



*The Dental Hygiene Building
Mockingbird Campus*

El Centro College Dental Hygiene

- Revised for Fall 2018 Application -

The El Centro College Dental Hygiene program is a 68-credit hour curriculum leading to an Associate of Applied Sciences degree. A graduate of the program is eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) and a regional clinical board in order to apply for licensure by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners to become a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH). The program is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), Address: 211 East Chicago Ave., Suite 1900, Chicago, IL 60611; Telephone: 800-621-8099; Website: <http://www.ada.org/en/coda>.

Acceptance to the Dental Hygiene program is via a **competitive selection process** based primarily on grade point average on prerequisite courses and subsequent tiebreakers.

This information packet contains specific application guidelines and requirements. By submitting an application packet, an individual verifies that they have 1) read the packet thoroughly, 2) obtained all necessary documents from designated website addresses, 3) viewed the online Dental Hygiene program information session, and 4) understood the policies and procedures for application and acceptance to the program.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Educational opportunities are offered by El Centro College without regard to race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or sexual orientation.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS TO THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

Application to the Dental Hygiene Program requires the following steps:

- Application and current admission to a Dallas County Community College.
- Viewing an online Dental Hygiene program information session.
- Completion of the four program prerequisite courses with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or higher on those specific courses.
- Completion of Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements as necessary.
- Completion of designated sections of the HESI A² Test with a minimum score of 70% on each of the required sections.
- Submission of complete documentation of a current physical exam, tuberculosis screening, required immunizations and CPR certification to Castle Branch.
- Submission of a complete application packet to the Health Occupations Admissions Office during a designated filing period.

A. General Admission Requirements to the College

Applicants to the Dental Hygiene program must meet college admission requirements for El Centro College as outlined in the official college catalog at <https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/apply-reg>. Applicants must have earned either a high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) in addition to complying with Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements before they will be eligible to apply to the program.

All students applying or enrolled at a Dallas County Community college are required to submit their Social Security number to the Registrar's Office. Students who do not possess a Social Security number must complete a form obtained at the Registrar's Office. For more information, consult a Registrar/Admissions Office at any Dallas County Community college.

Official College Transcripts

Prior to application to a health occupations program, potential applicants must have submitted to the Registrar/Admissions Office at one of the seven Dallas County Community colleges **official transcripts from all colleges and universities the applicant has attended**. The transcripts must be current with the **print date no earlier than three years** prior to the applicant's anticipated admission to a health occupations program. If the official transcripts are not received by the application deadline date, the individual's application to a health occupations program will be voided.

Initial Advisement

Students who are beginning college for the first time or who need assistance with placement testing, TSI issues, and/or registration for prerequisite courses must visit with an academic advisor in the College Counseling Center as their first step toward future application to a health occupations program. The student should select Dental Hygiene as their Program of Study as a starting point toward application to a health occupations program. **NOTE: Additional assessment testing in computer literacy and learning frameworks courses may be required for certain students. See an Academic Advisor for more information.**

Online Program Information Sessions

Potential applicants are required to view an online Dental Hygiene program information session where the program, application procedures, and acceptance policies are discussed in detail. The link to the Dental Hygiene online information is found at the following website:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Health-Sessions>.

B. Program Prerequisite Courses

Applicants must complete the following four (4) prerequisite courses with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50* or higher to submit an application to the Dental Hygiene program:

	<u>Credit Hrs.</u>
BIOL 2401 Human Anatomy & Physiology I**	4
BIOL 2402 Human Anatomy & Physiology II**	4
BIOL 2420 Microbiology for Non-Science Majors**	4
CHEM 1405 Introductory Chemistry I** OR	
CHEM 1406 Introductory Chemistry I** OR	
CHEM 1411 General Chemistry I**	<u>4</u>
	16

- * Applicants must also achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or better on a 4.00 system on all previous college coursework to be eligible for program application. Developmental course grades are not included in the cumulative GPA calculation.
- ** IMPORTANT NOTE: BIOL 1406 is the required prerequisite for enrollment into BIOL 2401. A CLEP test is also available for BIOL 1406. BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, BIOL 2420 and CHEM 1405 (or CHEM 1406 or 1411) must be completed less than 5 years prior to a student's anticipated program start date.

ATTENTION

Although math is not a prerequisite course, applicants must still meet Texas Success Initiative requirements in math in order to apply to the program. This may involve assessment testing and developmental math courses. See an academic advisor for guidance and more information regarding TSI requirements.

C. *Evaluation of Previous Coursework*

To insure the transferability of previous coursework completed at colleges and universities other than Dallas County Community colleges, potential applicants to health occupations programs should have their coursework evaluated by the Health Occupations Admissions Office at least **one semester** prior to the program application filing deadline if possible. **This procedure is especially important for students with coursework from colleges and universities outside the state of Texas.**

Transcripts and accompanying course descriptions will first be evaluated by the Health Occupations Admissions Office and, if necessary, be reviewed by respective college faculty for that course discipline. When all courses have been reviewed, an Educational Plan will be prepared for the student. The Educational Plan is accepted as a preliminary "degree plan" for student advisement purposes.

These evaluations are usually completed within 4-6 weeks. **The evaluation process is not completed during individual appointments or on an "as you wait" basis.** During peak times such as registration or after the close of the semester when faculty are unavailable, an evaluation may take longer to complete. **Therefore, it is to the applicant's advantage to request the Educational Plan at their earliest convenience prior to application to the program.**

The El Centro College Health Occupations Admissions Office and the Health and Legal Studies Division reserves the right to accept or reject any coursework completed at other colleges presented for transfer evaluation toward Health Occupations programs.

For more information on requesting evaluation of your previous coursework and the Educational Plan, download the guidelines and Request for Educational Plan form under the "Resources for Potential Applicants" link at <https://www.EICentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>.

Five-Year Time Limit on Science coursework

All science coursework which appears in a health occupations program curriculum either as a prerequisite or a support course (e.g. anatomy/physiology, and microbiology) must have been completed less than five years prior to the anticipated program start date of a Health Occupations program. For example, a BIOL 2401 course completed in Fall 2013 would be valid only up to application for a program which begins in Fall 2018. However, if the course was completed in Summer 2013, it would expire in Summer 2018 and would not be valid for application to a program beginning in Fall 2018.

A student may petition for a waiver of the time limit through the Health Occupations Admissions Office under one of the following considerations:

1. The student has **current work** experience in a healthcare setting utilizing their related science knowledge.
2. The student has successfully completed **advanced courses** in a related science area with a grade of “C” or higher.
3. The student’s first course of the two-course anatomy/physiology sequence (BIOL 2401) has exceeded the five-year time limit but the second course of the sequence (BIOL 2402) is within the five-year time limit prior to the anticipated program start date.

The student may petition for a waiver of the time limit through the Health Occupations Admissions Office as a separate review, in conjunction with an educational plan request, or with their application materials.

NOTE: In order for a science course taken at other colleges to be considered for a five-year time limit waiver, the course must first be approved for transferability. Information on the five-year time limit waiver is found under the “Resources for Potential Applicants” link at:

<https://www.EICentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>.

Coursework from Foreign Universities

Only courses such as college algebra, chemistry, microbiology, and anatomy/physiology may be considered for transfer to Health Occupations programs from colleges or universities outside the United States. No other courses will be considered. Science courses are subject to the five-year time limit. See the information above regarding petitioning for a possible waiver of the five-year time limit.

For more information regarding the evaluation of foreign coursework and/or degrees in healthcare areas (i.e. Doctor of Dentistry), see the link under “Resources for Potential Applicants” at:

<https://www.EICentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>.

Credit by Examination, CLEP, and Advanced Placement Credit

Credit through CLEP, High School Advanced Placement Exams and Credit by Examination may be awarded for a limited number of courses toward Health Occupations programs.

Advanced Placement (“AP”) credit for ENGL 1301 is acceptable if the credit appears on a college transcript as ENGL 1301 equivalency. A letter grade is not awarded for “AP” credit.

NOTE: An applicant to the Dental Hygiene program may present credit by exam, CLEP, or “AP” credit for only one of the four prerequisite courses and one course from the remaining support courses. Credit will be acknowledged but not calculated with the grade point average.

Detailed information regarding Advanced Placement, CLEP, and Credit by Examination can be found under the “Resources for Potential Applicants” link at:

<https://www.EICentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>.

D. HESI A² Test

The HESI A² test is a timed, computerized test which is usually completed in 3-4 hours. In addition to completing the five prerequisites courses, applicants to the Dental Hygiene program must also earn a **minimum score of 70 or higher** on the following sections of the HESI A² test: **Reading Comprehension, Grammar, Vocabulary/General Knowledge, Math, and Anatomy/Physiology**. Students must also complete the **Learning Styles and Personality Profile** sections and submit those results with their application materials. The Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections are not graded.

The following is an example of points awarded for a sample applicant's HESI A² scores:

<u>HESI A² section</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Math	94	3
Anatomy/Physiology	96	3
Grammar	88	2
Vocabulary/General Knowledge	92	3
Reading Comprehension	87.23	<u>2</u>
		13

Please note the following important information regarding the HESI A²:

- Test scores are valid for two years from the date of testing to the application filing deadline date.
- Applicants may take the HESI A² at any approved testing site including the assessment centers at El Centro and Northlake Colleges. The approximate cost of the HESI test at El Centro College (Paramount Building) is \$38.00.
- Applicants are responsible for securing their own testing appointment at the location of their choice. The procedure for making testing appointments and payment varies among testing sites. Applicants are responsible for submitting their score sheet with their program application materials.
- HESI A² testing appointments at El Centro College fill quickly. **Applicants are encouraged to schedule their HESI A² several weeks prior to an application filing deadline.**
- The HESI A² Study Guide is available at various bookstores including the Follett Bookstores at El Centro and Northlake Colleges. A HESI A² Prep course is periodically offered by the El Centro College Continuing Education Division. Contact that office at 214-860-2147 for dates and times of the prep course.
- There is no limit on the number of times an applicant may take the HESI A² test for application to the Dental Hygiene program. If the applicant desires to retake the HESI A², **ALL FIVE SECTIONS** must be retaken. Only one score sheet should be submitted with scores of 70 or higher on each of the five required sections. Scores on individual test sections which are printed on separate score sheets cannot be combined. If more than one score sheet submitted, the scores from the latest HESI A² testing attempt will be considered the scores of record. It is not necessary to repeat the Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections on retests. The printout of these sections may be submitted from one testing attempt.

- Before retesting, the applicant is encouraged to review the study guide and/or enroll in the HESI A² prep course to prepare for the retest opportunity.

More information on the HESI A² and the process for scheduling a testing appointment to take the HESI A² at El Centro College is available at:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>

E. Castle Branch

Applicants to health occupations programs are required to have a current physical examination, specific immunizations, a tuberculosis screening, and BLS – Basic Life Support CPR certification. The El Centro College Health/Legal Studies Division utilizes Castle Branch, a medical record management company, to verify these requirements. Applicants submit this documentation directly to Castle Branch who will verify whether the records are complete. A one-time set up fee of \$25.00 is required before you submit your documentation to Castle Branch. See the “Immunization Requirements” link below for the physical exam form and complete immunization guidelines:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>

IMPORTANT NOTE: Some of the immunizations required multiple doses on a specific timeline over several months. Therefore, potential applicants to this program should begin their immunizations at least six to seven months prior to the application deadline.

Your application will not be valid if you have not completed the following immunizations:

- TB screening – within the last 12 months (must be repeated every 12 months)
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) – 1st dose (2nd dose due one month after the 1st)
- Varicella (chickenpox) – 1st dose (2nd dose due one month after the 1st)
- TDaP (tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) – one dose within the last 10 years
- Hepatitis A – 1st dose (2nd dose due six months after the 1st)
- Hepatitis B – 1st dose and 2nd dose within one month of the 1st (3rd dose due 5 months after the 2nd)

Castle Branch must receive this documentation no later than the May 15, 2018 application deadline and verify that the applicant’s records are complete at the application deadline. If an applicant’s records are not complete at the application deadline, their application will be disqualified from the applicant pool. Please allow 2-4 weeks for Castle Branch to respond to your submissions. This documentation must be kept current throughout the application process and, if accepted to the program, during a student’s enrollment in the program.

If the applicant has personal healthcare coverage at the time of application, that documentation may also be submitted to Castle Branch. If accepted to the program, the applicant must submit proof of coverage to Castle Branch prior to attending clinical. For more information, see item 8 on page 13 of this packet.

F. Dental Hygiene Application Packet Submission

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. Applicants must submit complete dental hygiene application materials to the El Centro College Health Occupations Admissions Office either in person or by mail on or before the application filing deadline.

Application packets with incomplete materials will be returned to the applicant.

The Dental Hygiene program application packet must be submitted in a 9x12 inch envelope and include the following items to be considered complete and valid:

1. A completed **Dental Hygiene Program Application form and the signed Statement of Student's Responsibility form** (both available after viewing the online program information session).
2. **The HESI A² score sheet** indicating achievement of a minimum score of 70 or higher on each of the five required sections ***and*** the **Personality Profile and Learning Style results**.

NOTE: Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring that their current official transcripts from ALL PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (excluding Dallas County Community colleges) are submitted to a Registrar/Admissions Office at a Dallas County Community college prior to applying to an El Centro College health occupations program. Official transcripts must have a print date no earlier than three years of anticipated entry to a health occupations program.

Submitting incomplete application materials will disqualify the application and the student will not be considered further in the application process. Students are advised to retain a photocopy of all materials submitted as their application packet.

ONCE AN APPLICATION PACKET IS SUBMITTED TO THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ADMISSIONS OFFICE, ADDITIONAL MATERIALS CANNOT BE ADDED TO THE PACKET. THE PACKET CANNOT BE RETRIEVED BY THE APPLICANT UNTIL AFTER THE FILING PERIOD ENDS.

G. Application Filing Period

There is one official filing period per calendar year for entry into the Dental Hygiene program. *NOTE: Early submission of an application during a specific filing period does not influence ranking for admission.*

Official application filing period for the Fall 2018 semester admission:

January 1 – May 15, 2018

Notification letters will be sent by June 15, 2018.

Complete application packets may be presented in person at the Health Occupations Admissions Office during regular hours of operation or submitted in the dropbox adjacent to the office door. Mailed application packets must be postmarked no later than an application filing deadline date.

NOTE: In the event that the last day of a filing period falls on a holiday or a Sunday when the college is closed or when the post office does not postmark mail, complete application packets may be presented to the El Centro College Health Occupations Admissions Office *in person by 5:00 p.m. the next regular business day.*

To submit your application by mail, address your envelope to:

Dental Hygiene
Health Occupations Admissions
El Centro College/Paramount
801 Main Street
Dallas TX 75202-3604

To submit your application in person, bring your envelope to:

Dental Hygiene
Health Occupations Admissions Office Room P-101
The Center for Allied Health & Nursing
301 North Market Street
Dallas TX 75202

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Late applications are not considered for the Dental Hygiene program.*

H. Selection Process

Applicants are ranked for acceptance selection via a point award system*. Point award totals for applicants may range from a minimum of 3 points to a maximum of 30 points on the designated criteria below:

<u>POINT AWARD CRITERIA</u>	<u>POTENTIAL POINTS PER CRITERIA</u>
Prerequisite Course Cumulative GPA (2.50 min. required)	7 points
2.50 – 2.99 =	3 points
3.00 – 3.49 =	5 points
3.50 – 4.00 =	7 points
Support Course GPA (2.00 min. required; min. grade of “C” in each)	3 points
2.00 – 2.99 =	1 point
3.00 – 3.49 =	2 points
3.50 – 4.00 =	3 points
Support Course Credit Hours completed (min. grade of “C” in each)	5 points
1 – 3 credit hours =	1 point
4 – 8 credit hours =	3 points
9 – 12 credit hours =	5 points
HESI A² – Points awarded for each of the following sections: Math, Anatomy/Physiology, Grammar, Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary/General Knowledge sections:	15 points
70 – 75 =	0 points
76 – 80 =	1 point
81 – 89 =	2 points
90 – 100 =	3 points
MAXIMUM TOTAL POINTS	<hr/> 30 points

* In the event that two or more applicants with the same point award total, the cumulative score on all five required sections of the HESI A² will be used to break the tie.

EXAMPLE OF POINT AWARD RANKING PROCESS

	Prerequisite Course GPA (Max. 7 pts.)	Support Course GPA (Max. 5 pts.)	Support Course Credit Hours (Max. 3 pts.)	HESI A ² Scores on Five required sections (Max. 21 pts.)	Total Points (Max. 50 pts.)	Cumulative Score on five HESI A ² sections (tiebreaker)
Applicant #1	3.75 = 7 pts.	3.50 = 3 pts.	12 cr hrs = 5 pts.	Reading 97 = 3 pts. Math 98 = 3 pts. Gram 92 = 3 pts. V/Gen K 90 = 3 pts. A/P 96 = <u>3 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 15 pts.	30	473
Applicant #2	2.75 = 3 pts.	4.00 = 3 pts.	12 cr hrs = 5 pts.	Reading 91 = 3 pts. Math 97 = 3 pts. Gram 95 = 3 pts. V/Gen K 94 = 3 pts. A/P 90 = <u>3 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 15 pts.	26	468
Applicant #3	3.25 = 5 pts.	3.25 = 2 pts.	9 cr hrs = 5 pts.	Reading 89 = 2 pts. Math 98 = 3 pts. Gram 82 = 2 pts. V/Gen K 85 = 2 pts. A/P 91 = <u>3 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 12 pts.	24	445
Applicant #4	3.13 = 5 pts.	3.00 = 2 pts.	6 cr hrs = 3 pts.	Reading 92 = 3 pts. Math 81 = 2 pts. Gram 91 = 3 pts. V/Gen K 82 = 2 pts. A/P 90 = <u>3 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 13 pts.	23	468.74
Applicant #5	4.00 = 7 pts.	2.00 = 1 pts.	6 cr hrs = 3 pts.	Reading 84 = 2 pts. Math 89 = 2 pts. Gram 84 = 2 pts. V/Gen K 86 = 2 pts. A/P 82 = <u>2 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 10 pts.	21	425

If only four spaces were available in the program, applicants 1 through four would be accepted.

Notification Letters

Using the point award ranking process, a ranked list is generated from those applications received during an official filing period and both acceptance and non-acceptance notification letters are mailed out.

A student who applies during an official filing period and who receives an acceptance letter is required to return a confirmation form within a specified timeframe to verify their intent to accept a space in the class. **Applications submitted during an official filing period are not “held over” to the next official filing period.**

Students who are not selected for admission the semester for which they apply or students who decline their acceptance for that semester must retrieve and resubmit their application packet by a specified date to reapply during the next application filing period.

Program information packets are revised September 1st of each year and program guidelines are subject to change. Students are responsible for insuring they have the latest program information packet from the website below:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Health-Packets>

Visit the Dental Hygiene Program webpage:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Dental>

Health Occupations webpage:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthCareers>

Health Occupations Admissions Office webpage:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECC.AlliedHealthandNursing>

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

<u>PREREQUISITES TO PROGRAM ADMISSION</u>		Lec	Lab	Ext	Cont	Cr
		Hrs	Hrs	Hrs	Hrs	Hrs
BIOL	2401*# Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3	3	0	96	4
BIOL	2402* Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3	3	0	96	4
BIOL	2420* Microbiology for Non-Science Majors	3	3	0	96	4
CHEM	1405* Introductory Chemistry I <u>OR</u>					
CHEM	1406* Introductory Chemistry I <u>OR</u>					
CHEM	1411* General Chemistry I	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL HOURS PREREQUISITES		12	12	0	384	16
<u>SEMESTER I - Fall</u>						
DHYG	1301 Orofacial Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology	2	3	0	80	3
DHYG	1304 Dental Radiology	2	4	0	96	3
DHYG	1431 Preclinical Dental Hygiene	2	8	0	160	4
DHYG	1227 Preventive Dental Hygiene Care	2	1	0	48	2
DHYG	1207 General and Dental Nutrition	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL SEMESTER I CREDIT HOURS		10	17	0	432	14
<u>SEMESTER II – Spring</u>						
DHYG	1219 Dental Materials	1	3	0	64	2
DHYG	1235 Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist	2	1	0	48	2
DHYG	1260 Clinical I – Dental Hygienist	0	0	12	192	2
DHYG	2201 Contemporary dental Hygiene Care I	2	0	0	32	2
DHYG	1239 General and Oral Pathology	2	1	0	48	2
ENGL	1301 Composition I	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL SEMESTER II CREDIT HOURS		10	5	12	432	13
<u>SEMESTER III – Summer I and II</u>						
DHYG	1161 Clinical II – Dental Hygienist	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL SEMESTER III CREDIT HOURS		0	0	4	64	1
<u>SEMESTER IV – Fall</u>						
DHYG	1311 Periodontology	3	1	0	64	3
DHYG	1315 Community Dentistry	2	3	0	80	3
DHYG	2231 Contemporary Dental Hygiene Care II	2	1	0	48	2
DHYG	2361 Clinical III – Dental Hygienist	0	0	18	288	3
SPCH	1311 Introduction to Speech Communication**	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL SEMESTER IV CREDIT HOURS		10	5	18	528	14
<u>SEMESTER V – Spring</u>						
DHYG	2153 Dental Hygiene Practice	1	1	0	36	1
DHYG	2363 Clinical IV – Dental Hygienist	0	0	18	288	3
PSYC	2319 Social Psychology+	3	0	18	288	3
Humanities/Fine Arts elective		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL SEMESTER V CREDIT HOURS		7	1	18	416	10
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS =		49	40	52	2256	68

* Science courses (BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, BIOL 2420, and CHEM) must be completed less than 5 years prior to the anticipated program start date.

** SPCH 1315 – Public Speaking and SPCH 1321 – Business/Professional Communication are also accepted for SPCH 1311.

BIOL 1460 is the prerequisite for BIOL 2401.

DHYG 2363 – Clinical IV - Dental Hygienist is the Capstone experience for the Dental Hygiene program.

+ A combination of PSYC 2301 – Introduction to Psychology and SOCI 1301 Introduction to Sociology with a minimum grade of “C” in each can be substituted for PSYC 2319.

++ See the current El Centro College catalog for a full list of accepted Humanities/Fine Arts elective courses. **Suggested courses include: ARTS 1301, DANC 2303, DRAM 1310, HUMA 1315, MUSI 1306, PHIL 1301, PHIL 1304, selected ENGL literature courses at the 2000 level or higher, sophomore level foreign languages such as SPAN 2311.**

A minimum grade of “C” is required in all courses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Dental Hygiene program accepts one class of 20* students each fall semester. The El Centro College Health and Legal Studies Division reserve the right to make changes in program enrollment capacity.

* Subject to change at the discretion of the El Centro College Health and Legal Studies Division.

2. The Dental Hygiene courses are offered during daytime hours at an off-campus location in the city of Dallas. Dental Hygiene courses are completed in four, 16-week academic semesters (two fall and two spring semesters) and one, 10-week summer semester. The courses involve 26-33 hours of class, lab, and clinical experience per week. A student should plan to spend 2-3 hours of additional study and preparation time for each hour of class and clinical experience. The demands of the Dental Hygiene program curriculum suggest that a student may not be able to work full-time while enrolled in the program.

3. The demands of the Dental Hygiene program require:

- Manual dexterity and depth perception
- Ability to perform patient services while seated for extended periods of time
- Critical thinking and logical decisions
- Ability to carry out complex sequences of instructions
- Positive interaction with patients, cohorts, and faculty
- Prioritization of tasks; time management
- Extraordinary attention to detail
- Exhibit decision making and actions on ethical principles
- Excellent vision, with or without correction
- Fine motor skills with hands; tactile sensitivity

4. Applicants to the health occupations programs at El Centro College must submit physical examination and immunization documentation to Castle Branch no later than the program application deadline. The physical examination must be on the **official El Centro Health Form** available at the "Immunizations" link at <https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions> and must have been documented no earlier than 12 months prior to the application deadline. The specific immunizations and screenings are indicated on the El Centro Health Form.

Students may be exposed to clients with infectious diseases. Immunizations are required. The Dental Hygiene Bloodborne Pathogens Policies and Procedures can be obtained by contacting the dental hygiene program at 214-789-2301 or a.bautista@dcccd.edu.

5. Students must comply with class and clinical attendance requirements according to dental hygiene program manual which is published annually. Students who are anticipating delivery of a baby during their dental hygiene academics are advised to wait until the following year to apply to the dental hygiene program.

6. Students are encouraged to take the required general education support courses (ENGL 1301, SPCH 1311/1315/1321, PSYC 2319, and the humanities/fine arts elective) prior to entrance into the Dental Hygiene program. Many students find that completing the support courses first enables them to complete the program successfully while maintaining other responsibilities.
7. All applicants to the Dental Hygiene program must be certified in BLS – Basic Life Support cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as designated by the American Heart Association and a photocopy of the front and back of the card must be submitted to Castle Branch no later than the program application deadline. The CPR certification must not expire prior to the anticipated program entry date and must not expire during a semester when enrolled in the program. CPR classes are available through the El Centro College Continuing Education Division, the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, various hospitals, independent instructors, etc. **Totally online CPR certification classes including those offered by the Red Cross are not valid for application to health occupations programs.**
8. Proof of current personal healthcare insurance coverage is required for all health occupations students. **If documentation of coverage is not submitted to Castle Branch with immunization records, proof of coverage must be submitted by the first day of the semester if a student is accepted to the program.** Students must secure their own coverage and the insurance policy must cover the student at any dental clinical facility. Information on college student policies and rates can be found at <https://www.healthcare.gov>.
9. Students are responsible for their own transportation arrangements to the college, their assigned clinical rotations, external learning events, and community health events.
10. Clinical opportunities may be limited for students without Social Security numbers. If accepted to the program, a student must contact the El Centro College International Center Office (Room CM-60, telephone 214-860-2090) regarding eligibility to apply for a Social Security number before graduation from the program.
11. Many of the dental hygiene prerequisite and support courses are offered online. Students without prior experience with Internet courses should take the Smarter Measure – Learning Readiness Indicator (READI) test to see if they are a good candidate for online learning. Go to <http://ecc.smartermeasure.com/> and log in as a New User. The current User Name is **choose el centro** and the Password is **student**.
12. *Criminal Background Check / Drug Screening*

All students enrolled in Health Occupations programs are required to undergo a criminal background check and drug testing prior to beginning their clinical experience. Students are responsible for all charges incurred (approximately \$86.00) for these screenings. **This procedure is conducted after a student has been accepted to their respective program.**

Results of these screenings are forwarded to the El Centro College Health/Legal Studies for review and verification that a student is eligible to attend clinical rotation. All background checks and drug screening results become the property of the Health and Legal Studies Division and will not be released to the student or any other third party.

The Health and Legal Studies Division reserves the right to remove a student from a clinical rotation for suspicion of substance use or abuse including alcohol. The Division reserves the right to request that a student submit to a repeat drug screening at the student's expense on the same day that the student is removed from the clinical rotation. Failure to comply will result in the student's immediate expulsion from the program.

NOTE: *Should a student who has been accepted to a Health Occupations program be prohibited from attending a clinical rotation experience due to findings of a criminal background check and/or drug screening, the student may be dismissed from the Health Occupations program.*

More information regarding the Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening procedure can be found at the following link:

<https://www.EICentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>.

NOTE: Prior to dental hygiene licensure, the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners requires a background check. A person planning to enroll in an educational program that prepares the person for licensure as a dental hygienist who has reason to believe that he or she may be ineligible for licensure due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or a misdemeanor offense may apply for a criminal history evaluation. Please refer to the following link for further information:

<http://www.tsbde.texas.gov/node/229.html>

13. El Centro College charges a higher tuition rate for courses in which a student registers for the third or more times. The "Third Attempt" policy includes courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community colleges since Fall 2002 semester. Developmental courses are not considered in this policy. For more information regarding the "Third Attempt" policy, please visit the following website:

https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/GeneralInfo/GradesTranscripts/third_attempt.cfm?loc=ECC

14. A student may apply to more than one El Centro College Health Occupations program during a given filing period. However, if the student receives an acceptance letter to a specific program, confirms their intent to enter that program, and registers for program courses, their application to any other Health Occupations program that may share that filing period will be null and void.

Further, an individual accepted for admission and currently enrolled in an El Centro College Health Occupations program may not apply or be considered for admission selection for another El Centro College Health Occupations program unless their current program of study will complete before the second program curriculum begins.

15. El Centro College students who are enrolled in 6 credit hours or more during a fall or spring semester and 3 credit hours or more during a summer semester are entitled to a free DART train/bus pass for that semester. DART passes are available two weeks after the semester begins. See the Cashier's Office for details.

16. Individuals who were first-time college freshman students in Fall 2007 or after are subject to the guidelines of section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code which prohibits a student from dropping more than six (6) college level credit courses during their entire undergraduate career. For more information on the 6 Drop rule, see the official college catalog online at:

<https://www1.dcccd.edu/Catalog/GeneralInfo/GradesTranscripts/dw.cfm?loc=ECC>

17. Financial Aid

Students should discuss what options for financial aid are available from the Financial Aid Office well in advance of program application. More information on filing procedures and deadlines is found at <https://www.dcccd.edu/PC/FA>. The Health/Legal Studies Office located in Room P-712 at 301 North Market Street also has information regarding scholarships and other financial assistance for health occupations students. Contact the Health and Legal Studies Division at 972-860-5095 for more information.

18. Please visit the website below for links to professional organizations and other information regarding the Dental Hygiene profession:

<http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/careers-in-dentistry/dental-team-careers/dental-hygienist>
<http://www.adha.org/professional-roles>
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm>

19. Graduates are encouraged to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene or similar degree. Several colleges and universities offer bachelor's degree completion programs.

Texas Woman's University <http://www.twu.edu/dental-hygiene/degree-completion.asp>

On-line Degree Completion Programs can be found at the following link:
https://www.adha.org/resources-docs/71615_Bachelors_Online_Distance_Programs.pdf

For information on transfer of credits to other institutions, refer to the El Centro College Catalog at the following link:

<https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/GeneralInfo/TransferFromDCCCD/transfers.cfm?loc=ECC>

20. Please contact the individuals below for assistance:

Dr. Sheila Vandebush,
Program Dean
Health/Legal Studies Division
1250 W. Mockingbird Lane, Ste 500
Dallas, TX 75247
Email: s.vandebush@dcccd.edu
Telephone: 972-860-2301

Jesse Elizardo, Dental Hygiene Admissions
Health Occupations Admissions Room P-101
El Centro College/Paramount
301 North Market Street
Dallas TX 75202
Email: jelizardo@dcccd.edu
Telephone: 972-860-5007

The official mailing address for all application materials and correspondence is:

Dental Hygiene Admissions
Health Occupations Admissions
El Centro College/Paramount
801 Main Street
Dallas TX 75202-3604

Official transcripts should be mailed directly to:

Registrar
El Centro College
801 Main Street
Dallas, TX 75202-3604

Electronic transcripts must be sent to:

Registrar-ECC@dcccd.edu

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

	Dallas County <u>Resident</u>	Out of County <u>Resident</u>	Out of State/ Country <u>Resident</u>
PREREQUISITE COURSES			
Tuition (16 credit hours) *	\$ 944.00	\$ 1,776.00	\$ 2,784.00
Textbooks	640.00	640.00	640.00
HESI A ² Test	38.00	38.00	38.00
Castle Branch	25.00	25.00	25.00
CPR Certification **	65.00	65.00	65.00
Physical Exam and Immunizations	<u>225.00</u>	<u>225.00</u>	<u>225.00</u>
Total Prerequisites	\$ 1,937.00	\$ 2,769.00	\$ 3,777.00
SEMESTER I – Fall Semester			
Tuition (14 credit hours) *	\$ 826.00	\$ 1,554.00	\$ 2,436.00
DHYG Textbooks	1,069.00	1,069.00	1,069.00
DHYG Clinical Kits	5,600.00	5,600.00	5,600.00
Dental Loupes	918.00	918.00	918.00
Professional Liability Insurance +	11.70	11.70	11.70
Uniforms (2 sets)/lab coat	250.00	250.00	250.00
Name Tag (2)	12.00	12.00	12.00
Shoes	60.00	60.00	60.00
ADHA Student Membership Dues	65.00	65.00	65.00
Background Check/Drug Testing	<u>86.00</u>	<u>86.00</u>	<u>86.00</u>
Total Semester I	\$ 8,897.70	\$ 9,625.70	\$ 10,507.70
SEMESTER II – Spring			
Tuition (13 credit hours) *	\$ 767.00	\$ 1,443.00	\$ 2,262.00
DHYG Textbooks	768.00	768.00	768.00
DHYG Clinical Kits	600.00	600.00	600.00
ENGL 1301 Textbooks	<u>60.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>
Total Semester II	\$ 2,195.00	\$ 2,871.00	\$ 3,690.00
SEMESTER III – Summer I & II			
Tuition (1 credit hours)	\$ 59.00	\$ 111.00	\$ 200.00
DHYG Clinical Kits	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Total Semester III	\$ 159.00	\$ 211.00	\$ 300.00
SEMESTER IV – Fall Semester			
Tuition (14 credit hours) *	\$ 826.00	\$ 1,554.00	\$ 2,436.00
DHYG Textbooks	350.00	350.00	350.00
Speech Textbook	143.00	143.00	143.00
DHYG Clinical Kits	1,390.00	1,390.00	1,390.00
DHYG Community Supplies	50.00	50.00	50.00
Elsevier Exit Exams	137.00	137.00	137.00
Professional Liability Insurance +	11.70	11.70	11.70
ADHA Student Membership Dues	<u>65.00</u>	<u>65.00</u>	<u>65.00</u>
Total Semester IV	\$ 2,972.70	\$ 3,700.70	\$ 4,582.70
SEMESTER V – Spring Semester			
Tuition (10 credit hours) *	\$ 590.00	\$ 1,110.00	\$ 1,740.00
Psychology and elective Textbooks	190.00	190.00	190.00
DHYG Clinical Kits	600.00	600.00	600.00
NBDH Exam	400.00	400.00	400.00
Regional Board Exam	1,150.00	1,150.00	1,150.00
Dental Hygiene Pin	<u>65.00</u>	<u>65.00</u>	<u>65.00</u>
Total Semester V	\$ 2,995.00	\$ 3,515.00	\$ 4,345.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROGRAM	\$ 19,156.40	\$ 22,692.40	\$ 27,202.40

- * Tuition and other fees are subject to change. See official catalog for tuition table. The tuition above is current as of Spring 2018.
 + Liability insurance is assessed each fall at \$11.70 to cover fall, spring and summer semesters.

See Accounting Office for Tuition Payment Plan option. Other costs to consider: Personal health care insurance coverage, transportation and Parking Fees to El Centro and hospital clinical sites.

