



The Coastal Bend College Dental Hygiene Program is a competitive-entry program accepting 30 students each Fall semester. The program is based at the Beeville campus only. Upon satisfactory completion of the two-year program, students receive an Associate in Applied Science degree and are eligible to apply to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and a regional clinical board examination. The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The Dental Hygiene program prepares students to be primary oral health care professionals who play a key role in promoting oral health through education, preventive and therapeutic services. The program helps students reach their full potential by developing academic and clinical competencies, critical thinking skills, communication proficiency and civic responsibility.



As part of a dental team in a private dental office, dental hygienists perform numerous services designed to detect and prevent diseases of the mouth. These include performing a prophylaxis (cleaning teeth); examining head, neck, and oral areas for signs of disease, obtaining a thorough dental and medical history; educating patients and the community on oral hygiene and nutrition; exposing and developing radiographs; and applying fluoride and sealants. In addition to private dental practices, dental hygienists may seek employment in public health settings, correctional facilities, mental health facilities and as sales representatives. The Registered Dental Hygienist may also provide educational, clinical, and therapeutic services.

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts a 20% growth in jobs available in the field through 2026, and the median wage in the Coastal Bend is \$74,070*.

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY ([link](#))

MISSION STATEMENT ([link](#))

VISION STATEMENT ([link](#))

PROGRAM GOALS ([link](#))

