



ALLIED HEALTH

# Dental Hygiene

# Careers

**D**ental hygienists provide preventive dental health care, including educating the patient on the most effective tooth-brushing methods, and dental flossing techniques. Dental Hygienists examine patients' teeth, gums, and provide oral cancer screenings, record the presence of diseases or abnormalities, chart existing dental restorations, and/or suspected dental cavities, and chart periodontal -related concerns. Dental Hygienists can also place periodontal dressings; remove sutures; and smooth and polish metal restorations. They also remove calculus, stains and plaque/biofilm from teeth; expose and process dental radiographs; and apply cavity preventive agents such as fluoride and sealants. In most states, hygienists administer local anesthesia. Expanded educational programs will also train dental hygiene students to place and carve filling materials, and temporary fillings.

Dental hygienists also help patients develop and maintain good oral health habits. For example, they may explain the relationship between diet and oral health, inform patients how to select toothbrushes and show patients how to brush and floss their teeth.

Dental hygienists use hand and rotary instruments to clean teeth, X-ray machines to expose dental radiographs, and use visual aids such as models of teeth to explain oral hygiene. Recent literature has documented the oral-systemic connection, making the role of the dental hygienist crucial in educating the dental patient on his /her oral health as well as the patient's overall-well-being.

## Job Outlook

Dental hygienists rank among the fastest growing occupations, and job prospects are expected to remain constant. Employment of dental hygienists is expected to remain strong through 2016, much faster than the average for all occupations. The Dental Hygienist continues to respond to the increasing demand by patients for dental care, and continues to assume new responsibilities introduced in the dental office. The demand for dental services will grow because of population growth, older people increasingly retaining more teeth, and a growing focus on preventative dental care. To meet this demand, facilities that provide dental care, particularly dentists' offices, will increasingly employ dental hygienists.

## Earnings

Median hourly earnings of dental hygienists were \$30.19 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between \$24.63 and \$35.67 an hour. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$19.45, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$41.60 an hour. Earnings vary by geographic location, employment setting, and years of experience. Dental hygienists may be paid on an hourly, daily, salary, or commission basis.

## LCCC Has the Programs!

LCCC offers a variety of programs in health care. We can offer you the degree you want to match the job you want. We have certificate programs that may be completed in as little time as one year, and we also offer associate's degree programs that can be completed in two years of full-time study. These associate's degrees offer dual opportunity: they may be used for students seeking immediate employment upon graduation in a number of health fields; and they may be used for direct transfer into the bachelor degree in allied health program offered by the University Partnership at LCCC.

# Dental Hygiene Careers

## Educational Opportunities in Dental Hygiene at LCCC

### *Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene*

This program prepares students to perform dental hygiene services in accordance with the state practice act and is reflective of current theory and practice. Graduates are prepared to assume the role of the dental hygienist as a member of the dental health team.

## Other Educational Opportunities in Allied Health at LCCC

- Associate of applied science in nursing
- Associate of applied science in clinical laboratory science technology
- Associate of applied science in diagnostic medical sonography
- Associate of applied science in physical therapist assisting
- Associate of applied science in radiologic technology
- Associate of applied science in surgical technology

## Other Educational Opportunities through LCCC's University Partnership

### **Youngstown State University**

#### *Bachelor of Science in Applied Science Major in Public Health*

The public health program integrates classroom and experiential learning in many of its courses. There are five standard areas in public health training that enable students to perform the essential services of public health. These are epidemiology, biostatistics, health services administration, environmental health and behavioral science/health education. The curriculum for the YSU bachelor's degree in public health addresses each of the five core areas through multiple courses. This curriculum enables mastery at the bachelor's level of the nationally recognized Public Health Core Competencies, and requires an internship tailored to the area of public health interests of each student. This contemporary major also includes three, (3) semester hour courses in bioterrorism, mass causality and crisis management in public health. The B.S.A.S. in public health can also prepare the student to become a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). CHES assess individual and community health needs; plan and implement effective health

education and health promotion programs; coordinate and manage the provision of health education and promotion services; effectively communicate health and health education needs, concerns and resources; and conduct program evaluation.

#### *Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in Allied Health*

The baccalaureate degree is intended to serve professional health-related, associate-degree graduates who wish to upgrade their academic credentials. The program is based on a two-plus-two concept where the associate-degree courses provide the technical education for the first two years of the baccalaureate-degree program. Following graduation with an associate's degree, the student articulates directly into the plus-two component of the program. The plus-two component consists of a core of multi-disciplinary courses, student-selected minor and general University requirements.

#### *Master of Health and Human Services*

The Master of Health and Human Services is a collaborative program program is structured as a weekend-college program with classes offered Friday evenings and on Saturday during the day. After completion of an academic core of course work, students may concentrate in either health promotion or administration for health and human service professions.

#### *Certificate in Health Care Management*

The Certificate in Health Care Management is a collaborative program. The program is structured as a weekend-college program with classes offered Friday evenings and on Saturday during the day. After completion of an academic core of course work, students may concentrate in either health promotion or administration for health and human service professions.

## About Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College is one of Ohio's leading colleges delivering distance learning education via the Internet. The College has expanded its delivery of its programs and services through the opening of the Learning Center at St. Joseph Community Center in Lorain, the LCCC Wellington Center, Lorain County Growth Partnership in downtown Elyria and the Midpoint Campus Center in Brunswick. Partnerships with Lorain County's K-12 school districts have also led to important developments for the community. More than 1300 high school students participate in the Post Secondary Enrollment Options program by enrolling in LCCC classes, making LCCC the state's largest community college provider of PSEO. More than 35 percent of Lorain County's top high school graduates choose to attend LCCC.

LCCC is one of Ohio's fastest growing colleges because of the variety of learning opportunities it provides. Students can choose from more than 80 educational programs. Students can complete the first half — and sometimes more — of a bachelor's degree. The University Partnership brings eight universities to the LCCC campus offering 37 bachelor's and master's degree programs. With the University Partnership at LCCC, the College partners with the state's finest universities to bring the best in bachelor's and master's degree programs right to the LCCC campus. Students can earn degrees that get them jobs immediately. Students can upgrade, retrain and improve current life skills. Students can learn in the classroom, at home and over the Internet.

LCCC offers a complete college experience. We understand that there's more to college life than attending classes. We offer many of the programs, sports, and activities available at large four-year universities and colleges. But, students will not have to stand in line behind juniors and seniors in the classroom, on the playing field, or in leadership positions. Students can immediately act in a play, sing in a musical group, serve as editor for the college newspaper, plan social activities, compete on the playing field, or set policy as a student government member.

In addition to providing a great education for those who enter college with aspirations of a degree, LCCC helps those who have changed their career goals, who want to broaden their horizons, and who want to return to work. LCCC provides learning and training for those who want to move up but find they need new or improved skills for the kind of professional opportunities they seek.

LCCC faculty is recognized locally and nationally for their work as professors and in other areas. They all have advanced degrees and real-world experience and understand their primary responsibility at LCCC is to teach classes. Classes are small. Individual attention is plentiful.

An LCCC education, prepares students for real jobs and real futures. To find out more, call (800) 995-LCCC or visit LCCC's Connections Center, the Learning Center at St. Joseph Community Center in Lorain, the LCCC Learning Center in Wellington, the Lorain County Growth Partnership in downtown Elyria or the Midpoint Campus Center in Brunswick for all of your enrollment service needs, including admissions, registration, advising and counseling.



**Lorain County  
Community College**



**The University  
Partnership**

*of Lorain County Community College*

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