What classes do I have to take to get into the dental hygiene program?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to set up an appointment and meet with a KCC academic advisor to ensure KCC graduation requirements are met and, to ensure dental hygiene program completion requirements are met. Advisors can also help a student develop a course sequence schedule to enhance their chances of securing a position in the dental hygiene program. Contact Academic Advising for an appointment (269) 965-4124.

There are no course prerequisites for the 2014 dental hygiene program. However, students must meet the prerequisite requirements to enroll in Chemistry 100, as described in the KCC Academic Catalog. Applicants who have obtained a degree will need to show proof of meeting this requirement.

While the other required courses, CHEM 100 or 110, BIOL 201, BIOL 202, BIOL 205, ENG 151, SOCI 201, COMM 101, and PSYC 201 are not prerequisites, applicants receive admission points for each course completed. The first five courses listed receive points according to the grade earned and are weighted significantly higher than the other three courses listed.

Is there a waiting list for the dental hygiene program?

No. Our program is a “selective admissions” process rather than a “first-come, first-serve” process. Admission points are applied and the applications are ranked according to predetermined criteria. Positions are offered to the 20 applicants earning the highest total admission points.

Applicants who do not secure a position in the program but who would like to be considered for the following program year must re-apply, update their application file and, meet the criteria for the new program application year. Once again, the application file will be ranked for the new program year.

What is the “determined criteria” used in the admission process?

The criteria is as follows:
1. Meet enrollment eligibility for CHEM 100 as described in the KCC academic catalog.
2. High School GPA/GED if less than 12 college credit hours completed, or
3. College GPA if greater than 12 credit hours completed.
4. ACT/SAT score, or Degree/GPA held
5. Proof of Completion (prior to April 1st) and grade achieved in the following courses: CHEM 100 or 110, BIO 201, BIO 202, BIOL 205, ENG 151, COMM 101, PSYC 201, SOCI 201.

*The first five (5) courses listed secure more admission points than the remaining three (3).

How are files ranked if more than one applicant earns the same number of application points?

Application files are then ranked according to date of application.

When should I apply?

Applications for the 2014 program will be accepted from August 1, 2013 to April 1st, 2014. The new cohort of students will begin the program in late September, 2014.
Do I need to contact the program director to apply?

No. Contact Enrollment Services to request a “Selective Admission Application Packet”. Instructions and deadlines for completion will be well-defined and included with the packet. Enrollment Services (Admissions) can be reached at (269) 965-4153 or adm@kellogg.edu.

What needs to be in the application file in order for it to be complete?

Contact Enrollment Services to request a “Selective Admission Application Packet”. Instructions and deadlines for completion will be well defined and included with the packet. Enrollment Services (Admissions) can be reached at (269) 965-4153 or adm@kellogg.edu.

I already have a degree. Do I still have to take the ACT?

The ACT requirement can be waived and admission points awarded for those applicants holding degrees with a specified GPA. The higher the degree achieved, the more application points awarded.

I already have a degree. I don’t have to take any of the general ed. courses do I?

Maybe not. KCC transfers in any courses from an accredited college with a grade of “C” or higher. However, that does not mean the courses transferred in will be the equivalent courses required for KCC graduation or those required for completion of the dental hygiene program. Students are strongly advised to make an appointment and meet with a KCC academic advisor to ensure both the program and KCC general education course requirements are met.

How do I find out what transfers from my other colleges?

KCC transfers in any courses from an accredited college with a grade of “C” or higher. Applicants to the dental hygiene program are required to have official college transcripts sent from all colleges they’ve attended. Once the transcripts are received, the registrar’s office will complete a transcript audit/evaluation and generate a report. While a course may transfer in, it does not mean that the course is the equivalency of a course required for completion of the dental hygiene program or for KCC graduation. Students are strongly advised to make an appointment and meet with a KCC academic advisor to ensure both the program and KCC general education course requirements are met.

I took an anatomy, physiology, etc. course at another community college. Will it meet the program requirements at KCC?

It may. Course equivalencies are determined through the transcript audit/evaluation process completed by the registrar’s office. When applying to the dental hygiene program, applicants complete a Kellogg Community College “selective admission application” and have official transcripts sent from all colleges attended. Once the transcripts are received, the registrar’s office will complete a transcript audit/evaluation and generate a report. While a course may transfer in, it does not mean that the course is the equivalency of a course required for completion of the dental hygiene program or for KCC graduation. Students are strongly
advised to make an appointment and meet with a KCC academic advisor to ensure both the program and KCC general education course requirements are met.

If I complete all of the general education courses, what are my chances of getting into the program?

There is no way of predicting an applicant’s chances of securing a position until all application files are ranked.

What are the average admission points of those who get into the program?

The number of points of the successful applicant varies year to year and, therefore, is not relevant to the application process.

An applicant should keep in mind that the admission process is based on academic performance and if they wish to maximize their potential for securing a position in the program, they should meet with a KCC academic advisor who can provide suggestions and help set up a course sequence schedule that would better the applicant’s chances of securing a position.

When will applicants be notified of their acceptance status?

Applicants will be notified by mail in May. There is a mandatory orientation held in late June.

I am a high school student. What types of classes should I take to better prepare me for the dental hygiene program?

A student who has a strong science and computer literacy foundation may have an easier time with the dental hygiene curriculum. Specifically, anatomy, chemistry and biology, as well as any computer courses offered at the high school level will prove beneficial to a future dental hygiene student.

I want to take some of the general education courses at a college closer to my home. How do I find out what courses are the equivalencies of the courses required in the dental hygiene program?

Contact a KCC academic advisor. Getting advisement from the school who will eventually be issuing the degree is strongly encouraged to avoid taking courses which may not be the equivalency of the courses required in the dental hygiene program.

If I complete all the general education courses, will it still take me two years to complete the program?

Yes. The dental hygiene courses are sequential. This means that the courses must be taken in order and that one course builds on the previous.

Can I attend the program part-time?

The program is considered full-time. Depending on the semester, there are 8-12 hours per week of clinical education and 6+ hours of dental hygiene classroom and lab education. In addition, general education and science course requirements must be completed. Students will also need to allow time for homework/study in addition to the time spent in clinical setting and in the
classroom setting. It is estimated that for every hour spent in the classroom, three (3) hours of homework/study can be expected. If a student has the general education courses completed upon entering the program, then the amount of time a student must spend on campus will be less. The radiography program requires the commitment of a highly motivated and committed student in order to be successful. Time management and organizational skills are critical for the successful dental hygiene student.

**What is the dental hygiene course schedule like?**

**FIRST YEAR:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mon- Fri (class)</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>15 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Mon-Friday (class)</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>15 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday and Friday (clinical)</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mon-Thursday (class)</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues-Thursday (clinical)</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SECOND YEAR:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mon – Fri (class)</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>15 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues – Thursday (clinical)</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Mon – Fri (class)</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>15 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues – Thursday (clinical)</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The above schedule is tentative and reflects dental hygiene course-work only. Any general education courses are scheduled in addition to the above schedule.**

**What’s the homework load like?**

Success in the program is a direct reflection of a student’s effort. A student can expect to spend 3-4 hours of study/homework for each 1 hour of class time. While student ability varies, students who spend less than the 3:1 ratio of study time tend to struggle with understanding concepts which reflects in their clinical competency and on their exam scores.

**Are all of the courses during the day?**

Yes. All of the dental hygiene clinical and didactic courses are held between 8am and 5pm.

**Are any dental hygiene courses available online?**

Currently most didactic (non-clinical) dental hygiene courses are a face-to-face format in the classroom with an online component, while one courses within the curriculum is delivered via hybrid. The online course component with the traditional face-to-face format allows students to take all their exams in the classroom on a laptop computer rather than paper and pencil and, offers other online resources and activities to the student as well. The hybrid courses require students to participate in face-to-face classroom activities for part of the course, with other work being accomplished online.
It is expected that more dental hygiene courses will be delivered via a hybrid or completely online format at some point in the near future.

**What does the program cost?**

Below is an **ESTIMATE** of the program cost based on 2013-14 academic year fees:

- In-district tuition: $7605.00 (78 credits x $97.50/cr.hr.)
- **Out of district tuition is more.**
- Lab and Additional Fees for DEHY Courses: 6500.00
- Est. Cost of books: 2000.00

**Estimated additional costs beyond tuition, books, and course fees:**

- Instrument/Uniform/Supply Kit: 3300.00
- Shoes: 1 @ 75.00
- National Board of Dental Hygiene Exam: 395.00
- Regional Board Exam Fees: 1300.00
- License Application Fees: 140.00

Physical exam including laboratory testing and immunizations – cost unknown. Students secure these requirements through their own medical provider, some of which may or may not be covered by medical insurance.

**Can I work while I am in the program?**

Some dental hygiene students maintain part-time jobs while in the program. Work schedules must be conducive to the school schedule. Students who work while successfully participating in the program are able to prioritize and organize in order to maintain both work and school schedules, as well as achieve the required "C" grade in all courses. Students must be aware that school schedules and assignments will take precedence over work schedules.

**What is the job market like?**

While the short-term, local job market has tightened with the present state of the economy, the long-term prediction remains positive. Please refer to the following government website for more information: [http://www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/)

**What is the pay scale like?**

Please refer to the following government website for more information: [http://www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/)

Locally, our 2012 graduates have reported starting hourly wages from $20-25.
I have a misdemeanor conviction. Can I still become a dental hygienist?

Although a student could possibly complete the program with a criminal conviction, they are not guaranteed state licensure. State licensure is required to practice dental hygiene in 49 of the 50 states. The state dental board determines whether or not to grant a license to an applicant with a criminal conviction of any kind. Any applicant with a conviction is advised to contact the State Board of Dentistry, in the state in which they will be seeking licensure, prior to beginning the program.

Where can I get additional information regarding dental hygiene?

KCC’s Enrollment Services (Admissions) and Academic Advising departments are both resources with information regarding our program.

Our program website is also a helpful tool http://www.kellogg.edu/alliedhealth/dental/

For general information regarding dental hygiene as a career, the following website is helpful:

www.adha.org

Kellogg Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or disability in its programs, services, or activities. Direct inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies can be made to either the Vice President for Instruction or the Director of Human Resources, 450 North Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017-3397.