Missouri Southern State University
Dental Hygiene Program

Application: Please submit complete application and all required documentation before January 31st.

**Dental Hygiene Program**
*Information/Application Packet*

**Introduction:**

The MSSU Dental Hygiene Program provides basic education and experience, to prepare graduates for licensure as dental hygienists. Each fall semester a class of 50 students (30 in Joplin, 10 in Rolla, MO and 10 in Sikeston, MO) will begin the two-year program. Students generally have classes five days per week.

**General Description:**

Dental hygienists are licensed, preventive oral health care professionals who provide educational, clinical and therapeutic services to the public in a variety of settings. As a member of the dental healthcare team, the dental hygienist promotes and maintains oral wellness through such services as oral health assessments, taking radiographs, dental health education, non-surgical periodontal therapy, removal of deposits and stains from the teeth, and application of dental sealants and fluorides.

**Admission Requirements:**

- Complete all prerequisite courses with grade “C” or better by the end of the spring semester of the year in which you are applying. If a passing grade is not achieved after two attempts in any program prerequisite course, an applicant will not be considered for the program.
  - COMM 100: Oral Communications
  - ENG 101: College Composition (WI)
  - MATH 030: Intermediate Algebra (or higher)
  - KINE 103: Lifetime Wellness
  - BIO 121: Human Anatomy & Physiology I
  - BIO 221: Human Anatomy & Physiology II
  - BIO 231: General & Medical Microbiology
  - CHEM 120: Chemistry for Allied Health Sciences
  - MSSU course numbers
- Minimum GPA 2.75
- Submission of the Dental Hygiene Application prior to the deadline of January 31st.

For transfer students, please refer to the link below for assistance in identifying how courses from selected colleges will transfer to MSSU.

[http://www.mssu.edu/registrar/transfer-guides](http://www.mssu.edu/registrar/transfer-guides)

Application to MSSU, and the MSSU dental hygiene program requires a TWO STEP process.
STEP ONE: PRIOR TO APPLYING TO THE MSSU DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

1. Apply for Admissions to MSSU available online or on campus.
2. Must have been accepted to MSSU, and all official transcripts from every college and/or university attended on file with the MSSU admission/registrar’s office.
3. One meeting with an MSSU dental hygiene faculty advisor at the site for which you are applying.

STEP TWO: DENTAL HYGIENE APPLICATION – INSTRUCTIONS

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED AND MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE DENTAL HYGIENE APPLICATION:

1. Completed dental hygiene program application
2. Unofficial transcripts from every college and/or university attended.
3. A 250-WORD ESSAY: How does the profession of dental hygiene impact today’s society? FORMAT: Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced, 1 inch margins.
4. A schedule of courses in which you are enrolled for the spring semester
5. Shadowing form confirming 40 hours of documented shadowing of at least TWO practicing dental hygienists at work (must be less than 6 months prior to submission of application), or 2 years’ documented experience as a Dental Assistant in an office that employs dental hygienist(s).

Submit ONLY required information.
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Application to MSSU Dental Hygiene Program (Part of Step two)

Please circle the location you prefer (circle ONE):

<table>
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<tr>
<th>JOPLIN</th>
<th>ROLLA</th>
<th>SIKESTON</th>
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NAME: __________________________________________ (Last) (First) (Middle) (Maiden)

ADDRESS: __________________________________________

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Telephone____________________________

Cell phone____________________________

Other phone____________________________

MSSU Student ID # _____________________________

Personal E-mail Address _____________________________

MSSU E-mail Address _____________________________

MSSU Admission Status: ___ Application Submitted    ___ Application HAS NOT been submitted

(Check Appropriate Status)    ___ Accepted for Admission   ___ Currently Enrolled   ___ Formerly Enrolled

I. Have you ever been dismissed from any school or college for any reason? ___ Yes      ___ No    If yes, explain

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

II. Have you previously enrolled in another dental hygiene program? ___ Yes      ___ No

   a. If yes, please specify at what institution(s) _____________________________

   b. Did you graduate from this dental hygiene program? ___ Yes      ___ No

   c. IF no, are you eligible to return to the dental hygiene program you that you did not complete?

       ___ Yes      ___ No      ___ Not sure

III. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? ___ Yes      ___ No

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

I certify that the information provided in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I will not be considered for admission to the dental program until I have been accepted to Missouri Southern State University.

_____________________________ ________________ ________________
(Signature) (Date)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to update any information that may change after submission of the application. Minimal effort will be made to contact those who have not notified the office of any changes.
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For job shadowing hours to qualify, document must confirm: *(Part of step two)*
- 40 hours of shadowing at least TWO Registered Dental Hygienist at work (preferably in two separate dental offices/clinics)
- be less than 6 months prior to submission of the application
- **OR** document 2 years’ experience as a Dental Assistant.

**JOB SHADOWING**

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TOTAL HOURS 40 MINIMUM

NOTE: Observation of a dentist is commendable, but does not meet requirements and will not be used in the selection process.

*Use additional sheets if necessary to document shadowing hours*
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- MAIL Dental Hygiene application and all required information to:
  MSSU
  DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
  3950 East Newman Road
  Joplin, MO 64801

- We encourage you to mail your application as registered mail with a return receipt and keep copies for your records

- Receipt of application will be confirmed by e-mail, within 2 weeks. Due to the number of applicants, immediate notification may not be possible. Please be patient.

- Once the application has been received, if any additional information is required, WE WILL CONTACT YOU.
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**SELECTION PROCESS:**

1. Cumulative college GPA – points
2. Science courses GPA – points
3. Essay – 1 possible points
4. Documentation of 40 hours of Shadowing

**NOTIFICATION:**

ALL APPLICANTS will be notified of their status (accepted, provisionally accepted, accepted as an alternate, or not accepted) by mail after all applications have been reviewed, typically by mid-April.

**APPLICANT ACCEPTANCE OF POSITION OFFERED:**

Upon notification of being accepted, the student will need to provide:

   a. A WRITTEN LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, AND
   b. $100.00 ORIENTATION FEE (NON-REFUNDABLE)

**ONCE ACCEPTED:**

ACCEPTED APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED to attend a MANDATORY two-day orientation on the main campus in Joplin in JUNE, or JULY.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING PRIOR TO ORIENTATION:
(Forms will be provided upon notification of admission and MUST be completed and signed by appropriate providers.)

1. A documented satisfactory physical, mental, dental and visual health examination
2. A Complete Blood Count, less than 6 months prior to entering the program
3. The following immunization or titers verifying immunity:
   a. HEP A and B
   b. Tuberculin test
   c. Tetanus/TDAP
   d. MMRV
4. Proof of Health Insurance
5. Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers – 2 year certification, not to expire before mid-June of students 2nd year in the dental hygiene program
6. Upon receipt and review, a signed copy of the Communicable Disease Policy

**NOTE:** Failure to complete the 6 requirements listed above will result in loss of eligibility for admission to the dental hygiene program.

**A copy of MSSU policy for Blood borne Pathogens & infectious diseases is available for review upon request.**