WHAT DO DENTAL HYGIENISTS DO?
• Perform prophylaxis (clean teeth)
• Administer fluoride
• Provide patient education and nutritional counseling
• Expose, process, and mount radiographs
• Place sealants
• Perform a variety of intraoral expanded functions
• Fabricate mouthguards
• Polish amalgam restorations
• Work as members of the dental health team
• Perform basic laboratory procedures
• Administer local Anesthesia
• Provide patient education
• Participate in community service

WHERE DO DENTAL HYGIENISTS WORK?
• Private dental offices
• Group practices
• Hospitals
• Dental clinics
• Insurance companies
• Dental suppliers
• Dental manufacturing companies
• Armed services
• Educational institutions
• Public health offices

WHAT IS THE EMPLOYMENT FORECAST FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS?
• The current job market is stable and future projections indicate a continued high demand for hygiene services.

ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS?
• Yes. Dental hygienists have become office managers, educators, researchers, and dentists. There are also educational opportunities available for dental hygienists who wish to obtain certificates or degrees beyond the associate degree level. Credits from the Dental Hygiene Program transfer into the Bachelor of Science in Health Science on-line degree program from Rutgers University and Thomas Edison State College (TESC).
WHAT ARE DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS?
- Interest in science
- Understanding of the human body in health and disease
- Ability to communicate effectively with others
- Manual dexterity
- Desire for continual learning
- Ability to utilize problem-solving skills
- Concern for others
- Team player

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A CAREER IN DENTAL HYGIENE?
- Opportunities for career advancement
- Gainful employment
- High hourly wages
- Good working environment
- Flexible hours
- Health care delivery team member
- Ability to help others

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE SALARY FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS?
- Most dental hygienists may command a minimum hourly wage of $32 to $34 upon graduation. Most employers offer uniform allowances, reimbursement for continuing education and professional dues, health benefits, and pension plans.

WHERE ARE THE DENTAL HYGIENE CLASSES OFFERED?
- General education classes are offered by Brookdale Community College, Essex County College, Ocean County College, Raritan Valley Community College, Sussex County Community College, Thomas Edison State College and Union County College. Professional coursework is offered on both the Scotch Plains and Newark campuses of Rutgers University, School of Health Related Professions (SHRP) and Rutgers School of Dental Medicine (SDM) facilities.

IN ADDITION TO TUITION AND LABORATORY FEES, ARE THERE OTHER STUDENT EXPENSES?
- All students are required to purchase uniforms and textbooks. Students are required to lease instruments and support expendable supplies. Students are also responsible for fees for parking, professional meetings and licensing examinations. It is also strongly recommended that students apply for membership in their professional association.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR FOR AN APPLICATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Brookdale Community college
765 Newman Springs Road
Lincroft, NJ 07738-1597
(732) 224-2375

Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 877-1865

Ocean County College
College Drive
Toms River, NJ 08754
(732) 255-0400 x2423

Raritan Valley Community College
Route 28 & Lamington Road
Somerville, NJ 08876
(908) 526-1200 x8629

Sussex County Community College
1 College Hill Road
Newton, NJ 07860
(973) 300-2108

Thomas Edison State College
101 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608-1176
(888) 442-8372 (or)
(973) 972-5454

Union County College
1033 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, New Jersey 07016
(908) 709-7956

Applicants must contact the affiliate college directly, through which they are applying, to determine the residency credit requirements regarding the number of general education credits which must be taken at the affiliate college.

All Dental Assisting Program information is posted on the Department of Allied Dental Education.
www.shrp.rutgers.edu.