

There are two educational paths to become a dental hygienist:

- 1) Earn an Associate’s degree in Dental Hygiene or
- 2) Earn a Bachelor’s Degree (4 years)

Most students earn a two-year Associate’s degree. Students can take the [National Dental Hygiene Certification Exam](#) when they complete an Associate’s degree and find employment in dental offices.

Some students choose a Bachelor’s degree; these students also find employment as hygienists in dental offices, or they may move into management, sales or education positions. Dental hygienists in a dental practice earn similar salaries whether they have an Associate’s or a Bachelor’s degree.

Montgomery College does not offer a Dental Hygiene degree; however, it is a Maryland State [Two Year Health Manpower Shortage Program](#) – students pay in-county tuition at other MD community colleges AFTER they complete prerequisites and are accepted into a Dental Hygiene program.

Nearby Maryland Schools Offering Dental Hygiene Degrees (in order of distance from MC Rockville)

Institution	Program	Degree
Howard Community College (18 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Associate Degree
Baltimore City Community College (32 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Associate Degree
Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore City (33 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Bachelor's Degree
Community College of Balt County (40 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Associate Degree
Hagerstown Community College (48 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Associate Degree
Allegany College of Maryland (95 miles)	DENTAL HYGIENE	Associate Degree
Anne Arundel Community College	DENTAL ASSISTING	Certificate
Hagerstown Community College	DENTAL ASSISTING	Certificate

Typical Prerequisite Courses for AA Degrees in Dental Hygiene [Check each school for prerequisites]

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| BIOL 150 PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY I | ENGL 101 |
| BIOL 210 MICROBIOLOGY | ENGL 102 |
| BIOL 212 HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I | MATH 117 ELEMENTS OF STATISTICS |
| BIOL 213 HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II | NUTR 101 NUTRITION |
| CHEM 131 PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY | PSYC 100 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY |
| COMM 108 HUMAN COMMUNICATION | SOCY 100 INTRO TO SOCIOLOGY |

Read each school’s prerequisite list and review requirements carefully; attend an information Session at each school of interest. Check with schools **every semester** to review requirements, program application deadlines, etc. Some schools require observation hours and additional entry tests or have other points ranking requirements. Most students can complete the needed science, math, English and other needed courses at Montgomery College and then apply for admission to a Dental Hygiene Program at another school.

Students may declare **General Studies STEM Code 611B as a major at Montgomery College** while taking prerequisite courses to apply to Dental Hygiene or Dental Assisting Programs at other schools.