



Dental Hygiene

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Degree Completion (BSDC) Application Packet & Admissions Information

Students interested in the fully online Bachelor of Science Degree Completion, (BSDC) Program are encouraged to call the Dental Hygiene Department with any questions regarding their admission prior to submitting their application. This packet is updated annually. Students should request the most recent updated application packet.

****Application Opens November 1, Deadline June 15****

Guide to the Tennessee State University BSDC Dental Hygiene Application Process

****** Important – Please read before completing the application ******

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The Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Department must receive all BSDC applications no later than **July 15th** of the year the student is seeking admittance. **Any applications received after the application deadline will not be considered. All Prerequisite Courses Must Be Complete by Application Deadline.**

Completion of the Tennessee State University BSDC Program application process by the deadline is the sole responsibility of the applicant! Meeting deadlines and completing the application properly demonstrates the ability, maturity, and self-motivation desired in Tennessee State University Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene students.

To apply to the Tennessee State University BSDC Program, you must first apply and be accepted to The University and have completed an AAS in Dental Hygiene from a CODA accredited program and provide proof of Licensure to practice Dental Hygiene.

If at any time during this process you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Admissions Committee
Tennessee State University
Box 9551
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd
Nashville, TN 37209
(615) 963-5801

Important Message to Applicants

We are pleased that you are interested in the BSDC Program at Tennessee State University. The program seeks motivated students who are dedicated to a career in the dental hygiene profession. In general, a BS degree has 120 credit hours for completion. All degree completion bachelor's programs must comply with the 120-credit hour mandate. Our BSDC program itself has forty-two (42) core credit hours, with the remaining hours coming from a student's AAS degree completion hours. How quickly you complete these 42 hours depends on how effective you were in completing your general education requirements associated with this degree. In theory this program could be completed in 1 year.

We encourage you to read this information very carefully and follow all instructions exactly. You must meet deadlines and specific requirements to be considered as an applicant to the Tennessee State University, BSCC Program. It is important for every applicant (new or reapplying) to obtain the most current information for this program before applying. Admission requirements and the selection process are subject to change. Please note that once your signed application has been received in the Dental Hygiene office, your application cannot be changed in any way. It is imperative that you review the application before submitting it.

Falsifying information on your application will result in disqualification.

Please read and become familiar with the information on the dental hygiene [website](#); make a list of specific questions to ask before scheduling an advising appointment. If you have specific questions after reading this information and browsing the website, you may call our central office at (615) 963-5801 where frequently asked questions can be answered by the program Administrative Assistant.

Program Introduction

The program is fully accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation for Dental Hygiene, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the US Dept. of Education. Students can earn an Associate of Applied Arts (AAS) in Dental Hygiene and a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) Degree Completion. At the AAS level, our program prepares students for the written National Board Examination, and the State Board Examination required for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH). At the BSDC level, our program enhances the foundation of *licensed Dental Hygienists for expanded roles within the field of Dental Hygiene*. Graduates from Tennessee State University are respected and in high demand by dental employers.

The BSDC program in Dental Hygiene will require critical thinking and develops a comprehensive foundational knowledge of courses in the areas of research, public health, education, practice management, and principles in global dental hygiene. Familiarity with computers is necessary since all courses are online. The University faculty are experienced educators and practitioners who take pride in offering high quality instruction that focuses on individual needs of students in a supportive learning environment.

Please read this information carefully and follow the application procedures exactly. You must meet the deadline and specific requirements to be considered as a qualified applicant to The Tennessee State University, BSDC Program.

BSDC Program Application Checklist

Submit to Tennessee State University Department of Dental Hygiene:

1. _____ Official transcripts from all colleges attended.
2. _____ Proof of AAS degree in Dental Hygiene.
3. _____ Proof of State Licensure.
4. _____ Proof of National Board Score.

Official copies of all scores and transcripts must be included in your application packet.

ALL information must be included to be considered complete. **Any piece of documentation missing will result in the applicant not being considered for admission.** Please update TSU Dental Hygiene Department of any change in address as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that the application is complete, and that all information is on file.

Notification:

You will be notified by email if you are accepted into the program. You will also be notified via e-mail if you are not accepted into the program. No information will be given regarding an applicant's admission status over the phone.

BSDC Admissions Process

Students must have a minimum 2.75 GPA at the time of submitting application and maintain this GPA until start of classes. Attaining the minimum requirements for entry does not guarantee a seat in the class.

Admission Criteria:

Applicants who apply to the BSDC Program must successfully complete all admission requirements.

- Minimum overall grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, from an accredited dental Hygiene Program. (Applicants with grade point averages higher than the minimum may be given priority in acceptance.)
- Official college transcript (s).
- National Board Certification and State licensure to register for core advanced DHYG courses (DHYG 4200, 4210, 4340, 4350, 4420, 4430 and 4999).

Admissions Process:

Step 1: Access the application information packet and college catalog online at www.tnstate.edu/dentalhygiene. All application materials must be received before June 15th of the year the student is seeking admittance. The student must first apply and be accepted to Tennessee State University, assigned a T#, and then accepted to the Dental Hygiene program (this is a two-step process). If you are a graduate of TSU's AAS program, you must complete the readmittance process through the Admissions office.

Step 2: Have **Complete PDF fillable Application** and submit your packet by mail to Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Department for review. This includes all colleges attended.

Step 3: The Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee will review all applications and select the best applicants based on the application requirements including transcripts and proof of licensure. Up to twenty (20) students will be selected based on their ranking using the weighted scoring system.

Step 4: Students will be notified of their acceptance or their denial into the program. Those students accepted will be asked to submit an acceptance confirmation notice by the specified deadline.

Method of Selection:

Criteria for selection are weighted. Points will be awarded to applicants for successful completion of college coursework, more than minimum test scores and over the minimum requirement for GPA.

Students that apply should be aware and understand the following:

- Admission to the BSDC program is selective. It is Tennessee State University's goal to prepare graduates who are highly competent, ethical hygienists who exhibit exacting standards of professionalism with patients. To achieve our program goals, admission criteria have been established to evaluate applicants as to their suitability and probable success in the program.
- Meeting the minimum criteria merely allows you to apply and is not a guarantee of acceptance into the BSDC program. Students who are not admitted must reapply for admission to the program each year they wish to be considered.
- A student who withdraws from the program for whatever reason must apply for readmission. The student applying for readmission is NOT guaranteed a position in the next entering class. Except for the most extenuating circumstances, the student can apply for readmission only once.
- Upon the successful completion of the BSDC program with a GPA of 2.0 or better, the student will be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree.

Tennessee State University BSDC Program Information for Applicants

ATTENDANCE

Because the learning process is based on experiences in all dental hygiene courses, attendance is mandatory and monitored for all classes within the online degree program. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades and/or dismissal from the program.

FINANCIAL AID

Questions about financial aid should be directed to the Financial Aid Office at (615) 963-5701. You may also contact the Financial Aid Office via email at https://www.tnstate.edu/financial_aid/

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Although criminal background checks are not required for Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene students at the outset, students will be required to obtain a criminal background check in their last semester as part of the Ethics course. Applicants are advised that many states now require criminal background checks before licensure can be granted. A felony conviction may impact eligibility to obtain a dental hygiene license and work as a dental hygienist.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Tennessee State University Dental Hygiene Department does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, or veteran status. Tennessee State University and the Dental Hygiene Program are committed to providing the highest quality of education.

Applicants may review University Policies at <https://www.tnstate.edu/eoaa/policies.aspx>

*Student will request reasonable accommodation through TSU's Office of Student Disability

**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL HYGIENE
BSDC Application for Admission**

Legal Name: _____ T#: _____
Maiden Name: _____ Sex: _____ US Citizen: _____
Local Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Local Telephone: H: _____ Bus: _____ Cell: _____
Permanent/Home Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Permanent/Home Telephone: Home: _____ Cell: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Single: _____ Married: _____ Divorced _____
E-mail Address: _____

Please place an "X" in one of the following:

- _____ Black or African American, (B/AA)
- _____ American Indian or Alaska Native, (AI/AN)
- _____ Asian
- _____ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (NH/PI)
- _____ Hispanic or Latino (H/L)
- _____ White, non-Hispanic (WNH)
- _____ Other

New Applicant: _____ Previous Applicant: _____ Application Date: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
GPA College: _____

List all Colleges/Universities attended including TSU:

1. _____ Date: _____
2. _____ Date: _____
3. _____ Date: _____
4. _____ Date: _____
5. _____ Date: _____

- A. Currently Enrolled at TSU: Yes_____ No_____
- If not, have you received an acceptance letter from TSU? Yes_____ No_____
- B. Do you have a current state license to practice Dental Hygiene Yes_____No_____
- C. AAS in Dental Hygiene from a CODA accredited Institution? Yes_____ No_____

If you answer no to either questions B or C you are not a candidate for this program.

I understand that withholding information requested in this application or giving false information may make me ineligible for admission or continuation in the Dental Hygiene Program. I certify that the information contained herein is correct and complete.

Signature: _____ Date: _____