

# Step Up to the Future with

# Dental Hygiene



## Dental Hygiene Programs are Available at the Following Community Colleges:

Cabrillo College  
Cerritos College  
Chabot College  
Cypress College  
Diablo Valley College  
Foothill College  
Fresno City College  
Moreno Valley College  
Oxnard College  
Pasadena City College  
Riverside Community College  
Sacramento City College  
Santa Rosa Junior College  
Shasta College  
Southwestern Community College  
Taft College  
West Los Angeles College

For more information, please contact one of the colleges listed above or explore the web resources. For additional information regarding this brochure please contact: The Health Workforce Initiative at Butte College (530) 892-3060 [www.ca-hwi.org](http://www.ca-hwi.org)



**ECONOMIC &  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**  
through the  
CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGES



**Health Workforce Initiative**

*This publication was produced pursuant to grant agreement number 15-151-004 (Health: Sector Navigator) by the Health Workforce Initiative. The project was supported by Economic and Workforce Development funds awarded to Butte Community College by the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges. Copyright 2016.*

# Dental Hygiene



## Step Up to the Future!

### What Does a Dental Hygienist Do?

A Dental Hygienist is a licensed health professional who provides preventive and therapeutic oral health services to the public.

Dental Hygienists assess a person's oral health by examination, taking x-rays and intra-oral photographs. They remove soft and hard deposits from the teeth both for prevention and treatment of gum disease. Hygienists can administer local anesthesia and nitrous oxide. They apply agents such as fluoride and sealants to prevent cavities. The hygienist provides thorough oral health education to achieve and maintain oral health.



### Facts About Dental Hygienists

According to the California Employment Development Department, the need for Dental Hygienists from 2012-2022 will increase by 23.4% with 1,060 average annual job openings. As in all allied health professions, the overall health of the economy affects actual employment needs.

To become a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) the applicant must graduate from one of the 334 accredited Dental Hygiene programs in the nation and pass both a national and regional written exam.

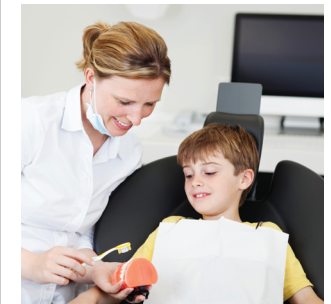
Community colleges offer entry-level programs while four-year institutes offer Bachelor's and/or Master's degree programs. Foothill College and West Los Angeles College have been approved for participation in the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program. Please visit the websites for each of these programs for additional information.

<http://www.foothill.edu/bio/programs/dentalh/>

<http://www.wlac.edu/Allied-Health/Dental-Hygiene.aspx>

### Personal Characteristics and Working Conditions

- Desire to educate and help others.
- Good judgment and critical thinking skills.
- Calm, pleasant demeanor and emotional stability.
- Enjoys paying attention to detail.
- Tolerance for working with blood and oral secretions.
- Good communication skills.
- Ability to work in a team as well as independently.
- Superior manual dexterity.
- Excellent eye hand coordination.
- Stamina; tolerance for doing repetitive motion activities, standing or sitting for long periods at a time.
- Good health and clean, neat appearance.



### Sources for Further Information About Dental Hygiene:

**Dental Board of California**  
<http://www.dbc.ca.gov>

**American Dental Association**  
[www.ada.org/index.asp](http://www.ada.org/index.asp)

**American Dental Education Association**  
[www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

**American Dental Hygienists Association**  
[www.adha.org/](http://www.adha.org/)

**For more information on salaries go to:**  
<https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/salarysurfer.cccco.edu>

**For a directory of all Allied Health programs offered at California's Community Colleges, please visit:**  
[www.ca-hwi.org](http://www.ca-hwi.org)