

## Dental Hygiene Program Information

**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 30 students will begin the two-year program that includes summer classes. The curriculum is designed with courses meeting 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 services such 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.

Applicants for whom English is a second language must take the Test of English as Modern Language (TOEFL) and obtain a minimum score of 600 or 200 on the Internet-based TOEFL. Non-English speaking applicants must meet the same general admission requirements as all others applying for the Dental Hygiene Program. The TOEFL tests are offered only at selected sites and select dates in Missouri. Applicants are responsible for making their own arrangements for taking the TOEFL tests.

There is a new testing requirement for all applicants. All applicants are required to complete the TEAS exam. The minimum score for the TEAS exam is 50. Applicants scoring below 50 will not be ranked. There are preparatory materials available online for the TEAS exam. Students may contact the ACTS Office to schedule appointments for completing the TOEFL or TEAS exams.

### **Admission Requirements:**

- Prerequisites must be completed before starting in the dental hygiene program, but applicants can be in progress to complete the prerequisites at the time of application. Prerequisites must be complete by the end of spring semester preceding entry into the program with grade “C” or better. If a passing grade is not achieved **after two attempts** in any program prerequisite course, an applicant will not be considered for the program. **All science prerequisites must have been completed within 5 yrs. of applying to the program, or will not be accepted.**
  - COMM 100: Oral Communications
  - ENG 101: College Composition (WI)
  - MATH 030: Intermediate Algebra (or higher)
  - BIO 121: Human Anatomy & Physiology I or BIO 201 Human Anatomy
  - BIO 221: Human Anatomy & Physiology II or BIO 301 Human Physiology
  - BIO 231: General & Medical Microbiology
  - CHEM 121/122: Chemistry for Allied Health Sci. or CHEM 140/141 General Chemistry w/lab
    - MSSU course numbers
- Minimum GPA 3.00
- Minimum of 50 for TEAS exam
- TOEFL minimum of 600 or TOEFLiBT of 200 if English is a second language
- Clinical job shadowing requirement of a minimum of 16 hours
- Submission of the Dental Hygiene Application prior to the deadline of May 31st with all required documentation
- If all required documentation is not submitted with the application, the application will not be considered. Please refer to the application checklist.

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>