

## Career Profile for Dental Hygiene

**General Program Description:** The **Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Dental Hygiene** prepares students to practice entry-level dental hygiene. Dental hygiene students will provide preventive and therapeutic services, and will develop a commitment to the community through extramural opportunities serving diverse populations. The program is a blend of academic and clinical coursework that requires attention to detail and motivation to complete tasks on a timeline.

**State and National Certification:** Dental hygienists must be licensed by the State in which they practice. Nearly all States require candidates to graduate from an accredited dental hygiene school and pass both a written and clinical examination. The State Board of Dental Examiners in each State can supply information on licensing requirements.

**Advancement Options:** Most dental hygienists advance through increased pay and education. Some advance into management positions and supervise other hygienists. Those who obtain a bachelor's or master's degree may become teachers, researchers, or administrators in dental hygiene programs. Some hygienists become dental sales representatives. The American Dental Hygienists' Association has defined a more advanced level of dental hygiene, the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner. For more information, go to <http://www.adha.org>.

**Projected Job Growth:** This occupation has a projected **71% growth over 10 years** (between 2003 and 2013) for the Greater Phoenix region. There is an average projected **102 job openings** each year, comprised of 91 new jobs and 11 positions vacated by individuals leaving the field (due to retirement, death, career changes, or other reasons).

Location	Pay Period	Bureau of Labor Statistics - 2006 Salaries*		
		Entry-level	Median	Experienced
United States	Hourly	\$19.45	\$30.19	\$41.60
	Yearly	\$40,500	\$62,800	\$86,500
Greater Phoenix	Hourly	<b>\$26.99</b>	<b>\$34.41</b>	<b>\$41.92</b>
	Yearly	<b>\$56,100</b>	<b>\$71,600</b>	<b>\$87,200</b>
Arizona	Hourly	\$28.68	\$34.56	\$41.77
	Yearly	\$59,700	\$71,900	\$86,900

For more career information for Dental Hygienist, visit:  
[www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco), [www.maricopa.edu/workforce](http://www.maricopa.edu/workforce),  
<http://www.acinet.org/>, or  
[www.mc.maricopa.edu/students/career/](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/students/career/)

For MCC program information, contact  
Alyne Lijewski – 480-654-7221  
Dental Hygiene Program Admin Asst, or visit  
<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept2/dental/>

\*Labor market information provided by AZ Dept of Economic Security in cooperation with the U.S. Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wages will vary depending on the employer, location, hours worked, experience, responsibility and other factors. Career and Re-Entry Services will collaborate with academic and occupational program departments to develop internship and career experience opportunities.

**Sample Job Titles:** Dental Hygienist

**Types of Employers:** Dental Offices, Dental Clinics, Hospitals

**Local Employers who posted related jobs on the Maricopa Career Network:** Scottsdale Healthcare

**Professional Associations**

Commission on Dental Accreditation  
<http://www.ada.org>

*For current job openings, go to Maricopa Career Network*  
<http://mcmaricopa.jobing.com/>.

American Dental Hygienists' Association  
<http://www.adha.org>

Arizona State Dental Hygienists' Association  
[www.asdha.org](http://www.asdha.org)

**Dental Hygienist Overview At-A-Glance**

- Work with dentists, assistants, and especially patients
- Provide preventive and therapeutic services to support oral health
- Educate patients about dental care
- Wear uniforms or lab jackets as well as safety gear
- Training usually lasts two years
- May work days, evenings, and weekends
- Have a license

[www.azcis.intocareers.org](http://www.azcis.intocareers.org)

**For additional information on Dental Hygiene careers or to watch occupational videos, visit:**

Arizona Career Information Systems (AzCIS)  
[www.azcis.intocareers.org](http://www.azcis.intocareers.org)

User name: mesacc; Password: 4azcis02

Career Voyages

[www.careervoyages.gov](http://www.careervoyages.gov)

**Internships** are supervised practical training in a short-term or temporary position with an emphasis placed on instruction, training, mentoring, networking and gaining applied work experience. These positions may be paid or unpaid. Contact Career and Re-Entry Services for internship information: 480-461-7430.

Internship Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Service-Learning** is a teaching and learning method that connects meaningful community service with academic learning through guided reflection. Contact the Center for Service- Learning for more information: 480-461-7393.

Service-Learning Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Transfer Options:** Contact Transfer Services for more transfer information: 480-461-7452.

**Career Assessments Completed:**

Career Assessment / Results	Date Completed	Reviewed by

**Career Readiness Workshops / Activities Completed:**

Workshop Name / Activity	Date Completed	Follow Up Contact (s)
Resume Writing Workshop		
Resume completed and reviewed by:		
Participate in Mock Interview		
How To Prepare for a Career Fair		
Attend Career Fair / Job Expo Location:		
Joined Professional Association:		

**MCC Career and Re-Entry Services**  
**Providing Guidance for Career and Workplace Success**

For more Career Profiles, visit

<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/students/career/careerprofiles.html>

Meet with a Career Advisor in Bldg #36, Room SS5N - adjacent to the Kirk Student Center, 480-461-7430

