Dental Hygiene

Department: Allied Health
Degree: Associate of Applied Science
Entry time: Fall
Length: 2 years (5 semesters, including 1 summer)

- Kirkwood is one of the few colleges in the country that has a Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene and Dental Technology program.
- The program has consistently received the highest level of accreditation given by The Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- Students get their clinical experience at the College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and public health settings.
- The program has a state-of-the-art lab that promotes a great learning environment with long-term faculty.
- Students benefit from small class sizes and a mentor program.
- An on-campus dental hygiene student club provides students the opportunity to join the American Dental Hygienists' Association at the local, state and national level.
- The program features award-winning, knowledgeable faculty who are experts in their field and focused on student success.
- Kibbie Grant: Students in this program may be eligible to have half their tuition paid for by the Kibbie Grant. Go to www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie for more details.

Program Description
Dental hygienists help prevent, detect and treat diseases of the mouth, playing a key role in the pursuit of optimal patient health via education and treatment planning. Hygienists work independently with patients.

Kirkwood Dental Hygiene students will learn to remove calculus deposits and stains from teeth, polish teeth, apply sealants and fluoride, take X-rays, record medical and dental histories, and educate patients on how proper brushing, flossing and eating habits can help maintain a healthy mouth.

Career Opportunities
Dental offices/clinics/hospitals
Government agencies
Insurance claims processing
Specialty dental practices
Sales
Teaching

Accreditation
The Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, and Dental Technology programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Dental Hygiene graduates are eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and the regional board examinations of their choice. Successful completion of both board examinations is required to receive a license to practice dental hygiene. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312-440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-2678.

Scholarships
Kirkwood will help you pay for college! Kirkwood awards more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa. For more information and to apply, visit www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships.

Sample Classes
Human Anatomy and Physiology
Fundamentals of Dentistry
Dental Anatomy
Preventive Dentistry
Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry
Dental Radiography
General and Oral Pathology
Dental Nutrition
Dental Materials
Local Anesthesia for the Dental Hygienist
Therapeutics and Pain Control
Periodontontology