

COLLEGE *of* NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY



ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN DENTAL HYGIENE (A.A.S)

Taught in cooperation with



Revised 03.12.2025

Dental Hygiene Program Advising & Application Packet

Thank you for your interest in the Dental Hygiene Program. This packet provides information regarding admission procedures, required courses, estimated expenses, the application, and the observation form.

The Associate of Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene at Valdosta State University in cooperation with Wiregrass Georgia Technical College has been awarded Accreditation with the American Dental Association's (ADA) Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Upon successful completion of the program, the student is awarded an Associate of Applied Science Degree and is eligible to sit for national licensing examinations.

Dental Hygiene clinical training is 5 semesters in length. (This includes a summer session.) The students accepted through competitive admission begins clinical training fall semester of each year. All Dental Hygiene classes are taught on the Wiregrass Valdosta Campus located at 4089 Val Tech Road, Valdosta, GA, 31602.

Enrollment is limited and admission is competitive. Only 15 open positions per year. Admission to Valdosta State and/or Wiregrass Tech does not imply or guarantee admission to the Dental Hygiene clinical training program. The competitive admission application portal opens each year on February 1st and closes at 5:00 P.M. on March 1st.

This admissions packet has been designed to answer common questions regarding the cooperative Dental Hygiene program. Please read the packet in its entirety. You may contact either VSU or Wiregrass if you have questions or need assistance.

We look forward to meeting you in the near future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Landi Woodward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director of Dental Programs Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Dental Hygiene Program Curriculum Requirements (Fall 2025)

Dental Hygiene Core Curriculum	Credit Hours	Dental Hygiene Clinical Courses	Credit Hours
BIOL 2251K Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4	<u>FALL I</u>	
BIOL 2252K Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	DHYG 1040 D.H. Preclinic Lec	2
BIOL 2260K Microbiology	4	DHYG 1050 D.H. Preclinic Lab	2
CHEM 1151K Survey of Chemistry I	4	DHYG 1080 Oral Biology	5
CHEM 1152K Survey of Chemistry II	4	DHYG 1206 Pharmacology	3
ENGL 1101 Composition I	3	TOTAL HOURS	12
ENGL 1102 Composition II	3		
MATH 1101/1111 Algebra or Math Modeling	3	<u>SPRING I</u>	
POLS 1101 American Government	3	DHYG 1070 Radiology Lecture	2
HIST 2111 or 2112 American History	3	DHYG 1090 Radiology Lab	1
PSYC 1101 Intro to General Psychology	3	DHYG 1110 D.H. Lec I	2
SOCI 1101 Intro to Sociology	3	DHYG 1111 D.H. Clinic I	3
COMM 1100/1110 Human Comm/Public Speaking	3	DHYG 1112 Local Anesthesia	2
Total Core Curriculum Credits Required	44	DHYG 2200 Periodontology	3
		TOTAL HOURS	13
		<u>SUMMER</u>	
		DHYG 1030 Dental Materials	2
		DHYG 2010 D.H. Lec II	2
		DHYG 2020 D.H. Clinic II	2
		DHYG 2050 Pathology	3
		TOTAL HOURS	9
Semester Credits for Core Curriculum	44	<u>FALL II</u>	
Semester Credits for DHYG Courses	50	DHYG 2070 Community D.H.	3
Total Semester Credits for DHYG Program	94	DHYG 2080 D.H. Lec III	2
		DHYG 2090 D.H. Clinic III	4
		DHYG 2105 Nutrition	1
		TOTAL HOURS	10
		<u>SPRING II</u>	
		DHYG 2130 D.H. Lec IV	2
		DHYG 2140 D.H. Clinic IV	4
		TOTAL HOURS	6
		Total DHYG Course Credits	50

Courses with DHYG prefix are taken only after student is selected and admitted to DHYG clinical program.

All DHYG courses must be taken in the sequence indicated above. All courses are required. All

DHYG Courses are taught in the dental hygiene clinical facility on the Wiregrass Campus.

Important Program Information

Time Line will be Provided

During the initial advisement session, incoming dental hygiene majors will be provided with an informational packet and a "Timeline for a Successful Dental Hygiene Candidate". It is the responsibility of the dental hygiene student to be aware of deadlines and requirements for program entry.

Mandatory Pre-Application Orientation Session

A mandatory Pre-Application Orientation session will be held annually on the Wiregrass Campus on the second Tuesday in September. The purpose of this session is to explain the competitive admissions application process. All candidates for the dental hygiene program are required to attend. An attendance verification will be provided. Students are required to upload the attendance verification into the competitive admission application portal.

Mandatory Program Orientation for Accepted Students

A mandatory program orientation for accepted and alternate students will be conducted in July on the Wiregrass Campus. Orientation will be conducted by Wiregrass faculty. Accepted students and alternate candidates will be notified of the specific date and time via Wiregrass e-mail. Please note that parents and spouses are welcome to attend this orientation.

Financial Aid Information for Clinical Portion of Training

Be sure that you are financially prepared for the program! All tuition and fees are paid directly to Valdosta State University during clinical training. Students will continue to complete financial aid documentation (FAFSA, HOPE, PELL) through VSU.

Students may use financial aid to purchase required textbooks and uniforms at the VSU bookstore. Additional equipment and supplies are purchased from specified vendors at appointed times each semester. Further instructions for purchases will be provided to accepted students upon program entry. Students will have out-of-pocket expenses for required instruments and equipment that will not be covered by financial aid.

Estimated Expenses

An Estimated Expenses List for the Dental Hygiene Program is located in this packet. Students must refer to this list and be financially prepared for program requirements prior to program entry.

Clinical Entry Requirements

Clinical entry requirements will include but are not limited to, some or all of the following: American Heart Association Provider CPR certification, physical examination or proof of ability to perform required duties, oral health exam, current eye exam, Tuberculin skin test, up-to-date immunizations, mandatory vaccinations, and/or titers. See Wiregrass Health Science Policies for additional information. Specific clinical entry requirements will be explained at the mandatory accepted student orientation in July prior to program entry.

Chair Occupancy

Students are responsible for chair occupancy during clinical sessions. Students are responsible for recruiting patients to meet clinical experience requirements for boards and graduation.

Steps Towards Dental Hygiene Program Admission

Acceptance to the clinical portion of the Dental Hygiene Program is very competitive. Acceptance to VSU and/or Wiregrass Tech does not guarantee admission to clinical portion of the Dental Hygiene Program.

1. **Complete application for admission to VSU, obtain advisement and begin completion of required core courses.**
 - a. You will be advised through the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.
 - b. A complete list of required core courses is provided in this packet.
 - c. It is VERY important that students follow the advisement plan created by the advisors in order to complete core courses on time. Students will be advised to complete the on-line application for competitive entry to the DHYG program at the appropriate time.
2. **Prior to completing the competitive admissions application, students must apply and be accepted to Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. Make application to WGTC in the fall semester before applying to the clinical program.**
 - a. *Official copies of ALL college transcripts will be required when making application to Wiregrass.*
 - b. *When applying to Wiregrass, declare your major as Technical Specialist or Occupational Studies.*
3. **When your core courses are complete (or on track to be core complete), proceed with competitive admissions application between February 1st - March 1st.**
 - a. The link for the application portal can be found on the Wiregrass Dental Hygiene web page February 1st each year. <https://www.wiregrass.edu/course-catalog/current/programs/dental-hygiene-degree>
4. **Documentation Required to Complete Competitive Admission Application**
 - a. Transcripts verifying completion of core course requirements.
 - b. Attendance Verification Form from the Preapplication Orientation. (Google Form Email)
 - c. HESI A2 Exam Scores (75 or better on all 5 sections)
 - d. Shadowing Requirements and Documentation
 - i. **12 hours** of dental office shadowing conducted in **2 different dental offices**.

Applicant is required to shadow a registered dental hygienist and observe dress code, infection control, and HIPAA rules as applicable to the practices of each office.
 - ii. **One (1) Clinical Observation Session at Wiregrass Dental Clinic**

Observation sessions are scheduled by appointment only. Email the Clinical Coordinator as instructed on the observation form at the end of this packet. Use the same form to document Dental Office and DHYG Clinic Shadowing.
 - iii. Shadowing must be completed and documented prior to applying to the clinical program.

Office and clinic session shadowing will be documented on the same form.
The documented form will be uploaded into the application portal.
Shadowing Form is located at the end of this packet.

**Note: Shadowing hours do not expire and can be used for more than one application cycle. **

Competitive Entry Criteria

Applicants will be ranked competitively based on the following formula:

Pre-Requisite Science Courses GPA (50%) + Pre-Requisite Non-Science Courses GPA (30%) + HESI A2 Exam (20%)

GPA and Pre-Requisite Course Requirements

- Applicants must have an overall GPA of 2.5 to be considered for the dental hygiene program.
- Applicants must have a 2.5 or better GPA in the required Pre-Requisite Science Courses: BIOL 2251K, BIOL 2252K, BIOL 2260K, CHEM 1151K, & CHEM 1152K. Note: These courses must be completed within 10 years prior to the application deadline.
- Applicants must have a 2.5 or better in the required Pre-Requisite Non-Science Courses: ENGL 1101, ENGL 1102, MATH 1101/1111, POLS 1101, HIST 2111 or 2112, PSYC 1101, SOCI 1101, & COMM 1100/1110.
- All courses must be completed with a "C" or better. The highest course attempt will be calculated for competitive admission.
- Applicants may apply prior to being core complete. However, they will not receive any quality points for in-progress courses or incomplete courses.

HESI A2 Information

- Applicants must have a score of 75 or better in each of the following individual sections of the HESI A2 exam:
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Vocabulary
 - Grammar
 - Anatomy & Physiology
 - Math
- The HESI A2 exam is offered by appointment only.
- The HESI A2 exam may be taken at Valdosta State University Testing Center or Wiregrass Georgia Technical College Testing Center.
- Testing Center Contact Information
 - VSU Testing Center: testing@valdosta.edu 229-245-3878
 - WGTC Testing Center: testing@wirgrass.edu 229-249-4821
- HESI scores are valid for a single (1) application cycle. Applicants may take the test twice (2 times) per application cycle.
- All HESI test scores must be uploaded into the online application for the competitive admission. The highest scores from each attempt will be used in the calculations.

Application for Competitive Admission

- Application portal opens annually February 1st and closes at 5PM on March 1st.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- All applicants will be notified of acceptance status via Wiregrass e-mail address NLT April 15th

Estimated Expenses for the Dental Hygiene Clinical Training Program (Fall 2025)

Estimated Expenses described below for **Do Not** Include Fees and Tuition Paid to VSU.

Check with VSU Bursary for Estimated Cost of Tuition and Fees for Each Semester.

This list is current at the time list is published. Costs and requirements are subject to change. (Current 2.11.2025)

Fall 1	Estimated Cost	Vendor
Medical Requirements for Program Entry Specified Vaccines, Blood Titers, TB Test, Oral Exam, Eye Exam	\$300.00	Student Choice
Uniform Requirements 1 Pair Clinic Shoes for clinical wear only (Leather, closed toe and heel) 1 ID Badge Holder 4 Pairs "Tall" Socks (White or Light Gray 4" above ankle) 1 Pair Black Scrubs Pants for Class T-Shirt Day (No Joggers!)	\$150.00	Student Choice
Required Uniforms 4 Ceil Blue Uniforms (4 Embroidered Tops and 4 Scrub Pants) 1 Lab Coat/Warm up jacket (White or ceil blue) 4 Ceil Blue Surgical Caps (Jr year)	\$400.00	VSU Bookstore
SADHA Dues \$65 (Junior Year)	\$65.00	SADHA
Estimated Books for Fall I Semester (VSU Bookstore)	\$1,000.00	VSU
TalEval Patient/Student and Patient Tracking Fee (One-time fee covers full program paid to WGTC bookstore. (Faculty will provide instructions to pay)	\$100.00	WGTC Bookstore
Two Jr. Instrument Kits: (Instruments and Sharpener, Sterilization Supplies)	\$1,210.00	Hu-Friedy
MISC Supplies: Clinic Notebook, paper, pens, highlighter, etc	\$50.00	Student Choice
Required CPR Class (Taught in in Program: DO NOT take a CPR class on your own!)	\$65.00	WGTC
Fall I Clinic Equipment Kit and Supplies from Simply Hygiene Manual Blood pressure cuff w/ stethoscope (No digital allowed) Infrared thermometer Pack of 5 Air/Water syringe tips Nitrile utility gloves pkg 3 pair (designate size S, M, L, XL These run Small!!!) Safety glasses anti-fog black w/clear lens 1 chart marking pencil red/blue Dental Typodont Modupro DH with Articulator, soft tongue, sim calc, oral cavity cover, Modupro Perio Starter Kit	\$735.00	Simply Hygiene (Faculty will provide ordering instructions)
Loupes (Variety of venders; Purchased at the end of Fall I semester)	\$1,550.00	Student Choice
RINN Devices for Radiology (Purchased end of Fall I)	\$260.00	Dentsply
Estimated Equipment and Supplies for Fall I	\$5885.00	
Spring 1	Estimated Cost	Vendor
Estimated Books for Spring I Semester	\$250.00	VSU Bookstore
Cavitron Unit Package to Include: Cavitron Unit, 6 Inserts, 3 Jetmate Handpieces, 2 Prophy jet insets, Foot pedal, Sodium Bicarbonate AND Trihydroxide polishing powder (1 Each)	\$3,000.00	Dentsply
Cassette for Cavitron Tips and Handpiece	\$133.00	Hu-Friedy
Spring I Clinical Equipment and Supply Kit from Simply Hygiene 2 Packs Disclosing Swabs Pack of 12 Cloth face drapes Prophy cups and Brushes (100 of Each) and Prophy paste (Box of 200) Face Shield with Replacement shields and 2 Aerosol Assist Cordless Handpiece with 3 Sheaths	\$1,110.00	Simply Hygiene
Estimated Equipment and Supplies for Spring I	\$4,493.00	
Summer	Estimated Cost	Vendor
Estimated Books for Summer Semester	\$250.00	VSU Bookstore
Senior Cavitron Tips (6)	\$414.00	Dentsply

Additional Cassette for Cavitron tips and handpiece	\$133.00	Hu-Friedy
Estimated Equipment and Supplies for Summer	\$797.00	
Fall 2	Estimated Cost	Vendor
TB Test due on 1 st day of Class (TB must be done annually)	\$35.00	Student Choice
One Senior Instrument Kit	\$550.00	Hu-Friedy
Estimated Books for Fall II Semester	\$200.00	VSU Bookstore
SADHA Dues (Senior Year)	\$65.00	SADHA
NBDHE Board Review: Pay for review and make reservations Fall Semester. Board review is in January. Fee includes an estimate for lodging and travel.	\$600.00	Board Review TBA
Estimated Equipment and Supplies for Fall II	\$1,450.00	
Spring 2	Estimated Cost	Vendor
Instrument Trade in	\$100.00	Hu Friedy
Modupro Refill Perio Kit (Need by Beginning of Spring II)	\$225.00	Simply Hygiene
Estimated books for Spring II Semester	\$100.00	VSU Bookstore
DHYG Pin and Stole	\$100.00	VSU Bookstore
Dental Hygiene National Board	\$550.00	NBDHE
ADEX Clinical Exam Fee	\$1,200.00	ADEX
Graduation Application Fee	\$35.00	VSU Bursary
Student Class Photos (per student)	\$40.00	Tina Guess
Estimated Fees for Spring II	\$2,650.00	
Supply and Equipment Costs Per Semester (Overview)		
Fall I	\$5,885.00	
Spring I	\$4,493.00	
Summer	\$797.00	
Fall II	\$1,450.00	
Spring II	\$2,650.00	
Total Estimated Costs for Clinical Supplies, Equipment and Fees	\$15,275.00	

****NOTE: estimated expenses are paid to vendors per semester according to the schedule described above. The total fee is not paid all at one time. The estimated fees are provided for the purpose of proactive financial planning. ****

Costs are estimated and subject to change. The semester for which a particular item will be purchased is subject to change based on needs of the curriculum.

Equipment Purchase Rule: Students must purchase required books and equipment on or before the 1st day of each semester. A three (3) day grace period will be allowed. On the beginning 4th day students will not be allowed to attend class without required books, instruments or supplies and will be marked absent. Student must make financial arrangements for purchase of required equipment **before** each semester begins. Students will be provided detailed instructions for purchases at the appropriate times during training. Students SHOULD NOT attempt to purchase equipment without specific instructions from the Instructor.

Tuition and Fees/Financial Aid: Expenses described above **DO NOT** include tuition and fees that are paid directly to VSU each semester. All fees and tuition are paid directly to VSU. Students will obtain all financial aid through VSU while in the clinical program. Financial aid is not available to cover any instruments and equipment purchased through vendors. Students should be prepared to pay out of pocket. Students should save and allocate any financial aid disbursements to assist with expenses for subsequent semesters. An internet capable device will be necessary each semester.

Notice of Institutional Plans, Procedures and Policies

Procedure to File Complaints with CODA	Dental Department Exposure Control Plan
The Commission on Dental Accreditation will review complaints that relate to a program's compliance with the accreditation standards. The Commission is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dental and dental-related education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for treatment received by patients or individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff or students. A copy of the appropriate accreditation standards and/or the Commission's policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL60611-2678.	Due to the nature of the Dental Hygiene occupation, any student entering Dental Hygiene program has increased occupational risks, such as: • Heavy lifting injuries • Radiation and chemical exposure • Exposure to blood and airborne pathogens • Exposure to nitrous oxide For additional information a complete copy of the exposure control plan is available upon request at the dental department business office. Applicants should be aware that the Dental hygiene profession is a Class I on OSHA's exposure classification scale.
Advisory Regarding Misdemeanors & Felonies	Advisory Statement for Dental Hygiene Licensure
Students with prior felonies or misdemeanors are advised to contact the state licensing board prior to program entry. Visit the Georgia Board of Dentistry website (http://gbd.georgia.gov/) for additional information on requirements and restrictions for Dental Hygiene licensure in Georgia. Applicants wishing to practice in other states should check with the Board of Dentistry in that particular state for specific requirements.	<i>"Valdosta State University, Wiregrass Georgia Technical College and faculty and staff are not responsible in the event a student successfully completes program requirements and boards but is unable to obtain licensure due to misdemeanors and/or felonies. It is the sole responsibility of the student to determine if a previous felony or misdemeanor conviction might preclude licensure to practice Dental Hygiene. "</i> Students <u>will be required</u> to sign an acknowledgement of the <i>Advisory Statement Regarding Misdemeanors and Felonies</i> when applying to the clinical program and again upon program entry.

Dental Hygiene Career Paths

Source: American Dental Hygienists Association

Working in a private dental office continues to be the primary place of employment for dental hygienists. For today's dental hygiene professional, there are many other career pathways to explore as well. Never before has there been more opportunity for professional growth. How and where you work today is up to you. Let your dental hygiene education and experience open doors to YOUR career path and consider the possibilities...

- o **Private Practice Clinician-** Dental hygienists in a clinical role assess, diagnose, plan, implement, evaluate and document treatment for prevention, intervention and control of oral diseases, while practicing in collaboration with other health professionals. Examples of clinical settings include:
- o **Corporate-** Corporate dental hygienists are employed by companies that support the oral health industry through the sale of products and services. Leaders throughout the dental industry often employ dental hygienists due to their clinical experience and understanding of dental practice. Examples of corporate positions include:
- o **Public Health-** Community Health programs are typically funded by government or nonprofit organizations. These positions often offer an opportunity to provide care to those who otherwise would not have access to dental care. Examples of public health opportunities include a variety of roles and settings:
- o **Researcher-** Research conducted by dental hygienists can be either qualitative or quantitative. Quantitative research involves conducting surveys & analyzing the results, while qualitative research may involve testing a new procedure, product, or theory for accuracy or effectiveness. Examples of research settings include:
- o **Educator-** Dental Hygiene educators are in great demand. Colleges and universities throughout the U.S. require dental hygiene instructors who use educational theory and methodology to educate competent oral health care professionals. Corporations also employ educators who provide continuing education to licensed dental hygienists. Examples of education positions may be full time or part time.

Program Goals

- o Provide quality industry driven education and training that prepares dental hygiene students to enter the work force as critically thinking dental healthcare professionals.
- o Provide students with a wide variety of experiential learning opportunities which allows the students to utilize the dental hygiene process of care for a diverse population of patients.
- o To provide opportunities for leadership and application of professional, ethical, legal and regulatory concepts to oral health care services, community projects, and professional activities.
- o Provide a learning environment for students that will instill the pursuit of lifelong learning and the understanding that research and ongoing professional development are the responsibility of all health care providers.
- o To promote excellence in learning and teaching through qualified faculty, current educational methodologies, and safe state of the art facilities and equipment to prepare students to qualify for and successfully pass the written and clinical examinations necessary for licensure.
- o To provide avenues for student success through admission, progression and completion opportunities without regard to race, national origin, religion, gender, age, academic or economic disadvantage.
- o Present a fiscally sound occupational training program that continuously meets or exceeds requirements for full program accreditation through Commission on Dental Accreditation.



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DENTAL HYGIENE CLINIC SHADOWING

NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

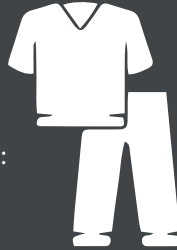
INSTRUCTIONS

What to Wear?

- Scrubs if you have them!
- Closed toe shoes with socks

If you do not have scrubs, you must wear:

- Professional short sleeve shirt
- Long pants/slacks with no holes



No Jeans! No shorts! No sandals!

Failure to comply with dress code will result in rescheduling of the shadowing appointment.

What We Will Provide

Clinical Gown
Disposable Mask
Hair Covering
Shoe Covers
Safety Glasses
Parking Pass

24-hour notice is required to cancel
or reschedule an appointment.

Email Clinical Coordinator to make your appointment.

gail.britch@wiregrass.edu

HIPPA Policies & Potential Exposure Statement

All information regarding patients, students, staff and the DHYG program is considered confidential and protected under HIPAA laws and the WGTC privacy policies.

Due to the potential for exposure to blood and airborne pathogens in the dental environment, the dental programs strictly adhere to CDC, ADA and OSHA regulations regarding infection control protocols.

- Student is to observe only and will not engage in any patient care activities.
- Student assumes all potential risks associated with entering the clinical facility during patient care.

I agree to abide by HIPAA policies and acknowledge potential exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

Student Signature

Date

Office Shadowing and Dental Hygiene Clinic Shadowing Verification Form

Candidate Name: _____ VSU ID#: _____ Wiregrass ID#: _____

DENTAL OFFICE SHADOWING

Candidates for the program are required to shadow practicing registered dental hygienists. A minimum of **12 hours** is required and must be conducted in **2 different dental offices** in order to observe a variety of practice models. Observing candidates will be required to observe dress code, infection control, and HIPAA rules as applicable to the practices of each office.

PRACTICE NAME	RDH NAME	SHADOWING DATE	HOURS OBSERVED	RDH SIGNATURE

WIREGRASS DENTAL HYGIENE CLINIC SHADOWING

1 session required. Observation scheduled by appointment.

*I agree to abide by HIPAA Policies and acknowledge
potential to bloodborne pathogens in the clinical environment.*

Date of Shadowing Session

Faculty/Staff Signature

Student Signature

Date