Dental Hygiene: Student to Professional Transition

Introduction

Welcome and congratulations!

You are on your way to becoming a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH). As a newcomer in the field of dentistry you may have some interest and questions about what to expect in the working arena.

This website contains informational components that may not have been covered during your dental hygiene schooling. Such as the following:

- Licensure
- Association Membership
- Job Search
- CDT Codes
- Trends in Dentistry

Information about the website's author and mission statement can be accessed on the link below:

About

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About

Thank you for your interest in viewing my website.

I am a practicing registered dental hygienist with at least three years of clinical experience in both private and public settings. As a fairly recent dental hygiene graduate myself, I know the feeling of excitement and doubt as you finally approach graduation.

I developed this website as an online resource for prospective dental hygiene practitioners, such as yourself, with the goal of providing you with basic informational components that can assist you transition, and help boost your confidence in practicing as a licensed professional.

For questions and inquiries, please contact me at pterrado@hawaii.edu
Dental Hygiene: Student to Professional Transition

Licensure
Requirements for License
To access the original form CLICK HERE

AGE
Be at least 18 years of age.

FEES
Appropriate amount made payable to: COMMERCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS. (check must be in U.S. dollars and be from a U.S. financial institution.)

If you expect to receive a license in an EVEN-NUMBERED year, pay $246
(Application-$50*, License-$64, Compliance Resolution Fund-$100, 1/2 renewal for the second year of the two-year license period-$32);

OR

If you expect to receive a license in an ODD-NUMBERED year, pay $164
(Application-$50*, License-$64, Compliance Resolution Fund-$50).

All licenses are subject to renewal on or before December 31 of each ODD-NUMBERED year.

DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION
Be a graduate of a dental hygiene school accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

LOCAL ANESTHESIA CERTIFICATION
Documentary proof of your certification in the administration of intra-oral infiltration local anesthesia and block anesthesia is required.

***Documentary proof may consist of copies of course completion certificates, original letter from school or instructor verifying your certification or school transcripts with a course description.***

NOTE: A separate application, separate requirements and supporting documents and a fee are required to administer block anesthesia with your license.

NATIONAL BOARD EXAMINATION
Pass the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination. Forward the score card to the Board or attach an original score card with the license application.

Dental Hygiene: Student to Professional Transition

Licensure

EXAMINATION
License applicants are required to take and pass one of the following REQUIREMENT FOUR REGIONAL examinations given after February 1, 2005, by:
1. The Western Regional Examining Board (WERB);
2. The Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. (CRDTS);
3. The Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc. (SRTA); or
4. The Northern East Regional Board of Dental Examiners (NERB)
   (currently known as Commission on Dental Competency Assessments or CDCA)

For your information, the examination in Hawaii is currently administered by the Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. ("CRDTS").

BIENNIAL RENEWAL
All licenses, regardless of issuance date, are subject to renewal on or before December 31, of each ODD-NUMBERED year.

The failure to timely renew a license, including payment of fees and completion of the continuing education requirement, shall cause the license to be automatically forfeited. A license which has been forfeited may be restored within two (2) years after the date of forfeiture upon compliance with the licensing renewal requirements and payment of all applicable fees. Forfeited license may be restored after two years from the date of expiration upon: (1) written application and payment of all applicable fees; (2) submitting evidence of being engaged in the practice of dental hygiene for at least three years preceding the date of the written application which includes: (A) evidence of active clinical practice of not less than one thousand hours per year for the three years immediately prior to the date of request; and (B) a certification from the appropriate state board or licensing authority in the other jurisdiction that the licensee was authorized to practice during the term of said active practice; (3) submitting evidence of completion of the continuing education requirements; (4) submitting a self-query report from the National Practitioner Data Bank ("NPDB") and in addition may require a background check from an independent background check service approved by the board; and (5) if the person is unable to meet the above requirements, the person may be required to reapply as a new applicant, take and pass the licensure examination.

If the person has not restored the license for more than five years from the date of expiration, the person shall be required to reapply as a new applicant, take and pass the licensure examination, submit a self-query report from NPDB, and submit a report from an independent background check service approved by the board.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
To renew a license, all dental hygienists are required to complete continuing education ("CE") credit hours from an approved sponsor during the biennium period. A licensee initially licensed in the first year of the biennium shall complete 10 CE credit hours. A licensee initially licensed in the second year of the biennium shall not be required to complete any CE credit hours. All other licensees shall be required to complete 20 CE credit hours.
REQUIREMENTS & INSTRUCTIONS FOR LICENSE - DENTAL HYGIENIST

Access this form via website at: cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentist

AGE

Be at least 18 years of age.

APPLICATION

Complete the on-line fillable application form or print legibly in dark ink and sign application. Applicants are subject to requirements in effect at the time of filing.

• Failure to provide all the requested information will delay the processing of your application.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Your Social Security Number is used to verify your identity for licensing purposes and for compliance with the below laws. For a license to be issued you must provide your Social Security Number or your application will be deemed deficient and will not be processed further.

The following laws require that you furnish your Social Security Number to our agency.

FEDERAL LAWS:

42 U.S.C.A. §666 (a)(13) requires the Social Security Number of any applicant for a professional license or occupational license be recorded on the application for license; and if you are a license health care practitioner, 45 C.F.R., Part 61, Subpart B, §61.7 requires the Social Security Number as part of the mandatory reporting we must do to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB), of any final adverse licensing action against a licensed health care practitioner.

HAWAII REVISED STATUTES ("HRS"):

§576D-13(j), HRS requires the Social Security Number of any applicant for a professional license or occupational license be recorded on the application for license; and §436B-10(4), HRS which states that an applicant for license shall provide the applicant's Social Security Number if the licensing authority is authorized by federal law to require the disclosure (and by the federal cites shown above, we are authorized to require the Social Security Number).

FEES

ATTACH appropriate amount made payable to: COMMERCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS. (check must be in U.S. dollars and be from a U.S. financial institution.)

If you expect to receive a license in an EVEN-NUMBERED year, pay........................................................................................................ $246 (Application-$50*, License-$64, Compliance Resolution Fund-$100, 1/2 renewal for the second year of the two-year license period-$32);

OR

If you expect to receive a license in an ODD-NUMBERED year, pay...................................................................................................... $164 (Application-$50*, License-$64, Compliance Resolution Fund-$50).

All licenses are subject to renewal on or before December 31 of each ODD-NUMBERED year.

*Application fee in not refundable.

NOTE: One of the numerous legal requirements that you must meet in order for your new license to be issued is the payment of fees as set forth in this application. You may be sent a license certificate before the payment you sent us for your required fees is honored by your bank. If your payment is dishonored, you will have failed to pay the required licensing fee and your license will not be valid, and you may not do business under that license. Also, a $25.00 service charge shall be assessed for payments that are dishonored for any reason.

If for any reason you are denied the license you are applying for, you may be entitled to a hearing as provided by Title 16, Chapter 201, Hawaii Administrative Rules, and/or Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Your written request for a hearing must be directed to the agency that denied your application, and must be made within 60 days of notification that your application for a license has been denied.

DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION

Be a graduate of a dental hygiene school accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. ATTACH a copy of diploma or certificate of graduation or an official transcript verifying your degree.
ATTACH documentary proof of your certification in the administration of intra-oral infiltration local anesthesia and block anesthesia. Documentary proof may consist of copies of course completion certificates, original letter from school or instructor verifying your certification or school transcripts with a course description attached.

NOTE: A separate application, separate requirements and supporting documents and a fee are required to administer block anesthesia with your license. Contact the Board for an application or download from website at: cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentists.

PASS the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination. Arrange to have the final report of the National Board Examination Data Score Card forwarded to the Board or ATTACH an original score card to license application. Copies are not acceptable. Contact the National Board at (312) 440-2678 to request that scores be sent directly to the Board at: www.ada.org.

Pursuant to Section 447-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Board shall require an applicant to take and pass one of the following four regional examinations given after February 1, 2005, by:

1. The Western Regional Examining Board (WREB);
2. The Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. (CRDTS);
3. The Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc. (SRTA); or
4. The North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners (NERB), currently known as the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (“CDCA”).

Arrange to have verification of passing the exam and the date passed sent directly to the Board OR you may attach your original official score report to your application.

For your information, the examination in Hawaii is currently administered by the Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. (“CRDTS”). You may contact CRDTS at: www.crdts.org. CDCA may also administer a dental hygiene examination should there be sufficient number of candidates. CDCA may be contacted at: www.cdcaexams.org.

Please be informed that there may be changes in the examination requirement due to legislation or amendments to the Board’s administrative rules, Chapter 79, Hawaii Administrative Rules. Therefore, please continue to monitor the Board’s website for changes that may occur in the future.

Please be aware that the CRDTS dental hygiene examination is being administered on a military facility, and access to and use of such facility are subject to federal authority. By submitting an application to take the CRDTS national dental hygiene examination, the candidate acknowledges and agrees that the CRDTS national dental hygiene examination may need to be postponed or cancelled without warning because of inaccessibility to the facility as determined by federal authorities.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please submit them in writing without delay to the Board of Dental Examiners at: P. O. Box 3469, Honolulu, HI 96801 or to CRDTS at: 1725 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka, KS 66604-3333.

Applicants who are licensed in another state or U.S. territory are directed to call the Data Bank Customer Service Center at: 1-800-767-6732 or go online at: https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/ext/selfquery/SQhome.jsp for information on ordering a “Self-Query Report”. SUBMIT the original report titled “SELF-QUERY RESPONSE” to our office.

Mail all required items to: Board of Dental Examiners
DCCA, PVL Licensing Branch
P.O. Box 3469
Honolulu, HI 96801

OR
335 Merchant Street, Room 301
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-3000

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)
BIENNIAL RENEWAL

On the application, list all the licenses you hold or have held at any time.

ARRANGE to have all jurisdictions complete the “Verification of License” form (DT-14) and have it sent directly to the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners. This form may be duplicated as needed. Some jurisdictions charge a fee for verification service. Contact the appropriate licensing agency for information on requirements. The applicant is responsible for any fees incurred.

LAWS & RULES

A copy of the laws, Chapter 447 and 448, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and rules, Chapter 79, Hawaii Administrative Rules, relating to the practice of dental hygiene may be obtained by submitting a written request to the address above. Chapter 436B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Professional and Vocational Licensing Act should be read in conjunction with Chapters 447 and 79.

The laws and rules are also posted on our website at: [cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentist]. Click on “Statutes/Rule Chapter”.

ABANDONMENT OF APPLICATION

Pursuant to HRS §436B-9 your application shall be considered abandoned and shall be destroyed if you fail to provide evidence of continued efforts to complete the licensing process for two consecutive years. The failure to provide evidence of continued efforts includes but is not limited to: (1) failure to submit any required information and documents requested by the licensing authority within two consecutive years from the last date the documents and information were requested, or (2) failure to complete any additional requirements for licensure that remain after approval of your application, such as attempting to complete an exam requirement, within two consecutive years from the date your application was approved, or (3) failure to provide the licensing authority with any written communication during two consecutive years indicating that you are attempting to complete the licensing process. If an application is deemed abandoned the applicant shall be required to reapply for licensure and comply with the licensing requirements in effect at the time of the reapplication.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

If an agency or individual is assisting you with the licensure process, we will not be able to release any information to them unless you provide us with authorization. If you wish to do so, please complete the portion on “Release of Information to Third Party”, sign and date it.

BIENNIAL RENEWAL

All licenses, regardless of issuance date, are subject to renewal on or before December 31, of each ODD-NUMBERED year.

The failure to timely renew a license, including payment of fees and completion of the continuing education requirement, shall cause the license to be automatically forfeited. A license which has been forfeited may be restored within two (2) years after the date of forfeiture upon compliance with the licensing renewal requirements and payment of all applicable fees.

In addition, a forfeited license may be restored after two years from the date of expiration upon: (1) written application and payment of all applicable fees; (2) submitting evidence of being engaged in the practice of dental hygiene for at least three years preceding the date of the written application which includes: (A) evidence of active clinical practice of not less than one thousand hours per year for the three years immediately prior to the date of request; and (B) a certification from the appropriate state board or licensing authority in the other jurisdiction that the licensee was authorized to practice during the term of said active practice; (3) submitting evidence of completion of the continuing education requirements; (4) submitting a self-query report from the National Practitioner Data Bank (“NPDB”) and in addition may require a background check from an independent background check service approved by the board; and (5) if the person is unable to meet the above requirements, the person may be required to reapply as a new applicant, take and pass the licensure examination.

If the person has not restored the license for more than five years from the date of expiration, the person shall be required to reapply as a new applicant, take and pass the licensure examination, submit a self-query report from NPDB, and submit a report from an independent background check service approved by the board.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)
To renew a license, all dental hygienists are required to complete continuing education ("CE") credit hours from an approved sponsor during the biennium period. A licensee initially licensed in the first year of the biennium shall complete 10 CE credit hours. A licensee initially licensed in the second year of the biennium shall not be required to complete any CE credit hours. All other licensees shall be required to complete 20 CE credit hours.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**U.S. CITIZEN, U.S. NATIONAL, OR AN ALIEN AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE U.S.**

Pursuant to section 436B-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, all applicants are required to be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or an alien authorized to work in the United States in addition to meeting the academic, clinical and examination requirements for licensure. Therefore, even if an applicant meets the academic, clinical training and examination requirements for licensure, that applicant shall not be issued a license if that applicant is not a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or an alien authorized to work in the U.S.

However, the Board will issue the applicant a conditional approval that signifies that the applicant has met the education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure; provided that this conditional approval shall not be considered a license to engage in the profession and shall not authorize the applicant to work in our State.

To obtain authorization to work in our State, the applicant shall be required to contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS"; [http://uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 1-800-375-5283. Once the applicant submits evidence to the Board that the USCIS has authorized the applicant to work in the U.S. (without conditions or other encumbrances), provides a Social Security Number and has met all of the licensing requirements (including, but not limited to, the requirement that the applicant has not been convicted of any crime that is directly related to the profession), the applicant shall be issued a license.

This conditional approval shall be valid for two (2) years. An applicant must obtain the appropriate USCIS authorization within this two (2) year period in order to have a license issued. If the applicant is unable to meet this deadline, the applicant may be required to reapply for licensure and meet all of the requirements in effect at that time.
# APPLICATION FOR LICENSE - DENTAL HYGIENIST

Access this form via website at: [cca.hawaii.gov/pvl](http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl)

Follow the instructions and read requirements.

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<th>Legal Name (First, Middle)</th>
<th>(Last)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other names used or known by</td>
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<tr>
<th>Residence Address (Include apt. no., city, state &amp; zip code)</th>
<th>REQUIRED</th>
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| Mailing Address (ONLY if different from above) |     |

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<tr>
<th>Social Security Number</th>
<th>Phone No. (Days)</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
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Check exam taken:
- [ ] WREB
- [ ] CRDTS
- [ ] SRTA
- [ ] CDCA

Date Passed after 02/01/05:

1. Are you at least 18 years of age? 
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

2. Are you a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or an alien authorized to work in the United States? 
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

3. Are you a graduate of at least a two-year dental hygiene school accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation? 
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

4. Are you certified in the administration of intra-oral infiltration local anesthesia and block anesthesia? 
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

   If "NO", provide date you expect to complete: ____________________________

5. Have you taken and passed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination? 
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

6. a. Do you presently hold or have you ever had a license in any other state or U.S. territory? 
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

   b. Where? ____________________________ License No.: ____________________________

7. Has any license ever been suspended, revoked or otherwise subject to disciplinary action? 
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

   (IF "YES" to question 7 or 8, explain on separate sheet & arrange to have certified documents sent to the Board.)

8. Are there any disciplinary actions pending against you? 
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

   (IF "YES", explain on separate sheet and attach certified court documentation on the date, place, violation of each conviction and fulfillment of conditions of each sentence.)

9. Have you ever been convicted of a crime in any jurisdiction that has not been annulled or expunged? 
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

   (IF "YES", explain on separate sheet and attach certified court documentation on the date, place, violation of each conviction and fulfillment of conditions of each sentence.)

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**Affidavit of Applicant:**

I hereby certify that the statements, answers, and representations made in this application and the documents submitted are true and correct. I understand that any misrepresentation is grounds for refusal or subsequent revocation of license and is a misdemeanor (Section 710-1017, Sections 436B-19, and 477-6 HRS). I further certify that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the provisions of Chapter 447, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Chapter 79, Hawaii Administrative Rules that the Board determines are required for licensure.

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<td><strong>Service Charge</strong></td>
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Release of Information to Third Party:

To assist me in the licensing process, I hereby authorize DCCA’s staff to release any and all information regarding my application (including, but not limited to application status) to the following third party:

Print name of individual who is assisting you: _____________________________________________

Name of Organization: ________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________
Signature of Applicant Date

Print Form

This material can be made available for individuals with special needs. Please call the Licensing Branch Manager at (808) 586-3000 to submit your request.
Dental Hygiene: 
Student to Professional Transition

Association Membership

The American Dental Hygienists’ Association is the only professional organization representing the interests of dental hygienists. As a registered dental hygienist you will have to decide on whether to transition your Student Membership to Professional Membership.

Continuing to be a part of ADHA provides you with the following benefits:

- **Security**: ADHA is working to protect the value of your educational credentials and to preserve the integrity of your license.
- **Access to Information**: Members receive a subscription to the Journal of Dental Hygiene and Access magazine, which helps you stay on top of the issues that are critical to the dental hygiene profession.
- **Continuing Education**: ADHA membership offers you a discount on continuing education.
- **Employment Assistance**: Members benefit from state employment job referral services, national classified advertising and employment reference materials. ADHA is your professional partner, supplying you with foreign employment contacts, information on state licensing authorities, lists of accredited dental hygiene programs and details on research grants and scholarships.
- **Professional Contacts**: As part of your dues, you automatically become a member of your state constituent (Hawaii Dental Hygienists’ Association) and local component organizations. These groups sponsor meetings and activities for your personal and professional benefit. By attending local, state and national membership functions, you have the opportunity to form new friendships and develop professional contacts.
- **Insurance**: Your membership will provide you with the opportunity to apply for various types of insurance — professional liability, disability and major medical—at competitive premiums.
- **Leadership Opportunities**: Becoming active in ADHA gives you the opportunity to acquire and develop new skills and interests, such as leadership and public speaking.
- **Recognition**: You can make contributions to your community’s oral health standards through professional activities with your local association. Professional membership builds an identity for you and the dental hygiene field.


Please click on the links below for additional
information regarding ADHA Membership:

- [About ADHA](#)
- [Membership | ADHA](#)
- [Join | ADHA](#)
- [Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA)](#)

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About ADHA

Founded in 1923, the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) is the largest national organization representing the professional interests of the more than 185,000 registered dental hygienists (RDHs) across the country.

We believe dental hygienists should be valued and integrated into the broader health care delivery system in order to improve the public’s oral and overall health.

Our Mission

Leading the way as a unified force, the ADHA works to support dental hygienists throughout their career lifecycle and advance the dental hygiene profession by developing new career paths, expanding opportunities for care, and providing the latest training and information.

A community of your peers.

At every stage of your career, ADHA helps you be your best for the people who count on you most – your patients. We support your goals by helping to ensure access to quality oral health care; promoting dental hygiene education, licensure, practice and research; and representing your legislative interests at the local, state and federal levels. Our members have access to the latest news and research through our industry publications, Access Magazine and the Journal of Dental Hygiene, hundreds of continuing education courses, and dozens of scholarships, grants and events.

We invite you to join our vibrant community of dental hygienists – partnering to share the knowledge, insights, research and opportunities you need to advance your career!

Questions?
Please contact the Member Services Division (mailto:member.services@adha.net) with any questions or information requests at 312-440-8900.
Membership

ADHA: Helping you be your best...for your patients!

ADHA connects you to the collective power of more than 32,000 proud dental hygienists across the country. Partnered together, we’re working to build new career paths, expand opportunities for care, and give you the latest training and information – so you can do your best.

ADHA membership includes subscriptions to access to major industry publications, access to hundreds of hours of continuing education, and dozens of scholarships, grants and events.

At the National, State and Local levels. At every stage of your career. ADHA helps you be the best you can be...for the ones who count on you most.

Questions?

Contact the Membership Division with any questions or information requests at 312-440-8900.

Learn More

Scholarships & Grants
Student Resources
National Dental Hygiene Board Exam Review
State & Local Resources

Join now.
Get Rewarded for the everyday purchases you make.

Learn More

Whether you’re a student, a new professional, or a well-established dental hygienist, your membership in ADHA helps you be your best – for your career and for your patients!

**Student Membership**

If you are currently enrolled in an accredited dental hygiene program or pursuing a baccalaureate or graduate degree from an accredited college or institution of higher education, apply for or renew your student membership - and enjoy great member benefits at a discounted rate!

If you are a student member who has graduated and obtained your dental hygiene license, you can become a professional member today for free! Just log in and enter your license number and we’ll take care of the rest.

**Professional Membership**

If you are a licensed dental hygienist, apply for or renew professional membership for access to more benefits, discounts, support, access to information, and opportunities for career development.

Join now!

Begin your member experience now! Click "Create an Account" below to join as a new member. **Already have an account? Log in, and click the 'Join Now' button on the top of your profile to start the application process.**

Create An Account »
Already a Member? Renew Today!

Log in and click the “Renew your Membership” button on the left side of your member profile.

Username

Password

☐ Remember me

Sign In

Forgot my password or my username
Professional Benefits

Whether you're a student, teacher, well-established dental hygienist or just embarking on your career, a legislator or political advocate, the benefits of membership are numerous and varied. The key to getting the most value from your ADHA membership is to use it. Your membership enables ADHA to bring you the resources and shared knowledge to expand your professional potential and further your success.

Online Career Center (/career-center)

Having access to the right tools and support can make all the difference. The ADHA Career Center (/career-center) provides connections to career opportunities across the country. Find sample resumes and contract templates in our Employment Reference Guide and post your resume online. Plus, find continuously updated information about state licensing authorities, accredited programs and networking contacts to help you navigate everything from local regulation to advanced educational opportunities.

Professional and Personal Savings

Thanks to our ADHA sponsors, members receive discounts on professional and personal services nationwide. (/resources-docs/74110_Membership_Affinity_Programs.pdf). The consolidated buying power of dental hygienists nationwide allows us to give you access to special programs that give you more for your money.

Standards for Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice (/resources-docs/7261_Standards_Clinical_Practice.pdf)

Based on current and relevant scientific evidence, the Standards (/resources-docs/2016-Revised-Standards-for-Clinical-Dental-Hygiene-Practice.pdf) promote the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, practices and behaviors that support and enhance oral health with the ultimate goal of improving overall health. All to help you address practice issues and ethics questions in your day-to-day work.
Annual Conference (/annual-session)

ADHA’s Annual Conference (/annual-conference) offers a wide variety of hands-on, evidence-based continuing education programming. With three days of courses in more than ten tracks ADHA's Annual Conference (/annual-conference) offers support and inspiration to help you develop as an individual and a leader.

Publications (/publications)

Access (/publications) magazine and The Journal of Dental Hygiene (/publications), are produced by ADHA to help you stay on top of changes reshaping the field and support you in making evidence-based treatment decisions.

HYPAC (/hypac)

Through financial contributions and grassroots involvement, you and your fellow ADHA members can support congressional candidates with the American Dental Hygienists’ Association Political Action Committee (HYPAC). Get involved (/advocacy) with the only federal political action committee that represents the interests of dental hygienists.

ADHA Institute for Oral Health (IOH)
(http://www.adha.org/ioh/index.html)

Expand your leadership potential with a foundation created to provide educational scholarships, fellowships, research grants and community service grants to dental hygienists throughout the United States.

Learn More

Frequently asked questions (/q-a)
Membership Affinity Programs (/resources-docs/74110_Membership_Affinity_Programs.pdf)
Student Benefits

As a student member, you receive all the benefits of full membership, plus additional opportunities for personal and professional development. Later, when you make the transition from student to professional, you can count on the continued support of ADHA and your fellow members every step of the way.

Annual Conference

ADHA's Annual Conference provides hands-on, evidence-based continuing education programs. From helping you prepare for the professional licensing exams to providing guidance for advanced bachelor's and master's degree programs, the Annual Conference is centered on your success.

Community Involvement

Get involved in a dynamic discussion of ideas and issues facing your profession. Access magazine’s student-focused column "Strive" publishes student research papers and articles of interest. Plus, ADHA's Facebook page and dedicated YouTube channel let you stay connected as you expand your local and nationwide network of fellow students and dental hygienists.

National Board Exam Preparation

ADHA now offers online study courses and discounts on student guides for the National Dental Hygiene Board Exam. Log on and learn by joining our interactive online community for live exam review courses.

Networking Opportunities
Connect with dental hygiene professionals and other students from across the nation at our Annual Conference (/annual-conference). Serving as ADHA’s annual business meeting (/annual-conference), this event provides opportunities to participate in dynamic group discussions and network with fellow ADHA members on a national level.

**Online Career Center (/career-center)**

As you start your professional career, having access to the right tools and support can make all the difference. The ADHA Career Center (/career-center) provides access to career opportunities across the country. Find sample resumes and contract templates in our Employment Reference Guide and post your resume online. Plus, find updated information about state licensing authorities, accredited programs and networking contacts to help you navigate everything from local regulation to advanced educational opportunities.

**Professional and Personal Savings**

Saving money and spending smart are essential as you finish your education and begin your career. Thanks to our ADHA sponsors, students receive significant discounts on professional gear like scrubs, loupes, books and national board exam study guides. The consolidated buying power of dental hygienists nationwide allows us to provide additional savings on professional and personal services and purchases as you move forward in your career.

**Scholarships and Grants (/scholarships-and-grants)**

The ADHA Institute for Oral Health (/scholarships-and-grants) was created to provide educational scholarships, fellowships, research grants and community service grants to dental hygienists throughout the country. As an ADHA member, you can obtain funding for your academic and professional career and expand your leadership potential by applying for a scholarship or grant that meets your specific goals.

**Publications (/publications)**

Keep your knowledge up-to-date with two publications focused on the latest research, professional standards and issues facing the dental hygiene community. Access magazine’s quick-read format covers key topics and features a dedicated section for student research papers and articles. The Journal of Dental Hygiene, is the premier, peer-reviewed scientific research publication in dental hygiene with articles that help dental hygienists make evidence-based treatment decisions; it is available online for ADHA members.

**Awards and Leadership Opportunities**

You don’t have to wait until you graduate to become a champion for oral health. ADHA is proud to offer members-only opportunities for your personal and professional development. Apply today to begin representing your fellow students and sharing your views on current issues facing your profession.

**Student Delegate**
An applicant from each district will represent their colleagues as well as have the opportunity to attend ADHA’s Annual Session, all-expense paid.

Apply now (/resources-docs/7314_Student_Delegate_Application.pdf)

Student Presentations and Award Program
Better known as the Table Clinic and Poster Session, student presentations provide a great way for you to grow professionally while contributing to your profession. Show what you know and you could win up to $1,000.

Apply now (/poster-sessions)

Community Service Award
Give the gift of oral health to those in need by creating and completing a community service project. Enter your project for a chance to win a $3,000 grant.

Apply now (http://www.adha.org/student-awards)
Soon after becoming a licensed professional, you will encounter many uncertainties as you embark on your journey in the field of dentistry. The initial step in establishing yourself within this field is to find an employment. Sadly, not many dental hygiene programs prepare their students for job search.

To learn more about how you can prepare for job search, please click on the links provided below:

- Documents
- Interview
Too often, applicants for a dental hygiene position “Google” search how to write their résumé. There are too many unemployed and underemployed hygienists who embrace this strategy with futile results. In order to stand out as an applicant, you need to be “original.” You need to go beyond the standard cover letter and resume, and think “out-side-the-box.”

According to the authors of the article "4 Job Hunting Documents Every Dental Hygienist Should Have" Doug & Tracie Perry (2015), a résumé, cover letter, testimonial sheet (or recommendation letter), and CAR sheet should all be a part of your application package.

**Résumé**

Providing a résumé to your potential employer is standard; however, the contents in your résumé shouldn't be. The best format for a dental hygiene résumé is called the functional format. Both functional and traditional résumés start out similar, with the heading (name) and contact information at the top followed by a brief “About” section. With a functional format, you include your experience and skills in a section of their own, above your work history. Below that you would list your education history. Keep in mind that all of this needs to be kept to one page if you are seeking a clinical dental hygiene position.

**Cover letter**

Although many job announcements don't ask for cover letters, it would be a good idea to provide one anyway. Providing a cover letter gives you an opportunity to summarize your understanding of the qualifications for the job and how you meet them, and enables you to request an opportunity for an interview.

**Testimonial sheet (or Recommendation Letter)**

It is highly beneficial for you as an applicant to provide your potential employers with third-party testaments about you and your work ethics. This testimonial sheet (or recommendation letter) gives you a clean and simple way to share what others have to say about you.

**CAR sheet**

Lastly, the fourth important document you need in your folder is called the CAR sheet. CAR stands for Challenge, Action, Resolution. You will need to design this sheet to answer "situational questions" during an interview. For example:

**Challenge:** At my previous job, I serviced a patient that had an intense fear of dental offices. She had been to several different practices in the last five years and kept changing because she didn't feel comfortable.

**Action:** I could sense her apprehension and decided to give her a little extra attention – more empathy and compassion – and tried to connect on things we had in common to help distract her.

**Resolution:** It worked! She became one of my best, most consistent patients (and a great friend). She thanked me profusely when we were done and would only reschedule on days when I was working.

Reference: Perry, D. & T. (2015, July 8). *4 job hunting documents every dental hygienist should have.*

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Interview

Finding the perfect employment takes time and patience. No matter the setting, the interview is a critical step toward your goal. Preparation, professionalism, and attitude are the keys to an interview that will result in the sought-after position (Blackiston, n.d.)

Below are some pointers that you can follow to prepare yourself for your first dental hygiene position interview.

Be Prepared

The key to a successful interview is preparation. Here are some tips for you to consider:

• Learn about the company or institution. Look at the website and be knowledgeable about the place where you are interviewing.
• Prepare a portfolio for a corporate position.
• Ask if the office has a website or publishes a periodic newsletter and ask for a copy.
• For a position in academia, prepare a curriculum vitae.
• Know the mission statement of the company, practice, or institution.
• Anticipate typical questions asked in an interview. Rehearse answering these questions with another person and have tangible examples.
• Look for strengths in your work history that display your talents, skills, or personality traits.

Write out answers to typical interview questions and practice answering them. Here are a few of the most commonly asked questions and comments:

• How would your last employer describe you?
• What is your ideal work environment?
• Tell me about yourself.
• What motivates you?
• Where do you see yourself in five years?
• Do you work better in a group or alone?
• Are you comfortable leading or following?
• How do you handle criticism?
• Tell me about some of your recent goals and what you did to achieve them.
• Have you ever had a conflict with a boss or co-worker? How did you resolve it?
• Why do you want this position?
• What was your worst failure? How did you handle it?
• What are your strengths and weaknesses?
• Why should I hire you?
attention to detail and a respect for others.

**The interview itself:** Plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes prior to your appointment. Upon arrival, politely introduce yourself to the receptionist. Use your time wisely while waiting: Look over your resume and review your notes. When it is time to meet the interviewer, introduce yourself using your first and last name. Be ready to shake his or her hand. Extend yours and grasp the person’s entire hand and give a firm handshake. Good eye contact is equally important. Turn off your cell phone or, better yet, leave it in the car. Avoid looking at your watch during the interview; it could send the wrong message. Try to relax by remembering this is a two-way process. You are there to ask questions as well. The position needs to be a good fit for you too. Keep the interview in perspective. What is the worst that can happen? If you do not get the job, learn from this experience and use it to prepare for the next interview.

**Ask questions**

Typically near the conclusion of the interview, you will have a chance to ask questions. It is imperative that you be ready when this opportunity arises. These questions will help you gather information about the position and show the interviewer that you are interested in the job. Your questions demonstrate that you are a person who gathers information before making a decision and that you were paying attention during the interview.

Here are a few examples of questions to ask following an interview:

- Tell me about an employee in your organization who is considered outstanding. What makes that person special?
- What improvements do you want to make here, and how can I help to make them?
- Can you tell me more about the position and the type of person you are seeking?
- What are the measurements for success within your organization?
- What will be the measurements of my success in this position?
- How often are performance evaluations conducted, and how are the evaluations made?
- How and when will you decide who to hire?

**Post interview**

A personalized thank you note can make an excellent impression. After the interview, send the interviewer anything he or she requested along with a thank you note. Make your letter clear and concise. Express gratitude for the time the interviewer spent with you. Re-emphasize a strength that shows you are the best qualified candidate for the position. Finally, express your interest in the job and let the interviewer know how you can be reached.

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**Reference:**

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CDT Codes

"The purpose of the CDT Code is to achieve uniformity, consistency and specificity in accurately documenting dental treatment. One use of the CDT Code is to provide for the efficient processing of dental claims, and another is to populate an Electronic Health Record."

— American Dental Association

The following topics will focus on the CDT Codes frequently used and encountered by seasoned dental hygiene practitioners:

- Diagnostic Services
- Preventive Services
- Restorative
- Periodontics

*Reproduced from Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature 2015 version.

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Diagnostic Services

Clinical Oral Evaluations

**D0120 periodic oral evaluation - established patient**
An evaluation performed on a patient of record to determine any changes in the patient's dental and medical health status since a previous comprehensive or periodic evaluation. This includes oral cancer evaluation and periodontal screening where indicated, and may require interpretation of information acquired through additional diagnostic and/or definitive procedures separately.

**D0140 limited evaluation - problem focused**
An evaluation limited to a specific oral health problem or complaint. This may require interpretation of information acquired through additional diagnostic procedures. Report additional diagnostic procedures separately. Definitive procedures may be required on the same date as the evaluation.

**D0145 oral evaluation for patient under three years of age and counseling with primary caregiver**
Diagnostic services performed for a child under the age of three, preferably within the first six months of eruption of the first primary tooth, including recording the oral and physical health history, evaluation of caries susceptibility, development of an appropriate preventive oral health regimen and communication with and counseling of the child's parent, legal guardian and/or primary caregiver.

**D0150 comprehensive oral evaluation - new or established patient**
Used by general dentist and/or a specialist when evaluating a patient comprehensively. This applies to new patients; established patients who have had a significant change in health conditions or other unusual circumstances, by report, or established patients who have been absent from active treatment for three or more years. It is a thorough evaluation and recording of the extraoral and intraoral hard and soft tissues. It may require interpretation of information acquired through additional diagnostic procedures. Additional diagnostic procedures should be reported separately. This includes an evaluation for oral cancer where indicated, the evaluation and recording of the patient's dental and medical history and a general health assessment. It may include the evaluation and recording of dental caries, missing or unerupted teeth, restorations, existing protheses, occlusal relationships, periodontal conditions (including periodontal screening and/or charting), hard and soft tissue anomalies, etc.

**D0180 comprehensive periodontal evaluation - new or established patient**
This procedure is indicated for patients showing signs or symptoms of periodontal disease and for patients with risk factors such as smoking or diabetes. It includes evaluation of periodontal conditions, probing and charting, evaluation and recording of the patient's dental and medical history and general health assessment. It may include the evaluation and recording of dental caries, missing or unerupted teeth, restorations, occlusal relationships and oral cancer evaluation.

Diagnostic Imaging

**D0210 intraoral - complete series of radiographic images**
A radiographic survey of the whole mouth, usually consisting of 14-22 periapical and posterior bitewing images intended to display the crowns and roots of all teeth, periodontal areas and alveolar bone.
D0220 intraoral - periapical first radiographic image
D0230 intraoral - periodical each additional radiographic image
D0274 bitewing - four radiographic images
D0277 vertical bitewings - 7 to 8 radiographic images
   This does not constitute a full mouth intramural radiographic series.
D0330 panoramic radiographic image
D0350 2D oral/facial photographic image obtained intra-orally or extra-orally
D0351 3D photographic image
   This procedure is for dental or maxillofacial diagnostic purposes. Not applicable for a CAD-CAM procedure.
D0999 unspecified diagnostic procedure, by report
   Used for procedures that is not adequately described by a code. Describe procedure.

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Periodontics

*Local anesthesia is usually considered to be part of Periodontal procedures.

Non-Surgical Periodontal Services

**D4321**  **provisional splinting - extracoronal**
This is an interim stabilization of mobile teeth. A variety of methods and appliances may be employed for this purpose. Identify the teeth involved.

**D4341**  **periodontal scaling and root planing - four or more teeth per quadrant**
This procedure involves instrumentation the crown and root surfaces of the teeth to remove plaque and calculus from these surfaces. It is indicated for patients with periodontal disease and is therapeutic, not prophylactic, in nature. Root planing is the definitive procedure designed for the removal of cementum and dentin that is rough, and/or permeated by calculus or contaminated with toxins or microorganisms. Some soft tissue removal occurs. This procedure may be used as a definitive treatment in some stages of periodontal disease and/or as a part of pre-surgical procedure in others.

**D4342**  **periodontal scaling and root planing - one to three teeth per quadrant**
This procedure involves instrumentation the crown and root surfaces of the teeth to remove plaque and calculus from these surfaces. It is indicated for patients with periodontal disease and is therapeutic, not prophylactic, in nature. Root planing is the definitive procedure designed for the removal of cementum and dentin that is rough, and/or permeated by calculus or contaminated with toxins or microorganisms. Some soft tissue removal occurs. This procedure may be used as a definitive treatment in some stages of periodontal disease and/or as a part of pre-surgical procedure in others.

**D4355**  **full mouth debridement to enable comprehensive evaluation and diagnosis**
The gross removal of plaque and calculus that interfere with the ability of the dentist to perform a comprehensive oral evaluation. This preliminary procedure does not preclude the need for additional procedures.

**D4381**  **localized delivery of antimicrobial agents via a controlled release vehicle into diseased crevicular tissue, per tooth**
FDA approved sub gingival delivery devices containing antimicrobial medication(s) are inserted into periodontal pockets to suppress the pathogenic microbiota. These devices slowly release the pharmacological agents so they can remain at the intended site of action in a therapeutic concentration for a sufficient length of time.

Other Periodontal Services

**D4910**  **periodontal maintenance**
This procedure is instituted following periodontal therapy and continues at varying intervals, determined by the clinical evaluation of the dentist, for the life of the dentition or any implant replacements. It includes removal of the bacterial plaque and calculus from the supragingival and sub gingival regions, site specific scaling root planing where indicated, and polishing the teeth. If new or recurring periodontal disease appears, additional diagnostic and treatment procedures must be considered.
D4921 gingival irrigation - per quadrant
Irrigation of gingival pockets with medicinal agent. Not to be used to report use of mouth rinses or non-invasive chemical debridement.

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Preventive Services

Dental Prophylaxis

D1110  prophylaxis - adult
Removal of plaque, calculus and stains from the tooth structures in the permanent and transitional dentition. It is intended to control local irritational factors.

D1120  prophylaxis - child
Removal of plaque, calculus and stains from the tooth structures in the primary and transitional dentition. It is intended to control local irritational factors.

Topical Fluoride Treatment (Office Procedure)
Prescription strength fluoride product designed solely for use in the dental office, delivered to the dentition under the direct supervision of a dental professional. Fluoride must be applied separately from prophylaxis paste.

D1206  topical application of fluoride varnish
D1208  topical application of fluoride - excluding varnish

Other Preventive Services

D1310  nutritional counseling for control of dental disease
Counseling of food selection and dietary habits as a part of treatment and control of periodontal disease and caries.

D1320  tobacco counseling for the control and prevention of oral disease
Tobacco prevention and cessation services reduce patient risks of developing tobacco-related diseases and conditions and improves prognosis for certain dental therapies.

D1330  oral hygiene instructions
This may include instructions for home care. Examples include toothbrushing technique, flossing, and use of special oral hygiene aids.

D1351  sealant - per tooth
Mechanically and/or chemically prepared enamel surface sealed to prevent decay

D1353  sealant repair - per tooth

D1352  preventive resin restoration in a moderate to high caries risk patient - permanent tooth
Conservative restoration of an active cavitated lesion in a pit or fissure that does not extend into dentin; includes placement of a sealant in any radiating non-carious fissures or pits.

D1999  unspecified preventive procedure, by report
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Restorative

Amalgam Restorations (Including Polishing)
Tooth preparation, all adhesives (including amalgam bonding agents), liners and bases are included as part of the restoration. If pins are used, they should be reported separately.

D2140 amalgam - one surface, primary or permanent
D2150 amalgam - two surfaces, primary or permanent
D2160 amalgam - three surfaces, primary or permanent
D2160 amalgam - four or more surfaces, primary or permanent

Resin-Based Composite Restoration - Direct
Resin-based composite refers to a broad category of materials including but not limited to composites. May include bonded composite, light-cured composite, etc. Tooth preparation, acid etching, adhesives (including resin bonding agents), liners and bases and curing are included as part of the restoration. Glass ionomers, when used as restorations, should be reported with these codes. If pins are used, they should be reported separately.

D2330 resin-based composite - one surface, anterior
D2331 resin-based composite - two surfaces, anterior
D2332 resin-based composite - three surface, anterior
D2335 resin-based composite - four or more surfaces or involving incisal angle (anterior)
   Incisal angle to be defined as one of the angles formed by the junction of the incisal and the medial or distal surface of an anterior tooth.
D2390 resin-based composite crown, anterior
   Full resin-based composite coverage of tooth.
D2391 resin-based composite - one surface, posterior
   Used to restore a carious lesion into the dentin or a deeply eroded area into the dentin. Not a preventive procedure.
D2392 resin-based composite - two surfaces, posterior
D2393 resin-based composite - three surfaces, posterior
D2394 resin-based composite - four or more surfaces, posterior

Crown - Single Restorations Only
D2740  crown - porcelain or ceramic substrate (CEREC crown)
D2750  crown - porcelain fused to predominantly base metal (PFM)
D2792  crown - full cast noble metal (FGC)

Other Restorative Services
D2920  re-cement or re-bond crown

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Introduction

Licensure

Association Membership

Job Search

CDT Codes

Trends in Dentistry

Trends in Dentistry

Comparable to the field of Medicine and other sciences, Dentistry is ever changing. This change is particularly due to advances in clinical dentistry, and innovations in materials and technology. These advances, however, come with higher patient expectations — the more they invest on their oral health the higher their expectations of service. As a licensed dental healthcare provider, you are expected to be knowledgeable with current trends in dentistry. Patients rely on your expertise to provide them with information they can use in their decision-making process to achieve their oral health goals.

"Modern technology allows dentists to create a more patient-friendly atmosphere by being more efficient, comfortable, and attractive. Creating a comfortable environment for patients can go a long way in helping put them at ease, thus assuaging their fears of the dentist and making them more likely to schedule the appointments vital in maintaining proper oral health."

— Adrian LaTrace, 2016

The following are some of the latest trends in dentistry today:

- CEREC
- Implants
- Invisalign
- Oil Pulling

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CEREC

CEREC or Cerec (Ceramic REConstruction or Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics) is a method of CAD/CAM dentistry. This process allows dentists to construct, produce, and insert individual ceramic restorations directly at the point of treatment in a single appointment.

What is CEREC actually?

Here’s a brief video about CEREC | Runtime 00:01:26

References:


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Implants

According to the American Academy of Periodontology, a dental implant is an artificial tooth root that is placed into your jaw to hold a replacement tooth or bridge. Dental implants may be an option for people who have lost a tooth or teeth due to periodontal disease, an injury, or some other reason."

**Types of Dental Implants:**

- **Endosteal (in the bone):** This is the most commonly used type of implant. The various types include screws, cylinders or blades surgically placed into the jawbone. Each implant holds one or more prosthetic teeth. This type of implant is generally used as an alternative for patients with bridges or removable dentures.

- **Subperiosteal (on the bone):** These are placed on top of the jaw with the metal framework's posts protruding through the gum to hold the prosthesis. These types of implants are used for patients who are unable to wear conventional dentures and who have minimal bone height.

**References:**


Here's a brief video about Dental Implants | Runtime 00:01:00
Invisalign

Invisalign is a clear alternative to metal braces. It is a custom-made series of clear aligners which you are required to wear and change every two weeks until your treatment is complete.

How does Invisalign work?

Here's a brief video about Invisalign | Runtime 00:02:02

Reference:
Oil Pulling

There has been a recent craze about a holistic avenue to oral health called oil pulling. Oil pulling is an ancient, traditional folk remedy that has been practiced for centuries in India and southern Asia. The practice involves placing a tablespoon of an edible oil (e.g., sesame, olive, sunflower, coconut) inside the mouth, and swishing or “pulling” the oil through the teeth and mouth for anywhere from 1-5 minutes to up to 20 minutes or longer.

Due to the evidence-based nature of our career, it is important to conduct extensive research and find reliable studies prior to recommending any products or routines to our patients, and it is also due to this fact that the American Dental Association (ADA) does not recommend oil pulling as a dental hygiene practice.

References: