



Thank you for your interest in Lanier Technical College's Dental Hygiene program. The program is designed as a sequence of courses utilizing a variety of learning opportunities and hands-on training to provide the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed in today's job market as a dental hygienist. Methods and procedures are followed to help ensure the potential for success of the students and the quality of the program. The information packet has been prepared to assist prospective students with the process of applying to the dental hygiene program as well as provide additional insight about a career in dental hygiene.

### **PROGRAM ACCREDITATION**

The dental hygiene program 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://www.ada.org/en/coda>.

### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

The Georgia Career Information System foresees an increased need of dental hygienists in the near future, and the outlook for dental hygienists is one of fast growth. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median yearly salary for dental hygienists was \$87,530 in 2023 or \$42.08 per hour.

### **SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR DENTAL HYGIENE**

The advantages of a career in dental hygiene include excellent wages, flexible hours, a good working environment, the opportunity to help others, and being a member of a healthcare delivery team. Dental hygienists provide services in a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to private dental offices, schools, public health clinics, managed care organizations, and correctional institutions. Each state has its own specific regulations and rules that determine the range of services that can be provided by a registered dental hygienist. Examples of these services include:

- Performing oral healthcare assessments and exposing dental radiographs
- Providing local anesthesia and removing deposits from teeth
- Fabricating mouthguards, nightguards, and whitening trays
- Applying fluoride and sealants to prevent decay
- Teaching patients proper oral hygiene techniques
- Aiding the development of individualized oral hygiene programs for patients
- Counseling patients on nutrition related to oral health
- Participating in community dental education and public health

### **STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

The Technical College System of Georgia and LTC do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, gender, religion, disability, age, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, disabled veteran, veteran of the Vietnam Era, or citizenship status (except in those special circumstances permitted or mandated by law). This nondiscrimination policy encompasses the operation of all TCSG and technical college-administered programs, federally financed programs, educational programs and activities involving admissions, scholarships and loans, student life and athletics. It also applies to the recruitment and employment of personnel and the contracting for goods and services.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

The program content includes general education, biomedical sciences, dental sciences, dental hygiene sciences, and basic clinical education. The dental hygiene courses follow a logical sequence and build theoretical knowledge and clinical competency over a period of five (5) semesters. Graduates of the dental hygiene program are awarded an Associate of Science (AS) Degree. The AS degree is designed to help facilitate access to a BS degree completion program in dental hygiene and increase the number of dental hygienists who are eligible for advanced careers in education, sales and marketing, research, management, and public health.

## PROGRAM ADMISSION

The Dental Hygiene Degree program admits fifteen students once per year at the beginning of the Fall Semester. The length of the program is 5 semesters, including a summer semester, over a period of 21 months. Prospective students must first enter the Interdisciplinary Studies Degree program to meet the minimum core requirements or transfer equivalent coursework from another college. Acceptance into the Interdisciplinary Studies Degree program and meeting the minimum requirements for program admission does not guarantee an applicant's acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Degree program.

New students at LTC wishing to complete the required Pre-Dental Hygiene Core Coursework and enter the dental hygiene program will:

- Apply for admission to Lanier Technical College.
- Submit required documentation of high school diploma or GED.
- Meet the required ACCUPLACER testing or submit SAT, ACT, COMPASS, or ASSET test scores.
- To begin the Pre-Dental Hygiene core coursework, select Dental Hygiene as your major. You will be placed in the Interdisciplinary Studies Degree program enabling you to obtain the required 38 credit hours of Pre-Dental Hygiene coursework.

Admission into the Dental Hygiene Degree program involves a competitive selection process. Students who have met the minimum requirements to apply for the dental hygiene program must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Complete at least 23 of the required 38 credit hours of Pre-Dental Hygiene core courses prior to the March 15th deadline. This must include at least two of the science courses (8 credit hours). A minimum grade of "C" is required in all courses.
- Complete ALL 38 credit hours of required Pre-Dental Hygiene coursework by the end of the Spring semester of the application year.
- Achieve a minimum GPA of 3.0 with the Pre-Dental Hygiene core classes.
- Take the [TEAS for Allied Health test](#).
- Attend one of the pre-program orientation (PPO) sessions for Dental Hygiene. These sessions will be announced in January. To be eligible for a PPO session the applicant:
  - Must be an existing LTC student or complete an application to Lanier Technical College.
  - Must receive an LTC student ID number and an LTC email address. This will be the method of communication from this point forward.
  - Must submit all transcripts to the LTC Admissions Office. Transfer coursework will be entered into Degreeworks and will be verified for accuracy. (Official transcripts or GED scores must be submitted from all colleges and/or high schools attended for credit.)
- Complete at least 60 hours of experience in a dental practice. The dental experience hours may include observation, working as a hygiene assistant, or working as a chairside dental assistant. [Dental Experience form](#)
- Submit three (3) letters of recommendation from dental professionals. Two must be from dentists. One can be from a dental hygienist. The letters must be properly signed and include contact information. It is recommended to include a business card from the dental professional.
- Submit all completed dental hygiene program admission documentation to the dental hygiene department Administrative Assistant by 12:00 noon, March 15th.

## CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

The competitive selection criteria for acceptance include:

**35 points Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)**

- TEAS scores required for program admission into the DHYG program at LTC expire after 3 years.

**10 points Core Non-Science Grade Point Average**

- Includes ENGL 1101, HUMN option, MATH option, PSYC 1101, SOCI 1101 and SPCH 1101).
- Each core class must be passed with a grade of "C" or better to receive program credit.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 with the core classes is required for program entry.

**25 points Core Science Grade Point Average**

- Includes BIOL 2113&L, BIOL 2114&L, BIOL 2117&L, CHEM 1151&L and CHEM 1152&L.
- Each core class must be passed with a grade of "C" or better to receive program credit.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 with the core classes is required for program entry.

**10 points Core Science Course Completion**

- The core sciences courses required for program admission into the DHYG program at LTC expire after 5 years. These courses include BIOL 2113&L, BIOL 2114&L, BIOL 2117&L, CHEM 1151&L and CHEM 1152&L.
- The applicant must have completed a minimum of 23 of the required 38 credit hours to apply to the program. At least 8 of the completed credit hours must be with the science courses.

**10 points Previous Dental Experience**

The applicant must obtain a minimum of 60 hours of dental experience. Credit may be obtained for:

- Shadowing or observation (The least amount of credit)
- Hygiene assisting
- Chairside dental assisting
- Or graduate from a CODA approved dental assisting program.

**10 points Application Materials**

The applicant will lose 2 points for each error.

- Submit on time a clear, complete and accurate application.
- Follow the TEAS testing criteria.
- Ensure the receipt of all transcripts on time.
- Submit completed and properly signed dental experience forms.
- Submit three (3) signed letters of recommendation.
- Follow instructions provided in the Pre-Program Orientation session.

### Tie Breaker

- 1) TEAS
- 2) Core Science GPA
- 3) Core Non-Science GPA
- 4) Core Completed
- 5) Total Core GPA
- 6) Previous Dental Experience
- 7) Georgia Resident

**Readmission for terminated students:** Students who have previously been admitted to a DHYG program and failed a course, whether at LTC or another college, must reapply for admission as a first semester student and retake all the occupational courses. A student reapplying for program admission will enter the application process at a diminished value of 10 points for each time they have failed out of a cohort.

## **TRANSFERRING COURSEWORK**

The Pre-Dental Hygiene core classes may be taken at other institutions and transferred to Lanier Technical College. If the course title is not identical the student should not assume that the course will transfer. If there are any questions concerning the transfer of courses to Lanier Technical College, the Registrar should be contacted at [registrar@laniertech.edu](mailto:registrar@laniertech.edu).

## **CRIMINAL ARREST HISTORY/RECORD**

Although background checks are not required by the Lanier Technical College Dental Hygiene Program, individuals should be aware that the Georgia Board of Dentistry reviews the following information for dental hygiene licensure.

Arrest or conviction of a misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations) or arrest or conviction of a felony could result in the student being denied licensure by the state dental board. Early communication with the state dental board is suggested.

NOTE: Individuals that have been summoned, arrested, taken into custody, indicted, convicted or tried for, or charged with, or pled guilty to, or pled, nolo contendere to, a violation of any law or ordinance or the commission of any felony or misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations), (DWI & DUIs' are not minor traffic violations), or have been requested to appear before a prosecuting attorney or investigative agency in any matter will have to disclose this information to the licensing board at the time of application for licensure. Although a conviction may have been expunged from the records by order of court, it still has to be disclosed to the licensing board at the time of application for licensure. For each occurrence, a written statement giving the complete facts in the applicant's own words, including in such statement the date, name and nature of the offense, the name and locality of the court, and the disposition of each such matter. A court disposition must be attached to the licensure application. The licensing board will review the application and decide about granting licensure. If individuals have any concerns about how their criminal background history might affect their ability to obtain licensure, it is their responsibility to follow up with the licensing board for clarification.

## **EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS**

Program applicants should be aware of the Blood borne Pathogens / Infectious Diseases Policy in relation to patient care.

The practice of dental hygiene may put students at risk for exposure to bloodborne and infectious diseases. The Exposure Control Plan at Lanier Technical College is designed to provide the faculty and students with recognition of tasks, procedures, and activities which present the potential for occupational exposure to blood and airborne pathogens and a means of eliminating or minimizing exposures in the performance of their instructional duties or activities. The Dental Hygiene program at LTC follows all state and federal regulations for the protection of faculty, students, patients, and staff. Any persons who present with a medical history positive for infectious diseases will be served following the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Occupational Safety and Hazard Association (OSHA) guidelines will be strictly enforced and standard precautions will be followed in all cases.

LTC does not discriminate against students or faculty that may have a bloodborne and/or infectious disease. An individualized treatment plan is developed for every patient. The decision to treat patients with a medical condition, infectious or non-infectious, will be handled on a case by case basis depending on the ability of the student to deliver the appropriate standards of care, the approval of the patient's physician, and the stability of the condition. Patients will be referred appropriately if their dental needs are greater than the educational clinic at Lanier Technical College can provide.

Faculty, staff, students and patients will be managed no differently than standard procedures indicate unless their condition may have a negative impact on the health of others or they are unable to adequately fulfill their responsibilities.

Students should consult with the Georgia Board of Dentistry for any licensing restrictions.

If admitted into the Dental Hygiene program, students must present evidence of the following official documents to the Dental Hygiene Program Administrator prior to entering the clinical component of the program:

- Documented proof of malpractice insurance purchased through Lanier Technical College
- Completion of immunization form
- Annual tuberculosis testing
- Medical examination
- Vision examination

A mandatory orientation meeting will be scheduled to address these topics during the Summer semester.

### **PROGRAM RELATED COSTS**

Students accepted into the program will be required to purchase a variety of instruments, supplies, texts, materials and other items. These expenses are estimated to be:

• Total Estimated Program Expenses:	\$23,243
• Tuition	\$6500
• Books:	\$1100
• Instruments:	\$6000
• Supplies:	\$5000
• Loupes:	\$1500
• CRDTS Examination:	\$1325
• Dental Hygiene National Board Exam:	\$500
• Dental Hygiene National Board Review Course:	\$425
• Georgia License Fee:	\$175

Expenses are higher for the first semester due to equipment and supplies that must be purchased. Students are advised to be prepared for approximate expenses of \$7000 when they begin the Fall semester.

*Note: All costs are estimates and subject to change.*

### **ADVANCED STANDING POLICY**

Advanced standing may be allowed with the Pre-Dental Hygiene core courses, but not with the Dental Hygiene Program Specific courses. Students are not allowed to transfer to the LTC Dental Hygiene program from another Dental Hygiene program.

A student with previous dental education or work experience is welcome to apply for competitive admission into the dental hygiene program. The student, however, is not granted advanced standing or exemption with dental hygiene courses previously taken at another college. The dental hygiene program at LTC follows a logical sequence and builds theoretical knowledge and clinical competency over a period of five (5) semesters. The dental hygiene program is based upon quality academic curricula and principles.

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

The 15 students accepted into the Dental Hygiene Degree program will be required to obtain CPR certification. Arrangements will be made during the summer semester prior to program entry for the new cohort of 15 students to receive CPR certification.

To apply for a dental hygiene license in Georgia the dental hygienist must have a degree from an accredited dental hygiene school, have passed the jurisprudence examination for the state of Georgia, have passed the National Dental Hygiene Examination, and have passed the Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS) Examination.