



Associate in Science in Dental Hygiene

Choose a career that makes people smile.





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Make a meaningful difference in your community

Having access to dental care is an essential part of maintaining a person's overall wellbeing. After all, a person's dental health can be a very good indicator of issues occurring in other parts of the body. As a dental hygienist, you'll play a key role in making sure your patients are well cared for and have the resources they need to make informed decisions about their health. Dental hygienists use an evidence-based approach to assess patient needs, take x-rays, place sealants, perform cleanings, and use ethical decision-making to provide comprehensive treatment for the patients' teeth and supporting structures.

For further information, please visit the State of CT DPH website.

When you earn your Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene from Goodwin University, you'll go on to have a rewarding career working in private practices, community health centers, nursing homes, schools, prisons, and hospitals where you'll care for people of all ages, including pediatric, adult, and geriatric patients. When you choose to become a dental hygienist, you are dedicating yourself to putting a smile on patients' faces every day, leading to a fulfilling career with a unique sense of purpose.

For more information on dental hygiene careers, visit the [American Dental Hygienists' Association \(ADHA\) website.](#)

Meet Program Director Christine Walsh, M.S.



Christine Walsh has worked as a dental hygienist for more than 20 years. With professional experience in community public health, private practice sectors, school-based dental services, and higher education, Christine specializes in periodontology, local anesthesia, and students' concluding capstone projects. She has served as a member of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) and currently oversees the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association (SADHA).

As Dental Hygiene program director, Walsh also finds pride and purpose in supervising her students, faculty, and staff. Thankful to see each student's tremendous growth as they move through Goodwin's Dental Hygiene program, Walsh particularly enjoys witnessing the next generation of true dental health professionals.



My sincere hope is to generate the future of well-rounded healthcare providers who find satisfaction in their careers by helping communities lead healthier lives. Goodwin's Dental Hygiene program offers students the education and skill set to administer exceptional patient-centered care, and its coursework encourages lifelong learning in the Dental Hygiene profession.

Our Dental Hygiene students work in a diverse patient atmosphere and make a profound difference practicing their skills in our state-of-the-art healthcare facility, where we do not charge people for the preventive services we provide. For prospective learners considering the dental hygiene profession, please keep in mind that anything in life worth doing takes hard work, determination, and a commitment to achieving your goals.

The Dental Hygiene program is rigorous and will challenge you in ways you never thought possible. However, if it challenges you, it will change you, and the courage to embrace that change and earn your education will lead to a solid foundation for your future happiness and success.

— *Director Christine Walsh, M.S.*

Why an AS in Dental Hygiene?



Start a rewarding career that changes lives

As a dental hygienist, you are the first line of defense when it comes to providing your community with accessible dental care.

When you learn the skills to keep your patients healthy, educate them on dental hygiene, or even help craft them a new smile, you are giving them the confidence and support they need, which will carry over into other areas of their lives. As a dental hygienist, you will actively change lives, one smile at a time.



Secure a career in an in-demand field

As more advancements are made in the field of dentistry, the need for caring, passionate dental hygienists continues to grow.

When you earn your degree in Dental Hygiene, you'll enter an in-demand field, so you won't have to worry about a lack of job prospects. Even with technological developments that have made dentistry more efficient, the presence of a real human being who cares and listens to patient concerns is irreplaceable.



Get the hands-on experience you need

At Goodwin University, you'll gain the hands-on experience you need in our new Dental Hygiene Clinic.

We offer free dental services to both children and adults. As a student of our Dental Hygiene program, you'll work under the supervision of our licensed faculty to provide patient care — offering affordable services directly to the community. You may also have the chance to work with our community partners to provide oral health screenings and dental hygiene education information to our most underserved communities.



Earn your degree at Goodwin University



Advance your skills in our hands-on dental clinic

At Goodwin University, we believe that everyone has the right to accessible dental care, and as a Dental Hygiene student, hands-on experience is critical to securing a rewarding career after graduation.

That's why our students work in the Dental Hygiene Clinic as a part of the curriculum for this program. You'll have an opportunity to apply what you learn in the classroom to the real world, all while providing critical dental care to patients in need.



Take advantage of flexible class formats

We offer flexible class formats, including on-campus and hybrid classes to work around your busy schedule.

Whether you're working full time or taking care of your family, we believe that your personal life is just as important as earning your degree.



We put you first

At Goodwin University, we have a completely student-centered approach to learning.

Our expert faculty are dedicated to giving you the one-on-one attention you deserve, and we offer a wide variety of student resources such as counseling services, financial aid, and more. While you're earning your degree, we'll be there to support you every step of the way!



We focus on career readiness

Pursuing a Dental Hygiene degree can be a pathway to more fulfillment and better compensation in your career – that's why Goodwin University is committed to preparing you for success in your field.

Our curriculum is tailored to give you the skills and knowledge to provide high-quality patient care. The experience you gain from studying in our clinic will make you a more marketable job candidate in the real world. The Dental Hygiene department also works closely with Career Services to assist you with resumé-building and interview skills, all while introducing you to potential career opportunities before you graduate!





Course format

When you start your career in dental hygiene, it is critical that you are prepared with hands-on experience and first-hand knowledge of the dentistry field. That's why we have designed our Dental Hygiene program to involve a combination of on-campus and hybrid learning styles. You'll come to campus to complete necessary clinical training while select classes can be conducted either in person or in a hybrid format.*

It is important to note that our program is rigorous, and the schedule for classroom and clinical learning will vary from semester to semester. The largest time commitment will occur in your second year, where you will spend between 16-20 hours per week in the clinic, in addition to community rotations and didactic coursework.

- 6 semester program — students can get trained and working in the field in as few as 24 months**
- Classes are offered in on-campus, online, and hybrid formats
- State-of-the-art Dental Lab and equipment where students can perfect their skills in a supervised setting
- Functional dental office with full waiting areas for patients/customers
- Clinic open 6 days a week – M-F 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

For complete curriculum details, please visit [our website](#).

*Schedules vary. See website for course-specific details.

Class formatting options

Courses are offered in on-campus and hybrid formats.



On-campus classes

Engaging in in-person clinical training is an essential part of becoming a dental hygienist.

When you come to campus, you'll receive hands-on training and experience working in a setting similar to a real dental office. You'll also be able to watch closely as our licensed faculty showcase their years of experience, so you'll graduate with the important professional skillsets for success in the field.



Hybrid (online/on-campus) classes

Many students enjoy our hybrid class format, which offers the best of both worlds — both online assignments and on-campus responsibilities.

This will allow you to make time for your personal responsibilities while still working toward your degree.



Admissions requirements

AS in Dental Hygiene

We pride ourselves in providing you with a quality, in-depth education in dental hygiene. Our program is rigorous, and our high volume of applicants means you must meet certain criteria to gain acceptance into the program. The requirements are as follows.

All applicants to the Dental Hygiene program must:

- Complete the application for admission into Goodwin University if you are not already a student at Goodwin. Applicants to the Dental Hygiene program must first meet the requirements for admission and be accepted into Goodwin University.
- Have a high school diploma or GED.
- Have a minimum college 2.7 GPA.
- Date of application submission and points attained in the Selection Point System will dictate class placement. 28 students are accepted each summer semester.
- Acknowledge, understand, and follow professional and personal policies, which include but are not limited to patient confidentiality and personal appearance standards.
- A criminal background check and drug screen will be conducted by Goodwin University's Dental Hygiene program prior to the first semester; results **MUST** be satisfactory to be able to attend the program.
- Have completed the necessary prerequisite coursework, including:
 - Math (Intermediate Algebra or higher) and Chemistry must be completed with a C or better. Anatomy and Physiology I must be completed with a C+ or better. Introduction to Psychology and English Composition must be completed with a passing grade.
 - Student could be enrolled in Anatomy and Physiology II at the time of application. Course must be successfully completed (C+ or better), before beginning the first DHP course.
 - Student could be enrolled in Microbiology at the time of application. Course must be successfully completed (C+ or better), before beginning the first DHP course.
- Provide documentation of observation of Dental Hygiene services. Observation must include 8 hours in the prior 12 months.



Financial aid

Paying for college doesn't have to be stressful — we make it easy to understand the costs of your education before classes even begin.

We are committed to helping you earn your degree at a cost that is affordable to you. At Goodwin, there are a variety of financial aid opportunities available to you, including scholarships, grants, student loans that need to be repaid, and work-study opportunities that provide a regular paycheck.

Check out our [financial aid page](#) to find out how Goodwin University can help you pay for your education.



Student resources and support

At Goodwin University, we are invested in the continued success of our students. We believe that you deserve great support services and resources to help you achieve your goals!

Academic Resources

- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Registrar's Office](#)

Academic Support

- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Tutoring](#)

College Experience

- [Clubs and Organizations](#)
- [Student Engagement](#)

Professional Development

- [Lifetime Career Services](#)

Personal Support Services

- [AccessAbility Services](#)
- [Ann B. Clark Co-op](#)
- [Counseling](#)



Contact us today!

Call: 800-889-3282 | Text: 860-467-1511

goodwin.edu/dentalhygiene

Our Dental Hygiene program will prepare you to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) and the Commission on Dental Competency Assessment (CDCA-WREB-CITA) clinical board exams. After successful completion of these exams, you can then apply for your CT state license. If you wish to work outside of CT, you will need to access your own state licensing board for licensing requirements.

It is the responsibility of the Goodwin University Dental Hygiene program to be compliant with applicable regulations of local, state, and federal agencies. The DH program documents guidelines consistent with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Bloodborne Infectious Diseases, and Standard Precautions. These policies are found in the DH Policy and Procedures Manual. The following are links to OSHA and the CDC guidelines:

www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faqs/bloodborne-exposures.html

www.osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens

The Goodwin University Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Goodwin University Dental Hygiene program has been granted accreditation status as: Approval without reporting requirements. This accreditation classification is granted to an educational program indicating that the program achieves or exceeds the basic requirements for accreditation. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312-440-4653 or 800-621-8099 at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

The Commission's web address is: www.ada.org/en/coda/accreditation.

Goodwin University is a nonprofit institution of higher education and is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), formerly known as the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

****Additional time is required to complete prerequisite courses.**