



COLLEGE *of* NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Taught in cooperation with



WIREGRASS

GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE®

www.valdosta.edu/dentalhygiene

Dental Hygiene Program Advising & Application Packet

Thank you for your interest in the Dental Hygiene Program. The enclosed 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) Council 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 is a two-year program with the clinical portion beginning in the fall semester of each year. Dental Hygiene classes are scheduled at Wiregrass Tech's Valdosta Campus. Enrollment is limited and admission is competitive with only 15 open positions per year. Admission to Valdosta State and/or Wiregrass Tech does not imply or guarantee admission to the Dental Hygiene Program. The program application deadline is 5:00 P.M. March 1 of each year. However, applications to the program should be submitted as soon as possible. The online application portal will open February 1 of each year.

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

Good luck with your application process!

Sandi Woodward

Director of Dental Programs

Contact Information

Advising at VSU

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences Academic Advising Center for Pre-Major Advising is located on the 2nd floor of VSU's Health Science Administration Building.

2525 N. Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA 31602

conhsadvising@valdosta.edu

229-333-2886

Applicants should apply to VSU as Dental Hygiene Major

Advising at Wiregrass

The One-Stop Enrollment and Success Center is located in Berrien Hall, Suite 101

4089 Val Tech Rd., Valdosta, GA 31602

Camillia Bryant

camillia.bryant@wiregrass.edu

<https://bit.ly/OSbryant>

229-468-2091

Applicants should apply to Wiregrass Tech as either Technical Specialist TCC or Occupational Studies Degree

Sandi Woodward, Director of Dental Programs, sandi.woodward@wiregrass.edu

Clinical-related questions can be referred to: 229-259-5533

The Dental Hygiene Faculty offices are located at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College.

Dental Hygiene Application Requirements

Acceptance to the clinical portion of the Dental Hygiene Program is very selective. Acceptance to VSU and/or Wiregrass Tech does not guarantee admission to clinical portion of the Dental Hygiene Program. The following items must be received by 5:00 P.M. March 1 of each year, in order to have a completed application that is eligible for review.

1. Complete application for admission to VSU and Wiregrass Tech
 - a. Dental Hygiene is a VSU program taught in cooperation with Wiregrass Tech; therefore, applicants should apply at both VSU and Wiregrass before making application to the competitive portion of the program.
 - b. All applicants MUST have a student ID number from both VSU and Wiregrass Tech before making application to the competitive portion of the program.
2. [Complete the online application](#) for the competitive clinical portion of the program
 - a. The application will open on February 1 of each year.
3. Official copies of ALL college transcripts must be received at VSU and/or Wiregrass Tech
 - a. ***A minimum of 21 credit hours must be completed at VSU to meet the residency requirement*** and to graduate with the Dental Hygiene Degree (if selected for the competitive clinical portion). **THE A.A.S. IN DENTAL HYGIENE CANNOT BE AWARDED UNTIL THE VSU RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT IS MET.**
4. Complete the HESI A2 Exam at VSU
5. Completion of (1) observation session at Wiregrass Tech
 - a. One (1) Clinical Observation Session at Wiregrass Dental Clinic is required. Observation sessions are scheduled by appointment only, email the Clinical Coordinator as instructed on the observation form at the back of this packet.
 - b. Shadowing must be completed and documented prior to applying to the competitive clinical portion of the program. Shadowing hours DO NOT expire. The same observation can be used for multiple applications. Use the form at the end of this packet. The form must be uploaded into the online application for the competitive clinical portion of the program.

If accepted to the competitive clinical portion of the program, all financial aid, fees, and tuition will be managed at VSU. Required books will be available for purchase at the VSU bookstore. Accepted students will be directed to purchase specified equipment, services, and supplies out of pocket from designated vendors.

Competitive Criteria

Applicants will be ranked on the following formula:

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

Pre-Requisite Courses

- Applicants must have a 2.5 or better in the required Pre-Requisite Science Courses: BIOL 2251K, BIOL 2252K, BIOL 2260K, CHEM 1151K, & CHEM 1152K. 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, POLS 1101, HIST 2111 or 2112, PSYC 1101, SOCI 1101, & COMM/ACED.
- 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 completed, however, they will not receive quality points for incomplete classes.***

HESI A2 Information

- Applicants must have a 75 or better on the HESI, as well as a 75 or better in each of the following individual sections: Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary, Grammar, Anatomy & Physiology, and Math.
- The HESI A2 exam must be taken at VSU.
- HESI scores are valid for a single (1) application cycle, and applicants may take the test twice (2 times) per application cycle. The HESI test score sheet(s) must be uploaded into the online application for the competitive clinical portion of the program. The highest scores from the two attempts will be used in the calculations.
- The HESI A2 exam is offered by [appointment](#) through VSU’s [Office of Testing](#). It is also available through the HESI Distance Testing Program and is administered at [Prometric Testing Centers](#). If you would like more information about HESI Distance Testing, please email testing@valdosta.edu.

Applications are due by 5:00 PM March 1, for consideration of acceptance into the upcoming Fall entry class. Applicants will be notified by mail, within 14 business days after the application deadline.

Advisement Sheet

The Dental Hygiene program is a cooperative degree program offered by Wiregrass Georgia Technical College and Valdosta State University. Students earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree from Valdosta State. The program consists of a combination of academic core courses at VSU and clinical training provided at WGTC. Clinical Training begins annually fall semester. Because of the depth and scope of training, the program utilizes a competitive admission process for selection of students. The top 15 candidates are admitted to the program.

A minimum of 21 credit hours (Non-DHYG) MUST be taken at VSU to meet the residency requirement.

Course Number	Course Name	Term	Grade	HRS	Completed at:
ENGL 1101	Composition & Rhetoric			3	
Mathematics	MATH 1111 College Algebra, MATH 1101 Math Modeling, MATH 1001 Quantitative Reasoning, MATH 1401 Statistics			3	
CHEM 1151K (not taught at Wiregrass)	Survey of Chem I (General)			4	
PSYC 1101	Fundamentals of Psychology			3	
ENGL 1102	Composition 2			3	
CHEM 1152K (not taught at Wiregrass)	Survey of Chem II (Inorganic)			4	
SOCI 1101	Intro to Sociology			3	
COMM 1110 or COMM 1100 or ACED 2050				3	
BIOL 2651 (or BIOL 2113/L)	Human A&P I			4	
POLS 1101	American Government			3	
HIST 2111 or 2112	American History			3	
BIOL 2652 (or BIOL 2114/L)	Human A&P II			4	
BIOL 2900 (or BIOL 2117/L)	Microbiology			4	

Transfer students should note that a mini of 21 credit hours (Non-DHYG) MUST be taken at VSU to meet the residency requirements as required by Georgia Board of Regents.

Please note that all DHYG classes will be taught on the Wiregrass Valdosta Campus

Course Number	Course Name	Term	Grade	HRS
DHYG 1040	DH Preclinic Lec	Fall		2
DHYG 1050	DH Preclinic Lab	Fall		2
DHYG 1080	Dental Biology	Fall		5
DHYG 1206	Pharmacology	Fall		3
DHYG 1110	DH Lec I	Spring		2
DHYG 1111	DH Clinic I	Spring		3
DHYG 2200	Peridontology	Spring		3
DHYG 1070	Radiology Lecture	Spring		2
DHYG 1090	Radiology Lab	Spring		1
DHYG 2010	DH Lec II	Summer		3
DHYG 2020	DH Clinic II	Summer		2
DHYG 2050	Pathology	Summer		3
DHYG 1030	Dental Materials	Summer		2
DHYG 2070	Community DH	Fall		3
DHYG 2080	DH Lec III	Fall		2
DHYG 2090	DH Lab III	Fall		4
DHYG 2105	Nutrition	Fall		1
DHYG 2130	DH Lec IV	Spring		2
DHYG 2140	DH Clinic IV	Spring		4

RANK ORDER INFORMATION AND STUDENT SCORES

Criteria	Requirement		Student Scores				
HESI Scores	Min 75 required	Cumulative: Exam Date:	Reading	Grammar	Vocab	Math	Anatomy
Non-Science GPA	Min 2.5 required	GPA:					
Science GPA	Min 2.5 required	GPA:					

Additional Dental Hygiene Program Requirements

A mandatory program orientation will be conducted with DHYG faculty in May or June on the Wiregrass Campus. Accepted students and alternate candidates will be notified of the specific date and time via Wiregrass Tech e-mail.

Be sure that you are financially prepared for the program. Students may use financial aid to purchase required textbooks at VSU. Excess checks will not be processed until at least the second week of the semester; therefore, students should be prepared to pay for all other program expenses out of pocket before excess aid funds are distributed. Refer to Estimated Expenses List for Dental Hygiene Program Per Semester for additional information regarding the cost of the program.

For most allied health programs, clinical experience is required to complete a program, and students must meet all clinical requirements defined by the clinical facility. No student will be denied admissions to a program due to these requirements; however, the clinical partner requirement may prevent a student from completing the program. Clinical requirements may include, but 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, Tuberculin skin test, up-to-date immunizations, mandatory vaccinations, and/or titers. [See Wiregrass Health Science Policies](#) for more information.

Financial Aid Information for Clinical Portion of Training

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 at VSU. All 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. ***Financial aid will not be available at the WGTC bookstore to purchase books instruments and supplies.*** Students may purchase textbooks from VSU campus bookstores. Financial aid may be used only at VSU for these purchases. All equipment and supplies are to be 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 List for Dental Hygiene Program Per Semester (Current for Fall 2022)

	Fall 1		Spring 1		Summer		Fall 2		Spring 2	
Uniforms Patches, Shoes Caps, Etc.	\$600	Uniforms and Patches	\$62	Additional Uniform		Additional Uniform	\$62	Additional Uniform		
Medical Expense	\$300	Medical Req. Vaccines, Etc					\$35	Senior Year TB Test		
Estimated Books	\$1,100	Estimated Books and Tal Eval	\$250	Estimated Books	\$250	Estimated Books	\$165	Estimated Books	\$200	Estimated Books
Instruments and Equipment	\$1,210	Junior Instruments	\$133	Cavitron Tips Cassette (Jr.)	\$414	Cavitron Tips (Sr.)	\$550	Sr. Instrum. Kit	\$100	Instrument Trade in
	\$800	Fall 1 Clinic Equip. Kit	\$3,000	Cavitron Unit and Tips (Jr.)	\$133	Cavitron Tips Cassette (Sr.)				
	\$1,550	Loupes and Face Shield	\$260	RINN X-ray Devices	\$55	Dental Mat. Kit				
			\$1,110	Spring 1 Clinic Equip Kit						
MISC Supplies and Fees	\$50	MISC Supplies for Classes								
	\$65	CPR Class Fee								
	\$65	Jr. SADHA Dues/Fee					\$65	Sr. SADHA Dues/Fee		
Board/Exam Related							\$600	Board Review	\$550	National Boards
Expenses									\$1,300	CRDTS Clinical Exam
									\$400	Estimated CRDTS Lodging
Graduation Expenses									\$75	Pin and Stole Fee
									\$35	Grad Applic. fee
									\$40	Student Class Grad Photos
Totals Per Semester	\$5,740		\$4,815		\$914		\$1,477		\$2,700	
Total Estimated Program Equipment, Books and Supplies:										\$15,646

Overview by Year	1st year	2nd year
Supplies and Instruments	\$ 8,715.00	\$ 650.00
Uniforms	\$ 724.00	\$ 62.00
Textbooks	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 365.00
Lab Fees	\$ 65.00	\$ -
Other	\$ 365.00	\$ 3,100.00
	\$ 11,469.00	\$ 4,177.00
Total Estimated Program Equipment, Books and Supplies: \$ 15,646.00		

The list of equipment and pricing is accurate at the time the list is published and is subject to change without notice.

Required equipment and pricing is subject to change in keeping with industry standards and manufacturer costs.

List is provided so that students can be aware of financial obligations prior to program application and entry. All equipment is required.

Equipment specified above will be purchased directly from vendors through student pricing programs. There are no payment plans with vendors.

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...

- **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:
- **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:
- **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:
- **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:
- **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

- Provide quality industry driven education and training that prepares dental hygiene students to enter the work force as critically thinking dental healthcare professionals.
- 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.
- To provide opportunities for leadership and application of professional, ethical, legal and regulatory concepts to oral health care services, community projects, and professional activities.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Present a fiscally sound occupational training program that continuously meets or exceeds requirements for full program accreditation through Commission on Dental Accreditation.

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, IL 60611-2678.	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.
Student 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.

- All Dental Hygiene applicants are required to complete **1 shadowing session** at the **Wiregrass Dental Hygiene Clinic** prior to application.
- Shadowing opportunities are **limited** and by **appointment only**.
- **24-hour notice** is required to cancel or reschedule an appointment.
- Shadowing hours **DO NOT** expire. The same shadowing experience can be used for multiple applications.



What to Wear?

Scrubs if you have them!



If you do not have scrubs, you must wear professional short sleeve shirt, long pants and closed toe shoes with socks.

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



All students will be required to sign a HIPAA Confidentiality Agreement.



All staff students and clinic visitors are strongly urged to get the COVID-19 Vaccine prior to clinical exposure.

WGTC Dental Clinic

Valdosta Campus • 4089 Val Tech Road (I-75 Exit 22)
Berrien Hall, Room 220 • 229-245-3716

Equal Opportunity Institution | A Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia | WGTC is accredited by SACSCOC

DENTAL HYGIENE CLINIC SHADOWING

INSTRUCTIONS

Email Clinical Coordinator
to make your appointment.

gail.blitch@wiregrass.edu



Blood Borne Pathogens Notification

All students will be required to sign a waiver for exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

HIPAA 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.

- Unauthorized use of patient personal health information is punishable by fines up to \$250,000 and can result in permanent disqualification from DHYG program entry.
- Cell phones, photos and audio recordings are strictly prohibited in the clinical area.

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 will comply with dress code and wear PPE at all times during the shadowing experience.
- Student assumes all potential risks associated with entering the clinical facility during patient care.

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

Student Signature

Date

Faculty Verification of Completion

Student Name

Date/Time of Session

The above-named student completed the clinical shadowing requirement at WGTC dental hygiene clinic.

Faculty/Staff Signature

Date