dental Anxiety/Pain Management	No	2
	10801198 or 10801196	Speech or Oral/Interpersonal Communication	Yes	3
	10508130	Dental Hygiene Transition into Practice	No	1
	10801195 or 10801136	Written Communication or English Composition 1	Yes	3

Please Note

- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) options are available for some courses. You can visit mstc.edu/cpl or contact your academic advisor for details.
- This curriculum sequence is only for student planning. Actual student schedules will vary depending on course availability.
- Program completion time may vary based on student scheduling and course availability. For details, go to mstc.edu/schedule.
- Get the latest updates online at mstc.edu.

Cariology 10508109 1 credit

This course focuses on the characteristics and contributing factors of dental decay. Dental Hygiene students help patients minimize caries risk by developing treatment plans, communicating methods to patients, and evaluating treatment results.

Prerequisites: Intro to Biochemistry 10806186, Microbiology 10806197, Dental Hygiene Process 2 10508106

Community Dental Health 10508115 2 credits

This course prepares the Dental Hygienist student to play a proactive role in improving the dental health of community members of all ages. Students perform and interpret dental health research to determine community dental health needs.

Prerequisite: Dental Hygiene Process 3 10508112

Dental Anxiety/Pain Management 10508118 2 credits

This course prepares the student dental hygienist to work within the scope of dental hygiene practice to manage anxiety and pain for dental patients. Students learn to prepare and administer local anesthesia and nitrous oxide safely. The course also addresses the recommendation of alternative pain control measures.

Prerequisites: Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology 10508102, Dental Hygiene Process 3 10508112, and Dental Pharmacology 10508114

Dental Health Safety 31508301 1 credit

Prepares dental auxiliary students to respond proactively to dental emergencies, control infection, prevent disease, adhere to OSHA Standards, and safely manage hazardous materials. Students also take patient vital signs and collect patient medical/dental histories. CPR certification is a prerequisite; students will be required to show proof of certification before beginning the course. This course is a WTCS aligned course required in both the Dental Hygienist and Dental Assisting programs.

Prerequisite: Admission to Dental Assistant program 305082 OR Admission to the Dental Hygiene Program 105081 and CPR/BLS

Dental Hygiene Ethics and Professionalism 10508107 1 credit

Helps student dental hygienists develop and apply high professional and ethical standards. Students apply the laws that govern the practice of dental hygiene to their work with patients, other members of a dental team and the community. Emphasis is placed on maintaining professionalism which includes confidentiality and informed consent.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Dental Hygienist 105081 program

Dental Hygiene Process 1 10508105 4 credits

Introduces Dental Hygiene students to the basic technical/clinical skills required of practicing Dental Hygienists including use of basic dental equipment, examination of patients, and procedures within the dental unit. Under the direct supervision of an instructor, students integrate hands-on skills with entry-level critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The course also reinforces the application of Dental Health Safety skills.

Prerequisite: Dental Health Safety 10508101; Corequisite: Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology 10508102

Dental Hygiene Process 2 10508106 4 credits

This clinical course builds on and expands the technical/clinical skills student dental hygienists began developing in Dental Hygiene Process 1. Under the direct supervision of an instructor, students apply patient care assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation skills to provide comprehensive care for calculus case type 1 and 2 patients and perio case patients. Dental Hygiene Process 2 introduces the application of fluoride and desensitizing agents, whole mouth assessments, comprehensive periodontal examinations, application of sealants, and patient classification. Students also begin performing removal of supragingival stain, dental plaque, calcified accretions, and deposits. In addition, they gain further experience in exposing radiographs on patients. The course also reinforces the application of Dental Health Safety skills.

Prerequisites: Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology 10508102, Dental Radiography 10508103, and Dental Hygiene Process 1 10508105; Corequisite: Cariology 10508109

Dental Hygiene Process 3 10508112 5 credits

This clinical course builds on and expands the technical/clinical skills student dental hygienists developed in Dental Hygiene Process 2. In consultation with the instructor, students apply independent problem-solving skills in the course of providing comprehensive care for calculus case type 1, 2, and 3 patients and case type 0, I, II, and III patients. Dental Hygiene Process 3 introduces root detoxification using hand and ultra-sonic instruments, laser bacterial reduction, selection of dental implant prophylaxis treatment options, and administration of chemotherapeutic agents. Students also adapt care plans in order to accommodate patients with special needs.

Prerequisites: Dental Hygiene Process 2 10508106, Periodontology 10508108, Cariology 10508109, Nutrition and Dental Health 10508110

Dental Hygiene Process 4

10508117

4 credits

This clinical course builds on and expands the technical/clinical skills student dental hygienists developed in Dental Hygiene Process 3. With feedback from the instructor, students manage all aspects of cases in the course of providing comprehensive care for calculus case type 0, 1, 2, and 3 patients and for case type 0 I, II, and III patients. Emphasizes maximization of clinical efficiency and effectiveness. Prepares student dental hygienists to demonstrate their clinical skills in a formal examination situation.

Prerequisite: Dental Hygiene Process 3 10508112

Dental Hygiene Transition into Practice

10508130

1 credit

The Dental Hygiene Transition to Practice course prepares dental hygiene students in their last semester for licensure and professional practice. Combining theoretical knowledge with hands-on experiences, the course focuses on clinical skill development, mock exams, and test-taking strategies for the NBDHE and CRDTS exams. Students will refine soft skills such as communication, critical thinking, and professionalism while mastering the licensing process, building job search materials, and practicing interview skills to ensure a seamless transition from student to practitioner.

Corequisite: Dental Hygiene Process 4 10508117

Dental Materials

10508113

2 credits

Prepares dental auxiliary students to handle and prepare dental materials such as liners, bases, cements, amalgam, resin restorative materials, gypsum products, and impression materials. They also learn to take alginate impressions on manikins and clean removable appliances. This course is aligned to serve students in the Dental Hygienist and Dental Assistant programs.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in Dental Hygienist 105081 or Dental Assistant 305082

Dental Pharmacology

10508114

2 credits

Prepares student dental hygienists to select safe and effective patient premedication and within the scope of dental hygiene practice. Students will also learn to recognize potential pharmacological contraindications for specific patients and to take measures to avoid negative impact or alert other members of the dental team to possible negative impact.

Prerequisites: Intro to Biochemistry 10806186 and Microbiology 10806197; Corequisite: Dental Hygiene Process 2 10508106 or Dental Hygiene Process 3 10508112

Dental Radiography

10508103

2 credits

Prepares dental auxiliary students to operate radiographic equipment and expose bitewing, periapical, extra oral, and occlusal images. Emphasis is placed on protection against x-ray hazards. Students also produce, mount, and evaluate dental images for diagnostic value. This course also provides the background in radiographic theory required for students to make informed decisions and adjustments.

Prerequisite: Dental Health Safety 10508101; Corequisite: Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology 10508102 or General Anatomy 10806177

General & Oral Pathology

10508111

3 credits

This course prepares the student dental hygienist to determine when to consult, treat or refer clients with various disease, infection or physiological conditions. Students learn to recognize the signs, causes, and implications of common pathological conditions including inflammatory responses, immune disorders, genetic disorders, developmental disorders of tissues and cysts, oral tissue trauma, and neoplasm of the oral cavity.

Prerequisites: Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology 10508102, Dental Radiography 10508103. Corequisites: Dental Hygiene Process 2 10508106, Periodontology 10508108, Cariology 10508109, Nutrition and Dental Health 10508110

General Anatomy & Physiology

10806177

4 credits

Examines basic concepts of human anatomy and physiology as they relate to health sciences. Using a body systems approach, the course emphasizes the interrelationships between structure and function at the gross and microscopic levels of organization of the entire human body. It is intended to prepare health care professionals who need to apply basic concepts of whole-body anatomy and physiology to informed decision making and professional communication with colleagues and patients.

Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMS_1 and MMM_1 or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 262 and QAS of 246 or ACT Math score of 19 and Reading score of 19 or College Math 10804107 or Intermediate Algebra with Applications 10804118 with a "C" or better, or General Chemistry 10806134, or General Biology 10806114, or Human Body in Health & Disease 31509302

GPS for Student Success

10890102

1 credit

Integrate necessary skills for student success by developing an academic plan, identifying interpersonal attributes for success, adopting efficient and effective learning strategies, and utilizing Mid-State resources, policies, and processes. This course is recommended to be completed prior to obtaining 12 credits and is a graduation requirement unless you receive an exemption from your program advisor.

Intro to Biochemistry

10806186

4 credits

Provides students with skills and knowledge of organic and biological chemistry necessary for application within Nursing and other Allied Health careers. Emphasis is placed on recognizing the structure, physical properties and chemical reactions of organic molecules, body fluids, and acids.

Additional emphasis is placed on biological functions and their relationships to enzymes, proteins, lipids, carbohydrates and DNA. Prerequisite: Reading - Accuplacer 262 or ACT 19 AND Math - Multiple Measure Math 1 (MMM_1) or Accuplacer QAS 246 or ACT 19 AND Science - Multiple Measure Science 2 (MMS_2) OR Successful completion of two semesters of lab based high school chemistry with a C or better or college level lab-based chemistry with a C or better.

Prerequisites: MMM_1, MMS_2; Accuplacer QAS 246, Reading 262, ACT Math 19, Reading 16. Chemistry is waived if you have completed two semesters of lab based high school chemistry with a C or better or college level lab-based chemistry with a C or better

Introduction to Psychology

10809198

3 credits

This science of psychology course is a survey of multiple aspects of behavior and mental processes. It provides an overview of topics such as research methods, theoretical perspectives, learning, cognition, memory, motivation, emotions, personality, abnormal psychology, physiological factors, social influences, and development.

Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English

Introduction to Sociology

10809196

3 credits

Introduces students to the basic concepts of sociology: culture, socialization, social stratification, multi-culturalism, and the five institutions of family, politics, economics, religion, and education. Other topics include demography, deviance, technology, environment, social issues, social change, social organization, and workplace issues.

Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English

Microbiology

10806197

4 credits

Examines microbial structure, metabolism, genetics, growth and the relationship between humans and microbes.

Addresses disease production, epidemiology, host defense mechanisms and the medical impact of microbes. Presents the role of microbes in the environment, industry, and biotechnology.

Prerequisite: "C" or better in General Anatomy & Physiology 10806177 or General Biology 10806114 or Plant Biology 10806184

Nutrition and Dental Health

10508110

2 credits

Prepares student dental hygienists to counsel patients about diet and its impact on oral health. Students learn to distinguish between balanced and unbalanced diets and to construct diets that meet the needs of patients with compromised dental/oral health. Students also learn to counsel patients about the effect of eating disorders on dental health.

Prerequisite: Intro to Biochemistry 10806186

Oral Anatomy, Embryology, Histology

10808102

4 credits

Prepares Dental Hygienist students to apply detailed knowledge about oral anatomy to planning, implementation, assessment, and evaluation of patient care. Students identify distinguishing characteristics of normal and abnormal dental, head, and neck anatomy and its relationship to tooth development, eruption, and health.

Prerequisites: General Anatomy and Physiology 10806177 and enrollment in the Dental Hygiene 105081 program

Oral/Interpersonal Communication

10801196

3 credits

Focuses on developing effective listening techniques and verbal and nonverbal communication skills through oral presentation, group activity, and other projects. The study of self, conflict, and cultural contexts will be explored, as well as their impact on communication.

Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English or College Reading and Writing with a C or better

Periodontology

10508108

3 credits

This course prepares student dental hygienists to assess the periodontal health of patients, plan prevention and treatment of periodontal disease, and to evaluate the effectiveness of periodontal treatment plans. Emphasis is placed on the recognition of the signs and causes of periodontal disease and on selection of treatments modalities that minimize risk and restore periodontal health.

Prerequisites: Microbiology 10806197, Intro to Biochemistry 10806186, Oral Anatomy, Embry, Histology 10508102, and Dental Radiography 10508103; Corequisite: Dental Hygiene Process 2 10508106

Written Communication

10801195

3 credits

Develops writing skills which include prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. A variety of writing assignments are designed to help the learner analyze audience and purpose, research and organize ideas, and format and design documents based on subject matter and content. Also develops critical reading and thinking skills through the analysis of a variety of written documents.

Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMW or Accuplacer Writing of 262 or ACT English score of 20 or completion of College Reading and Writing 1 10831104 with a "C" or better