# Dental Hygiene Program

## Additional Admission Requirements

Students interested in the Dental Hygiene program must complete all admission requirements listed below by the acceptance deadline.

Applicants must submit both the Iowa Western application for admission and the Dental Hygiene Competitive Program application once all admission requirements are met. This application will open in the **fall prior to the program start term** and **must be submitted by the acceptance deadline** to be considered for admission.

The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of ***"approval without reporting requirements."*** The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. The Commission's web address is: https://coda.ada.org/.

**Program Locations, Start Dates, and Deadlines:**

| Location | Semester Begins | Application Opens | Final Deadline |
|---|---|---|---|
| Council Bluffs | Fall | September 1 | January 31 |
| **It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all admissions requirements are on file with the Admissions Office and that their admissions application is correct, including intended start term, start year, and location.** | | | |

## Section 1: College Admission Requirements

To apply for Iowa Western, complete the following steps:

- **Submit an Application:**
  - Apply online at www.iwcc.edu.
  - There is no application fee.
- **Request Transcripts:**
  - Have your final, official high school transcript, HiSET/GED transcript, or college transcript sent to Iowa Western. Official transcripts must be received before the acceptance deadline. For more details on submitting official transcripts, please refer to item 2 on the Admissions page.
- **Optional Test Scores:**
  - Standardized test scores (ACT, SAT) are not required for admission.
  - If available, submit your most recent scores to help advisors determine placement in math and English courses.

**Note:** Completing these steps ensures acceptance to Iowa Western as a General Studies AGS student with a secondary program of "Prep Dental Hygiene." Students can then enroll in general education courses required for the Dental Hygiene program. For help with registration or admissions requirements, contact us at admissions@iwcc.edu or call 712-325-3277.

## Section 2: Dental Hygiene Program Admission Requirements

To apply for the Dental Hygiene program, complete the following steps:

1. **Observation Requirement:**
   - Complete 16 hours of observation with a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) and submit a completed Dental Hygiene Program Observation Form.
   - Observation hours must be completed within 12 months of the acceptance deadline.
2. **Complete Prerequisite Courses:**
   - Earn a grade of "C" or higher in each of the following courses:
     - ENG-105: Composition I
     - SPC-112: Public Speaking
     - CHM-132: Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry
       - *Prerequisite*: CHM-122 Introduction to General Chemistry OR one year of high school Chemistry with a grade of "C" or higher earned within the last two years.
       - *Prerequisite for CHM-122 Introduction to General Chemistry*: A grade of "C" or higher in one of the following:
         - One year of high school Algebra within the last two years,
         - MAT-743 Technical Math, or
         - MAT-102 Intermediate Algebra.
     - BIO-168: Human Anatomy & Physiology I with Labs
       - *Prerequisite*: A grade of "C" or higher in BIO-157 Human Biology or one year of high school Anatomy and Physiology with a grade of "C" or higher earned within the last two years.
     - BIO-173: Human Anatomy Physiology II with Labs
       - *Prerequisite*: A grade of "C" or higher in Anatomy & Physiology I with Labs.
3. **Submit a Dental Hygiene Application:**
   - The Dental Hygiene application opens in the fall prior to the program start term and must be submitted by the acceptance deadline.
   - All required attachments must be included when submitting the application. Incomplete applications will be returned for correction.

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**Note:** Ensure all requirements are met **before** submitting the Dental Hygiene application. For assistance, contact the Admissions Office at admissions@iwcc.edu or 712-325-3277.

**Recommended Course Sequence:**

| Semester | Courses | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| **First Semester** | BIO-157: Human Biology (may be waived) | 4 |
| | *ENG-105: Composition I | 3 |
| | MAT-743: Technical Math (may be waived) | 4 |
| **Second Semester** | *BIO-168: Human Anatomy & Physiology I with Labs | 4 |
| | *SPC-112: Public Speaking | 3 |
| | CHM-122: Introduction to General Chemistry (may be waived) | 4 |
| **Third Semester** | *BIO-173: Human Anatomy & Physiology II with Labs | 4 |
| **Fourth Semester** | *CHM-132: Introduction to Organic & Biochemistry | 4 |
| **Note:** Classes marked with an asterisk are required for acceptance. | | |

## Section 3: Acceptance Process

1. **Eligibility and Application Review:**
   - Complete the College Admissions Requirements (Section 1) and the Dental Hygiene Program Admissions Requirements (Section 2), including the Dental Hygiene application prior to the Acceptance Deadline.
2. **Acceptance Deadline:**
   - Acceptance begins after the listed priority deadline:
     - **Fall Semester:** January 31
   - The program admits 20 students per year.
3. **Selection Process:**
   - Admissions reviews records based on a point system, which evaluates:
     - Grades in prerequisite science courses (Anatomy & Physiology I and II, Introduction to Organic & Biochemistry).
     - Completion of a bachelor's or master's degree.
     - Healthcare work experience (if applicable).
   - Dental Hygiene faculty make the final determination of acceptance from a blinded ranking list, considering:
     - Points awarded,
     - Prerequisite course grades,
     - Work experience,
     - And additional factors.
4. **Acceptance Notification:**
   - Students will receive an email notification from the Admissions Office approximately four to six weeks after the acceptance deadline.
   - The program admits 20 students per year.
5. **Alternate List:**
   - A **limited number of alternates** will be selected. If an accepted student declines their offer, alternates may be offered a spot in the program.
6. **Next Steps After Acceptance:**
   - Accepted students **must** complete additional steps before beginning the program, including:
     - Registering for classes
     - Attending a Dental Hygiene orientation
     - Submitting required health and background check documentation
   - These details will be provided in the acceptance email and follow-up communication from the Dental Hygiene department.

## Section 4: Dental Hygiene Program – Point System

Admission to the **Dental Hygiene program** is **competitive** and based on a **point system**. To be included in the point calculation, all required documentation **must be on file** with the **Admissions Office** by the acceptance deadline.

1. **Science GPA (Maximum 40 Points)**

   Points are awarded based on the average GPA of the following prerequisite science courses:
   - **BIO-168** Human Anatomy & Physiology I
   - **BIO-173** Human Anatomy & Physiology II
   - **CHM-132** Introduction to Organic & Biochemistry

| GPA Range | Points Awarded |
|---|---|
| 3.68 – 4.00 | 40 points |
| 3.34 – 3.67 | 35 points |
| 3.01 – 3.33 | 30 points |
| 2.68 – 3.00 | 25 points |
| 2.34 – 2.67 | 15 points |
| 2.01 – 2.33 | 10 points |

2. **Prior Degree Completion (Maximum: 5 Points)**

   Students may receive **5 points** for prior degree attainment:

   ✅ **Bachelor's or master's degree = 5 points**

   ⚠️ *Only one degree is counted (points are not cumulative for multiple degrees).*

3. **Healthcare Work Experience (Maximum: 2 Points)**

   Students may receive **2 points** for documented healthcare work experience.

   **Requirements:**
   - Work experience must be in a **healthcare setting** (e.g., medical or dental office).
   - Must be verified using the Healthcare Work Experience Verification form.
   - Must meet **one** of the following:
     - **Full-time employment**: **Minimum of two years**
     - **Part-time employment**: **Minimum of four years**

4. **Additional Admission Decisions**

If a tie breaker is needed, only the following criteria will be used.

- Grades in Composition I and Public Speaking
- Whether prerequisite courses have been retaken
- Where prerequisite courses have been taken - IWCC courses preferred.

## Section 5: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **Why does the Dental Hygiene program have additional admission requirements?**

   The Dental Hygiene program is a rigorous academic program requiring students to have a strong foundation in human biology, anatomy & physiology, and chemistry to ensure success.

2. **How competitive is the admission process?**

   Admission is highly competitive, with students ranked using a point system based on prerequisite course grades, prior degree attainment, and healthcare work experience. Only **20 students** are accepted per year.

3. **Can I apply before finishing my prerequisite courses?**

   No. You must complete all prerequisite courses before submitting the Dental Hygiene Competitive Program application.

4. **How do I submit proof of healthcare work experience?**

   You must complete and submit the Healthcare Work Experience Verification form by the acceptance deadline to receive 2 points toward your application score.

5. **Does the program have a waiting list?**

   No, the Dental Hygiene program does not maintain a waiting list. If you are not accepted, you may reapply in a future application cycle.

6. **What if I don't complete the admission requirements in time?**

   You may reapply for a future admission cycle once all requirements are complete.

## Section 6: Program Mission & Learning Outcomes

### Program Mission Statement

The **Iowa Western Community College Department of Dental Hygiene** is affiliated with **Creighton University School of Dentistry**. The program's mission is to educate **Associate of Applied Science Degree dental hygienists** in the broadest scope of clinical practice.

Graduates are **competent to provide comprehensive educational and clinical services**, reflecting the expertise of dental hygienists. They are prepared to serve in both **private and public health settings** to support **optimal oral health**.

All aspects of the program are **continually assessed** to maintain excellence and guide improvement. In alignment with the program's mission of **caring, commitment, and challenge**, the Dental Hygiene program provides a **positive, learner-focused environment**.

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### Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the **Iowa Western Dental Hygiene Program** will:

- Utilize **evidence-based decision-making principles**.
- Apply the **Dental Hygiene process of care** to meet the needs of diverse populations.
- Operate **within an ethical framework** aligned with the Dental Hygiene scope of practice.
- Motivate and effectively communicate with all populations to **promote high standards of oral health**.

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### Affiliated Program Information

The **Iowa Western Community College Dental Hygiene Program** was established in collaboration with **Creighton University School of Dentistry in 1998**.

**Benefits of the Affiliation**

- Students gain exposure to **a diverse educational and clinical experience**.
- The program combines **urban, private university resources** with the **intimate learning environment of a community college**.

Iowa Western has an **articulation agreement with Creighton University**, allowing students to pursue a **Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene**.

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### General Program Information

- The **Infectious Control Policy** is available in the **Division Office**.
- **Clinical requirements** are completed at **Creighton University School of Dentistry** and selected off-site clinics.
- Applicants must be **at least 19 years old** on the first day of class.
- Classes are held **Monday through Friday during the day**.
- Courses must be taken **in sequence**, with a **minimum grade of "C" required to progress** in the program.
- There is **no waiting list** – new applications are accepted each year.

- Upon completion of the program, students must successfully pass:
    - The **Dental Hygiene National Board Exam**
    - The **CRDTS exam** or another **state/regional board exam**
    - A **jurisprudence exam** before obtaining licensure
- The program **adheres to CDC and OSHA guidelines**. The Infection Control Policy is available in the **Division Office**.

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# Dental Hygiene Observation Form

## Observation Requirement:

To be considered for admission to the **Dental Hygiene program**, applicants must complete **16 hours of observation** with a **Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)**. This experience provides insight into the role of a dental hygienist in a professional setting.

- Observation hours must be **completed within 12 months** of the acceptance deadline.
- This form must be submitted as part of the Dental Hygiene Competitive Program application. Forms submitted separately will not be accepted.

## Submission Instructions:

- This form must be submitted as part of the Dental Hygiene Competitive Program application.
- **Do not send this form separately** to the Admissions Office; incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Ensure the document is **legible, properly aligned, and free of shadows or glare** before uploading.
- Unreadable or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

## Observation Log

| Date | Time In | Time Out | Hours |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | Total Observation Hours | |

## Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) Certification

The following section must be completed and signed by the **supervising RDH** to verify the applicant's observation hours.

I certify that the applicant has successfully completed the required observation hours in a **professional dental practice** setting under my supervision.

Printed Signature of RDH: _____

Printed Name of RDH: _____

Name of Practice or Facility: _____

Address of Practice or Facility: _____

Phone Number of Practice or Facility: _____

## Applicant Certification

**By signing below, I hereby certify:**

- I have completed the required **16 hours of observation** under the supervision of a **Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)**.
- I understand that this form is a **required part** of the Dental Hygiene Competitive Program application.
- I have reviewed the Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice for Nebraska and Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice for Iowa, available on the IWCC Dental Hygiene program webpage.
- I have reviewed the Infection Control and Bloodborne Pathogen policies on the IWCC Dental Hygiene program webpage.
- I have reviewed the **Dental Hygiene admission criteria,** program costs, and Core Performance Standards on the IWCC Dental Hygiene program webpage.

Signature of Student:

Date:

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## Iowa & Nebraska Scope of Practice

Iowa Scope of Practice

Nebraska Scope of Practice

### Non-Discrimination Clause:

Iowa Western is committed to providing an inclusive environment. Please review our Annual Notice of Non-Discrimination for the latest information.

### Admissions Contact Information:

**Admissions Office:**

- Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Phone: 712-325-3277
- Email: admissions@iwcc.edu