AAS in Dental Hygiene
Program Competencies

Program Description:
The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Dental Hygiene degree prepares students to practice entry-level dental hygiene. Dental hygiene students will provide preventive and therapeutic services, and will develop a commitment to the community through extramural opportunities serving diverse populations. The program is a blend of academic and clinical coursework that requires attention to detail and motivation to complete tasks on a timeline. Graduates are employed in private dental offices, hospitals, schools, and clinics within their community.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (211 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611-2678 (312) 440-4653) grants accreditation to the Phoenix College, Rio Salado, and Mesa programs. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. Graduates are eligible for board examinations and licensure in all fifty states.

Applicants who are accepted and enroll in a MCCCD Dental Hygiene program will be exposed to blood-borne and infectious diseases. The program strictly adheres to established policies and procedures regarding infection control as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Dental Association, The Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Program Competencies:

1. Apply effective communication skills with clients, families, and health-care team members. (DHE115, DHE120, DHE127, DHE133, DHE212, DHE213, DHE219, DHE233)
2. Practice ethical standards of behavior as accepted by health care professionals. (DHE110, DHE112, DHE120, DHE117, DHE132, DHE133, DHE213, DHE219, DHE227, DHE229, DHE233)
3. Apply highest standards of infection control and safety to protect the client and operator. (DHE120, DHE117, DHE125, DHE133, DHE201, DHE202, DHE213, DHE227, DHE233)
4. Operate and maintain all dental equipment. (DHE120, DHE117, DHE125, DHE132, DHE133, DHE202)
5. Expose and interpret diagnostic radiographs. (DHE117, DHE125, DHE133)
6. Assess the health of the client by integrating data from the medicodental history, vital signs, oral cancer examination, radiographs, and classification, condition and function of the teeth and periodontium. (DHE110, DHE112, DHE115, DHE120, DHE121, DHE125, DHE127, DHE132, DHE133, DHE201, DHE227, DHE229)
Program Competencies (continued):

7. Plan, present and receive client consent for an individualized dental hygiene treatment plan, based upon the assessment data, including referral to appropriate health care professionals. (DHE115, DHE120, DHE127, DHE132, DHE133, DHE212, DHE213, DHE225, DHE227, DHE229, DHE232, DHE233)

8. Practice comprehensive dental hygiene therapy including periodontal debridement, administration of pain control agents, oral irrigation, curettage, root planing, application of sealants and caries preventive agents to assist the client on achieving optimal health. (DHE119, DHE120, DHE121, DHE127, DHE132, DHE133, DHE201, DHE202, DHE212, DHE213, DHE225, DHE227, DHE229, DHE232, DHE233)

9. Involve the client in treatment to include dietary choices, oral hygiene techniques, tobacco cessation techniques, home-applied fluorides and anti-microbial agents. (DHE120, DHE127, DHE132, DHE133)

10. Evaluate the outcome of dental hygiene therapy during active and maintenance treatment phases and refer to appropriate health care providers to attain and maintain optimal health. (DHE127, DHE132, DHE133, DHE219, DHE225, DHE229, DHE233)

11. Practice as a team member in all professional settings. (DHE115, DHE120, DHE127, DHE133, DHE202, DHE219, DHE229)

12. Apply technology as a learning source and for information management. (DHE110, DHE112, DHE117, DHE127, DHE132, DHE133, DHE212, DHE213, DHE219, DHE225, DHE229, DHE232, DHE233)

13. Provide services addressing the oral health needs of a racially and culturally diverse community. (DHE133, DHE213, DHE229, DHE232, DHE233)

14. Describe the legal and ethical requirements for continued competence in dental hygiene. (DHE120, DHE127, DHE132, DHE219)