

SFCC Dental Hygiene Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long is the program? The program begins in the fall and continues for five semesters (approximately 22 months) including the summer between academic years.
2. What if I do not get accepted? The program is competitive and unfortunately, not all who are qualified are guaranteed acceptance. If you are not accepted, there are several options. You may continue taking courses toward your AA degree and reapply to the program the following year. Applicants who have previously applied are given five additional points. Your navigator can help you decide which route might be best for you.
3. Does A+ pay for a Health Science program? The A+ scholarship can be applied to a Health Science degree such as DH. It does not cover the entire cost but most often covers the majority of tuition; some fees and books may not be covered.
4. What is the average salary and placement? The average starting salary for a dental hygienist is \$46.00 per hour, in the United States. Salaries vary and students are encouraged to research the going rate for the area in which they are seeking employment. Most of our graduates have employment positions secured prior to graduation.
5. How many semesters does it take to complete the pre-requisites? Four science courses and one math course are the prerequisites for the program. These could be completed in as little as two semesters. There are additional general education courses that are required for graduation. These may be taken prior to or during the program. Because of the intensity of the program, we recommend that the required general education courses be completed prior to beginning the program.
6. Are there scholarships available for this program? Many scholarships go unclaimed each year. Talk with the financial aid office or your navigator for more information about scholarship opportunities.
7. What score do I need on the ATI TEAS exam? Currently there is no minimum score required for the TEAS exam. However, the TEAS exam is worth 100 of the 300 points assessed for admission. Therefore, the higher your score, the more points you receive.

8. Which ATI TEAS exam do I choose when registering? Allied Health (AH)
9. What happens if I do not meet the minimum grade requirement for a course? You will need to repeat the course or a higher-level course in the same subject to be eligible for admission.
10. Is the program online, on-ground, at Sedalia campus? The dental hygiene program at SFCC holds all didactic courses on-ground. Clinical and lab courses are held in both the Columbia location and the main Sedalia campus. A few clinical rotations during the senior year of clinical courses are at additional sites in the Central Missouri Region.
11. Do I have to travel? The only travel required for the dental hygiene program is participation in some community events and a few clinical rotations during the senior year of clinical courses.
12. How many times a year do you accept applications? One cohort starts each fall, with the application deadline for consideration into that class listed in the application, usually beginning of March.
13. How many are accepted into the program? 20-22 students are accepted, alternating each year.
14. Does it matter how many attempts I have on a pre-requisite course? Subsequent attempts do not directly impact your chances of being accepted, however, your chance of being successful in the program is predictive from your academic success prior to the program.

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