

1. Is it true that the Dental Hygiene program is updating its admission process?
  - Yes. The entrance requirements and admission process were updated in 2021 to make admissions more holistic and streamlined. The new Dental Hygiene process is being aligned with other BTC Nursing and Allied Health admissions processes.
2. How are the admission requirements for Dental Hygiene changing?
  - Students must meet the minimum grade requirements, as well as score at the *Proficient* level or higher in all four areas on the ATI TEAS, and have healthcare work experience.
3. Where can I find information about the new Dental Hygiene Program admissions?
  - The Admission Checklist located on the [BTC Dental Hygiene website](#) outlines the admissions requirements and process.
4. How do I submit my application to the BTC Dental Hygiene Program?
  - Applicants will apply online during the APL-DH Application Window. The date for the Application Window is posted on the [BTC Dental Hygiene website](#) in the fall.
5. How does the online application work? Will I need to upload any documents?
  - No. Applicants will not need to upload any documents. The online application is a form that students fill out online from any location and is mobile-friendly.
6. If I will not be done with my foundation coursework before the APL-DH Application Window opens (for example I take my last course during spring quarter), should I wait until the next year to apply to the program?
  - Yes. All applicants must be *Program-Ready* before they can apply.
7. When are applications accepted?
  - Applications are only accepted during the APL-DH Application Window. The window generally opens in May and dates are posted on the [BTC Dental Hygiene website](#).
8. Is the COVID-19 vaccine required for BTC Dental Clinic placement?
  - Yes. All health students must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by the first day of the quarter in which they start.
9. Are any COVID-19 vaccine exemptions accepted by the program?
  - No. Due to the nature of dental hygiene skills performed in the BTC Dental Clinic and for the safety of our students and patients, the program can't accept any exemptions to full COVID-19 vaccination including medical, religious, or philosophical exemptions.
10. Is it true that the new BTC Dental Hygiene Program admissions process includes ranking applicants?
  - Yes. Points will be awarded for number of credits of Dental Hygiene foundational prerequisite courses successfully taken at BTC, completing an Allied Health Program or certificate at BTC, and for having applied previously with a complete application.
11. Will the Dental Hygiene Program continue to rank applicants by grade point average or previous degree?
  - No. The new admissions process does not rank applicants by grade point or previous degree. Instead the program will use the Annual Program List process outlined on the Dental Hygiene Admissions Checklist.
12. Does BTC offer veteran students an additional point on the application?
  - No. While Bellingham Technical College does allow veterans early course registration, this does not apply to the Dental Hygiene Program which uses an application process.

13. If I have never taken any classes at BTC will I still be able to apply to the Dental Hygiene Program?
- Yes. While the majority of cohort seats will be offered to those who applied first and took classes at BTC, some cohort seats may be available for those who have not.
14. What qualifies as Healthcare Experience for the Dental Hygiene Program admission?
- Certification and work experience in an allied healthcare field. A minimum 1,000 hours of employment in the last five years and proof of active unencumbered certification or license in the health field in which you completed the 1,000 hours is required.
15. Do I need to work in an allied health field or can I just complete a training program?
- Yes. You must work at least 1,000 hours in the health field in which you are certified or licensed. Your employer(s) will need to sign the Dental Hygiene Healthcare Experience Verification form. Training only does not meet the new healthcare experience requirement.
16. Do I need to get my Healthcare Experience Form “preapproved” before I submit my application?
- Yes. You are required to email your form and attached documents to the Dental Hygiene Program, [healthinfo@btc.edu](mailto:healthinfo@btc.edu). Allow ten business days for processing. **All Healthcare Experience forms must be submitted by the deadline posted on the [Dental Hygiene BTC website](#).**
17. Does my Dental Hygiene Healthcare Experience Verification form approval expire?
- Yes. The requirement for work is within the last five years so your healthcare experience will expire if it has been more than five years since your employment.
18. Do I need to have completed the transcript evaluation process before I submit my application?
- Yes. For students taking courses at another college. Visit the [BTC Transfer Student website](#) for details. Plan ahead as it can take BTC ten business days to evaluate your transcripts and additional time for the sending school to process your request. **All transcripts must be submitted by the deadline posted on the [Dental Hygiene BTC website](#).**
19. Do my general education prerequisite (example: BIOL& 242) courses “expire”?
- No. General education courses are accepted no matter when they were completed as long as they meet the transfer course requirements.
20. What is the purpose of the ATI TEAS and why do I have to take it?
- The ATI TEAS is used as part of the admission process by Allied Health programs nationwide to measure entry-level skills and abilities of health science program applicants. The purpose of the TEAS is to differentiate among varying levels of overall academic preparedness necessary to support learning of allied health-related content. The primary difference between standard placement tests and the TEAS is that the TEAS speaks directly to success in allied health-related content while placement testing is not geared to provide those indicators.
21. Do I need to score at the *Proficient* level or higher on one ATI TEAS transcript?
- Yes. You must score at the *Proficient* level or higher in each area on one assessment but you may take the ATI TEAS as many times as you need to reach this level on one transcript. **The ATI TEAS must be completed prior to the deadline posted on the [BTC Dental Hygiene website](#).**
22. What does limited waitlist mean?
- The Annual Program List for Dental Hygiene (APL-DH) is a limited waitlist because the list is only maintained for one academic year. At the end of that academic year, the waitlist is closed and cleared. Applicants not awarded cohort seats will need to reapply online during the next year’s Application Window.
23. Can I know where I’m at on the program waitlist?
- No. We are unable to disclose waitlist information to applicants.

**Have more questions.....come to a [Dental Hygiene Info Session](#)!**