

Dental Hygiene Program

Application Checklist

Students interested in pursuing admission into the Dental Hygiene program at Iowa Western Community College must complete all admission requirements listed below in sections 1 and 2. To be considered for admission, students must complete the requirements below by or before the acceptance deadline.

The Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation and has been granted the status of Accreditation with reporting requirements. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago 60611, or visit the website at www.ada.org/coda.

Location	Start Date	Acceptance Deadline	Program Capacity
Council Bluffs	Fall Semester (August)	January 31 st	20
<p>It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all admissions requirements are on file with the Admissions Office and that the admissions application is correct, including intended start term, start year, and location.</p>			

Section 1: College Admissions Requirements

- **Complete an Iowa Western application for admission:** The application is online at www.iwcc.edu and there is no application fee. When completing the application for admissions, applicants should select which location, and which start term they wish to begin the program.
- **Request Transcripts:** You need to have a final, official high school transcript or HiSET/GED transcript sent to Iowa Western. If you have completed college course work, you will need to have an official college transcript sent to Iowa Western from the institution where the credit was earned.
- **Test scores are not required for admission to the College.** However, students who have taken a standardized college aptitude test, like the ACT or SAT, need to have their most recent scores sent to the Admissions Office. Test scores, in addition to previous coursework and non-cognitive assessment results, are utilized by advisors to help determine placement into appropriate math and English courses.

Once you complete the application for admission you will be accepted to Iowa Western as a General Studies AS student with their secondary program being Prep Dental Hygiene and are eligible to register for general education courses required for the Dental Hygiene program. For more information on getting registered for general education courses, or for help with the admissions requirements, please contact us at admissions@iwcc.edu or call 712.325.3277.



Section 2: Dental Hygiene Program Admissions Requirements

- **Complete 16 hours of observation** with a Registered Dental Hygienist and submit completed Dental Hygiene Program Observation Form to the Admissions Office. The hours submitted must be completed within 12 months of the acceptance deadline.
- **Complete the following prerequisite courses with a grade of “C” or higher:**
 - SPC-112 Public Speaking
 - ENG-105 Composition I
 - CHM-132 Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry
 - (Prerequisite: Introduction to General Chemistry OR one year of high school Chemistry with a grade of “C” or higher earned within the last two years) (Prerequisite for Introduction to General Chemistry: One year of high school algebra earned within the last two years, or MAT-743 Technical Math, or MAT 102 Intermediate Algebra)
 - BIO-168 Human Anatomy & Physiology I with Labs
 - Prerequisite: A grade of “C” or higher in Human Biology at the college level, or one year of high school Anatomy and Physiology with a grade of “C” or higher earned within the last two years
 - BIO-173 Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Labs
 - Prerequisite: A grade of “C” or higher in Anatomy and Physiology I with Labs

Course Sequence Example

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
BIO 157 Human Biology – <i>may be waived</i>	4	*BIO 168 Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
*ENG 105 Composition	3	*SPC 112 Public Speaking	3
MAT 102 Intermediate Algebra – <i>may be waived</i>	4	CHM 122 Intro to Gen Chem – <i>may be waived</i>	4
Total Credit hours	11	Total Credit Hours	11
Third Semester		Fourth Semester	
*BIO 173 Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	*CHM 132 Intro to Organic and Biochemistry	4
Total Credit hours	4	Total Credit hours	4

*Classes listed with an asterisk are required for acceptance. Additional classes listed may be required for admission into the Dental Hygiene program. It is important to remember that taking the additional program general education courses may impact your full-time status when accepted into the Dental Hygiene program.

Section 3: Acceptance process for Dental Hygiene program

After completing Section 1: College Admissions Requirements and Section 2: Dental Hygiene Admission Requirements, your application is complete. The Admissions Office does not require a separate application. Our office uses what is called your "Start Term" (example: fall 2024) for acceptance in our competitive programs. It is important that the start term on file correctly reflects the semester you anticipate starting the program. Students can request to have their start term updated by submitting the [Update Start Term Form](#).

Acceptance will begin on the listed acceptance deadline, January 31. Students who complete the admissions requirements on or before the acceptance deadline will be awarded points based on the point system. Points are awarded based on grade point average in Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II with Labs and Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry, prior attainment of a bachelor's or master's degree, and [Healthcare Work Experience](#). Students will be ranked according to points and personal information including name and ID number removed. Faculty of the dental hygiene program make the final determination of acceptance from the blinded list based on various factors including points awarded, pre-requisite course grades, work experience, and more.



The Admission Office will accept 20 students and select a group of alternates. If an accepted student declines their acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program, students on the alternate list will be offered a spot in the program.

The Admissions Office will email students two to four weeks after the acceptance deadline to notify them of their status.

Section 4: Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the Dental Hygiene Program have additional admissions requirements?

The Dental Hygiene Program is a rigorous academic program requiring students to be academically prepared for success, including a strong background in human biology, anatomy and physiology, and chemistry.

Does the Dental Hygiene Program have a waiting list?

No, we do not utilize a waiting list. Once you have completed the College Admission Requirements and the Dental Hygiene Program Admissions Requirements listed above, you will have everything you need to be considered for admission to the program for an upcoming term. It is important to ensure that your record is up to date with the Admissions Office, including your start term and start year.

How long does it take to get into the Dental Hygiene Program?

Iowa Western does not utilize a waiting list, so the amount of time it takes to get into the program varies by student depending on how long it takes to complete the College Admission Requirements and the Dental Hygiene Program Requirements listed above. The prerequisite courses typically take three to four semesters to complete for students who enter the college with no college credit.

Is there a separate application process to apply for the program?

Iowa Western requires that students submit an application for admission to the college. There is no separate application for the Dental Hygiene program. The Admissions Office uses what is called your "Start Term" (example: fall 2025) for acceptance in our competitive programs. It is important that the start term on file correctly reflects the semester you anticipate starting the program. Students can request to have their start term updated by submitting the [Update Start Term Form](#).

If I do not complete the requirements for the program in time to be accepted, can I reapply?

Yes. Current students can update their start term – [Update Start Term Form](#) or if you're not a current student, submit another application. You may also visit the Admissions Office, contact us at admissions@iwcc.edu or 712.325.3277 and request to change your start term.

How will I know if I get accepted to the Dental Hygiene Program?

Approximately two to four weeks after acceptance begins (mid-February to March) you will receive an email from the Admissions Office indicating your acceptance status.

What do I need to do once I get accepted to the Dental Hygiene Program?

Students accepted to the Dental Hygiene program will have to complete a few additional steps to be ready to begin the Dental Hygiene program, which include registering for classes, attending a Dental Hygiene orientation event, and completing criminal background check and physical paperwork. All these steps will be included in your letter of acceptance or in additional communication from the Dental Hygiene Department.



Section 5: Dental Hygiene Program – Point System

Points will be awarded based on the following criteria. To be calculated in the point total, all documentation must be on file with the Admissions Office by the priority deadline.	Possible Points
Grade Point Average for Science Courses	0 - 40 pts
Points will be awarded based on the grade point average the student earns in the three science courses required for admission to the Dental Hygiene program:	
BIO-168 Anatomy and Physiology I with Labs;	
BIO-173 Anatomy and Physiology II with Labs; and	
CHM-132 Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry	
The following scale will be used to determine the number of points the student will be awarded:	
3.68 - 4.0 40 pts	
3.34 - 3.67 35 pts	
3.01 - 3.33 30 pts	
2.68 - 3.00 25 pts	
2.34 - 2.67 15 pts	
2.01 - 2.33 10 pts	
Prior Attainment of a bachelor's degree or master's degree	5 pts
Points will be awarded based on the attainment of either a bachelor's degree or a master's degree; points will not be awarded for both.	
Healthcare Work Experience – Access Form	2 pts
Points will be awarded based on work experience in a healthcare setting, including but not limited to a medical or dental office. The work experience must be a minimum of two years if the student worked full-time or a minimum of four years if the student worked part-time. The work experience must be documented using the Verification Form, which is available in the Admissions Office.	



Program Mission Statement

Iowa Western Community College Department of Dental Hygiene is affiliated with Creighton University School of Dentistry. The mission is to educate Associate of Applied Science Degree dental hygienists in the broadest scope of clinical practice. Graduates are competent to provide comprehensive educational and clinical services, reflecting dental hygienists' areas of expertise. Graduates are prepared to serve the community in both private and public health settings that support optimal oral health. All aspects of the program are continually assessed to provide ongoing excellence and to guide improvement. In keeping with the mission of caring, commitment and challenge, the dental hygiene program provides a positive learner focused environment.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of Iowa Westerns Dental Hygiene program will be able to:

Utilize evidence-based decision-making principles.

1. Utilize the Dental Hygiene process of care to meet the needs of diverse populations.
2. Operate within an ethical framework within the Dental Hygiene scope of practice.
3. Positively motivate and effectively communicate with all populations to promote high standards of oral health.

Affiliated Program Information

The Iowa Western Community College Dental Hygiene Program was organized and established in conjunction with Creighton University School of Dentistry in 1998. Each institution offers a diverse educational and clinical experience for the students. Although IWCC is small in comparison to Creighton, our students receive the best of both worlds: exposure to an urban, private university campus with the intimacy of a small, rural community college campus.

Iowa Western has an articulation agreement with Creighton University School of Dentistry for students to complete a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene.

General Information

- The Infectious Disease Policy is available in the Division Office.
- Clinic requirements are met at Creighton University School of Dentistry and selected off-site clinics.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age on the first day of class.
- Classes are held during the day, Monday through Friday.
- Courses must be taken in sequence, with a minimum grade of "C" to progress in the program.
- There is no waiting list – new applications are taken each semester.
- Upon completion of the curriculum, students must successfully complete the Dental Hygiene National Board, and either the CRDTS exam or another state or regional board of choice, and a jurisprudence exam before being licensed.
- We adhere to CDC and OSHA guidelines. A copy of the Infection Control Policy is located in the Division Office.



Dental Hygiene Program - Observation Form for Prospective Students

To be completed by the student and signed by the participating Dental Hygienist.

Student name (print or type): _____ Date of Birth: _____

The purpose of the observation is to expose applicants to a wide variety of procedures performed in a dental practice setting. Applicants must observe at least 16 hours with a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH). After completing the observation hours this form must be signed by the supervising RDH. The completed form must be submitted to the Admissions Office by the acceptance deadline.

We prefer you scan your documents into a PDF/Word file and submit them to admissions@iwcc.edu. There are many free scanning apps that can be downloaded on most smartphones. If submitting a picture of a document, it must meet the following guidelines:

- Pictures may not be at an angle. Pictures of documents must be taken straight on
- Pictures may not cut off any part of the document.
- No part of the picture may contain any shadow or glare.
- The document must be easily readable.

***If your picture does not meet the criteria above you will be required to resubmit your document.

Observation Log

Applicants must document the times and dates of their observation hours using the log below. The hours submitted must be completed within 12 months of the acceptance deadline.

Date	Time In	Time Out	Hours
Total Observation Hours			

See next page for Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) Certification.



Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) Certification

This section must be completed by the supervising RDH.

By signing below, I hereby certify that the information provided on this form is true and accurate.

Signature(s) of RDH: _____, _____

Printed Name(s) of RDH: _____, _____

Name of Practice or Facility: _____

Address of Practice or Facility: _____

Phone Number of Practice or Facility: _____

Applicant Certification

By signing below, I hereby certify:

- That all information on this form is true and correct.
- That I have reviewed the Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice documents for Nebraska and Iowa located on IWCC Dental Hygiene program page.
- That I have reviewed all Infection Control and Bloodborne Pathogen policies located on IWCC Dental Hygiene program page.
- That I have reviewed all Dental Hygiene Admissions criteria, program costs, and Core Performance Standards located on IWCC Dental Hygiene program page.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

*Admissions Requirements are subject to change. Contact the Admissions Office with questions.

Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination

Iowa Western Community College will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employments practices on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, genetic information, physical or mental disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, citizenship, medical condition, and actual or potential parental, family or marital status as those terms are defined under applicable laws.

If you have questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy, please contact the Dean of Student Life and Success and/or the Director of Human Resources at equity@iwcc.edu or 712-325-3200. You may also contact the Director of the Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn Street, 37th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604-7204, Telephone: (312) 730-1560 Facsimile: (312) 730-1576, TDD 800-877-8339 Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov.

Iowa & Nebraska Scope of Practice

[Iowa Scope of Practice](#)

[Nebraska Scope of Practice](#)

