

Please contact the following numbers for counselor's office hours: (915) 831-4636, (915) 831-4036, (915) 831-4155.



**HEALTH CTE, CREDIT and CE, MATH & SCIENCE
Specialized Admissions Program Information Guide
For
DENTAL HYGIENE
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS-DHYG)
2026-2027 Catalog**

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Program Coordinator: Vanessa Cisneros RDH, BSDH.
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Senior Clinical Coordinator: Kathryn Villapana, RDH, M.Ed.
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DHYG Program Counselors:

Office Location: RG Counseling Dept., 103 Montana Ave., 3rd. floor

Guadalupe Marshall, Lead Counselor
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PROGRAM MAP

Program Map provides additional information regarding salary projections, employment opportunities, licensure requirements and Educational milestones. LINK: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Catalog/program-map?programID=1127>

Students qualifying for Specialized Admissions must satisfy all of the following: General Requirements, minimum set TSIA2 Scores, Mandatory courses, and Pre-Program Specifics. Once all requirements are completed, ranking points are derived from the highest TSIA2 scores and G.P.A. of ranking courses. Applicants who complete all ranking courses may be more competitive for admission into their program of choice.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Specialized Admissions must satisfy Minimum Criteria in order to be eligible for ranking. The following is required of all applicants:

- Prior to ranking, **the student must** submit all previous college/university official transcripts (transliteration of all foreign coursework required).
For online Transcripts Evaluation: sendtranscripts2@epcc.edu PDF with a password protection.
- Student must have a **High School Diploma or GED**. Submit official transcripts to:
El Paso Community College Admissions Office
P.O. Box 20500, El Paso, Texas 79998
- Student must:
 1. **Be approved to take credit academic courses by EPCC.**
 2. Have successfully completed **TSIA2 Assessment Tests**.
 3. **Complete an online Health Careers Orientation** at: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation>
 4. **Submit Specialized Admissions Application** form, pay \$ 10.00 fee at any EPCC Cashiers' office, send receipt via email to specialized.adm@epcc.edu or hand carry to: VV Campus, 919 Hunter, Enrollment Services Center; Admissions and Registration Office.
 5. **The applicants must have a 2.5 overall GPA on the courses listed in the degree plan.**
- EPCC Cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required.

- “Effective Fall 2011, and based on new federal regulations, students are not allowed to repeat previously passed courses more than once.” Students should meet with a counselor to determine how a repeat course (s) would impact his/her academic, prerequisite, specialized Admissions, or transferability of courses. It is the student’s responsibility to check with the Office of Student Financial Services to inquire how a repeat course(s) would impact their financial aid or veteran’s assistance.

TSIA 2 MINIMUM REQUIREMENT ASSESSMENT SCORES FOR DHYG PROGRAM

Test Area	Test Code	TSIA2 Cut Scores	Percentage
Math	PTMT	950	10
Reading & Writing	PTER	950	20
Essay	PTWE	6	10

- TSIA2 Official Assessment scores are valid for two (2) years with the highest test score used for qualifying and ranking.
- Posting of TSIA2 Assessment scores will take between 24 to 48 hours. Assessment tests have to be completed at least 48 hours prior to ranking date. Consult your Dental Hygiene Counselor for advice.

MANDATORY COURSES: 2 COURSES

A student must successfully complete mandatory courses prior to ranking. Applicants who do not satisfactorily complete mandatory course work will not qualify for ranking into this program.

- ▲ To qualify for ranking, all mandatory courses must be completed with a minimum of grade “C” or better. Mandatory courses cannot be substituted.
 - ▲ BIOL 2404 Anatomy & Physiology (Specialized, Single-Semester Course, Lecture + Lab) (C) (MNS)
 - ▲ ENGL 1301 Composition 1

NOTE: BIOL 1306 and 1106 are prerequisites for BIOL 2404. Students can complete prerequisites by taking these courses or by taking CLEP exam prior to ranking.

RANKING COURSES: 2 COURSES

Ranking courses are within the degree plan in which performance most reliably predicts future ability to successfully complete the program. It is highly recommended to complete all ranking courses prior to ranking to be competitive. Ranking courses cannot be substituted.

- ▲ ATTENTION: Students’ Ranking Courses must be completed no later than **Fall 2025 Semester to be eligible for March 2nd., 2026, ranking.**
 - ▲ BIOL 2404 Anatomy & Physiology (Specialized, Single-Semester Course, Lecture + Lab) (C) (MNS)
 - ▲ ENGL 1301 Composition 1

NOTE: BIOL 1306 and 1106 are prerequisites for BIOL 2404. Students can complete prerequisites by taking these courses or by taking CLEP exam prior to ranking.

PROCESSING OF PRE-PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

It is highly recommended that the applicant completes the Pre-Program Specific Requirements at least three (3) weeks prior to the ranking date. The applicant must complete “Specialized Admissions” requirements for qualifying and ranking. There is a scheduled ranking date for this program. Normal processing may take a few days or a few weeks depending on document type and individual circumstances. If documents have been received but not processed, then the student will be coded as ineligible for ranking.

PRE-PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Specialized Programs must also meet Pre-Program Specific Requirements prior to qualifying for ranking. The following is required of all applicants:

Use this **Pre-Program Requirements Checklist link as a guide:** https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Documents/Dental_Hygiene-Pre-Program_Requirements.pdf

CPR, Vaccinations and Titers (Due No Later Than February 16, 2026, by 5:00 PM (MST) to Administrative Office Assistant Brenda Gonzalez by email bgonz209@epcc.edu or to the Rio Grande Border Health Clinic RG EPCC Bldg.H-105 (915-831-4017).

Students with negative titers are required to repeat the full immunization series and then provide proof of immunization through a follow-up titer. Be aware that these requirements may take several weeks to months to complete due to an extended turnaround time for titer results and the required intervals for vaccine series, titers, and re-titers.

- **POSITIVE TITER required for Hepatitis B (surface antibody):** If the student produces a negative titer to Hepatitis B (no immunity), it is required for the student to undergo the Hepatitis B vaccination series (either 2 or 3 doses) After a vaccination is administered, a 4-6 week waiting period AND achieve a subsequent **positive titer result**, which may take 4 to 6 months to complete.
- **POSITIVE TITER MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)-** if any of the three is negative, repeat the immunization series; re-titer is **not** needed.
- **POSITIVE TITER Varicella-** if negative, repeat immunization series; re-titer **not** needed.
- **Tdap (Tetanus/Diphtheria and Pertussis):** Must be dated from 2016 to present, Booster is required if it has been more than **10 years**.
- **CPR:** American Heart Association (AHA) CPR/BLS (only Health Provider training accepted) card from (AHA). Military Training Network (AHA recognized cards will be accepted). Hybrid AHA courses with live skills demonstration will be accepted. CPR card must remain current throughout the course of the program (Certification may not be older than two (2) years). CPR and First Aid Courses are available through the Health CTE, Credit and CE, Math & Science Division. Please see the current Continuing Education Course Schedule or call 915-831-7820 for more information.
- **Dental Hygiene Office Observation and Essay Assignments – Due Online February 16, 2026, by 11:59 PM (MST).** Applicants must complete Eight (8) Hours of Clinical Observation with a licensed Dental Hygienist. The applicant must complete online essay prompts. Submission instructions may be found on the dental hygiene webpage (<https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/dental-hygiene>), under Program Documents. Link can be found here: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Documents/Dental_Hygiene-observation_and_Essay_Instructions.pdf.

The Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (CODA), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education. 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 1900; Chicago, ILL 60611-2978; phone: (800) 232-6108 or (312) 440-2940, Email: [CODA | Commission on Dental Accreditation \(ada.org\)](mailto:CODA | Commission on Dental Accreditation (ada.org))

DHYG AAS PROGRAM DEGREE COURSES

In order to complete the requirements for progression and graduation, students enrolled in this program must have a grade of “C” or better in all specialized courses. The term “specialized courses” refers to all courses carrying the prefix of the program in which the student is majoring or the prefix of another health-related discipline.

Check El Paso Community College Catalog for Course Prerequisites

Prerequisite Semester

BIOL 2404 Anatomy & Physiology (Specialized, Single-Semester Course, Lecture + Lab) (C, MNS).

Prerequisites: Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion with a C or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313; and BIOL 1306 and 1106 with a C or better or Biology CLEP exam.

CHEM 1306 Introductory Chemistry I (Lecture, Allied Health Emphasis) (C, MNS) (Note: CHEM 1306 is a Prerequisite for all FALL DHYG Courses)

Prerequisite: Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion with a C or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313. **Corequisite:** CHEM 1106. (3:0)

CHEM 1106 Introductory Chemistry I (Lab, Allied Health Emphasis)

Corequisite: CHEM 1306.

DHYG 1127 Preventive Dental Hygiene Care

Prerequisites: BIOL 2404 and CHEM 1306 and 1106.

NOTE: DHYG 1127 must be taken **before the First year/First semester** and **once you are officially accepted into the program**

Humanities or Fine Arts Elective¹ (C, HFA)

First Semester

DHYG 1239 General and Oral Pathology **Prerequisites:** BIOL 2404 and CHEM 1306 and 1106 and DHYG 1127. **Corequisites:** DHYG 1301 and DHYG 1304 and DHYG 1431.

DHYG 1301 Orofacial Anatomy, Histology & Embryology **Prerequisites:** BIOL 2404 and CHEM 1306 and 1106 and DHYG 1127. **Corequisites:** DHYG 1239 and DHYG 1304 and DHYG 1431.

DHYG 1304 Dental Radiology **Prerequisites:** BIOL 2404 and CHEM 1306 and 1106 and DHYG 1127. **Corequisites:** DHYG 1239 and DHYG 1301 and DHYG 1431.

DHYG 1431 Preclinical Dental Hygiene **Prerequisites:** BIOL 2404 and CHEM 1306 and 1106 and DHYG 1127. **Corequisites:** DHYG 1239 and DHYG 1301 and DHYG 1304.

Speech Communication Elective²

Prerequisite: Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion with a C or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313.

Second Semester

BIOL 2420 Microbiology for Non-Science Majors (Lecture + Lab) **Prerequisites:** BIOL 1306 and 1106 with a C or better or Biology CLEP exam.

OR

BIOL 2421 Microbiology for Science Majors (Lecture + Lab) **Prerequisites:** BIOL 1306 and 1106 with a C or better or Biology CLEP exam; and CHEM 1311 and 1111 with a C or better or Chemistry CLEP exam.

DHYG 1219 Dental Materials **Corequisites:** DHYG 1235 and DHYG 1261 and DHYG 1311 and DHYG 2201.

DHYG 1235 Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist **Corequisites:** DHYG 1319 and DHYG 1261 and DHYG 1311 and DHYG 2201.

DHYG 1261 Clinical-Dental Hygiene/Hygienist I **Corequisites:** DHYG 1319 and DHYG 1235 and DHYG 1311 and DHYG 2201.

DHYG 1311 Periodontology **Corequisites:** DHYG 1319 and DHYG 1235 and DHYG 1261 and DHYG 2201.

DHYG 2201 Dental Hygiene Care I **Corequisites:** DHYG 1319 and DHYG 1235 and DHYG 1261 and DHYG 1311.

Third Semester (Summer)

DHYG 1170 Local Anesthesia (congruent with CODA Approval)

DHYG 2161 Clinical-Dental Hygiene/Hygienist II **Corequisite:** ENGL 1301.

ENGL 1301 Composition I (C) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion of INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313 with a C or better; OR concurrent enrollment in INRW 0311 or INRW 0313.

PSYC 2301 General Psychology (C, SBS) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion with a C or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313.

OR

PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development (C, SBS) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion with a C or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313.

Fourth Semester

DHYG 1207 General and Dental Nutrition **Prerequisites:** ENGL 1301 and PSYC 2301 or PSYC 2314. **Corequisites:** DHYG 1215 and DHYG 2231 and DHYG 2362.

DHYG 1215 Community Dentistry **Prerequisites:** ENGL 1301 and PSYC 2301 or PSYC 2314. **Corequisites:** DHYG 1207 and DHYG 2231 and DHYG 2362.

DHYG 2231 Dental Hygiene Care II **Prerequisites:** ENGL 1301 and PSYC 2301 or PSYC 2314. **Corequisites:** DHYG 1207 and DHYG 1215 and DHYG 2362.

DHYG 2362 Clinical-Dental Hygiene/Hygienist III **Prerequisites:** ENGL 1301 and PSYC 2301 or PSYC 2314. **Corequisites:** DHYG 1207 and DHYG 1215 and DHYG 2231

Fifth Semester

DHYG 2102 Applied Community Dentistry **Corequisites:** DHYG 2253 and DHYG 2363.

DHYG 2253 Dental Hygiene Practice **Corequisites:** DHYG 2102 and DHYG 2363.

DHYG 2363 Clinical-Dental Hygiene/Hygienist IV **Corequisites:** DHYG 2102 and DHYG 2253.

SOCI 1301 Introduction to Sociology (C) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion with a C or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313.

OR

SOCI 1306 Social Problems **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion with a C or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313.

¹Humanities or Fine Arts Elective: Complete one course from ARCH 1301, ARTS 1301, 1303, 1304, COMM 2366, DANC 2303, DRAM 1310, ENGL 2322, 2323, 2332, 2333, 2341, 2351, HIST 2321, 2322, MUSI 1306, 1310, PHIL 1301, 2303, or 2306.

²Speech Communication Elective: Complete one course from SPCH 1315, 1318, or 1321.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Official Ranking Date:** **March 2nd, 2026.**
- **DHYG Specialized Courses start:** **Summer II 2026.** (You must be officially accepted into DHYG Program to enroll in these Courses)
- **Maximum Students Admitted:** **24 Students.**
- **Community Wide Orientation online at:** <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation>

- Health Careers Orientation online at: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation>
- Online additional program-specific and career information: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health>
- Students who completed articulated or dual credit courses in health in high school should bring this to the attention of the counselor. College credit may still be available.
- DHYG website: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/dental-hygiene>

POST-ACCEPTANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for the following requirements **AFTER** accepting a seat in the Program:

- **Must attend the on-campus Program Orientation on: April 11, 2026. Not attending the orientation will result in forfeiture of your seat.**
- **Must file a degree plan with the designated Health Counselor.**
- A tracking system, **COMPLIO**, will assist students and coordinators alike to be compliant with tracking background check, substance abuse screening, immunizations, CPR, First Aid, physical, etc. All students participating in health programs must be part of the American Databank, in order to keep their clinical data in compliance and updated. **Instructions for COMPLIO registration will be given at the Program Orientation.** If you have any questions, contact Administrative Office Assistant: **Brenda Gonzalez** – email bgonz209@epcc.edu
COMPLIO Link: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Documents/Background_Check_Substance_Abuse_Testing.pdf
- **Background Check** - (fee is required). Each student must complete a background check prior to enrolling in clinical courses. Background checks are required prior to acceptance into most health programs or courses. Students are responsible for the costs. Currently, the approved vendor for El Paso Community College is American Databank: <http://www.elpasoex.com/>. Only background checks from American Databank are accepted. **You will receive a letter from the Dean of Health Career and Technical Education, Math & Science division to inform you of the status of your background check. The student will not be able to go to the clinical areas/health care facilities until cleared.**
*****NOTE:** If a student has not enrolled in a health-related program for one or more semesters, the student must redo the background check at his/her own expense, for further information, please ask a Health Counselor or call the Program Coordinator.
 There are two Levels of background checks:
Level I applies to all students and includes: (1) Social Security Number Verification. (2) Criminal Search 7 years minimum or up to five criminal searches. (3) Violent Sexual Offender and Predator Registry Search. (4) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) list of Excluded Individuals/Entities. (5) GSA List of Parties Excluded from Federal Programs. (6) U.S. Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), List of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN), and (7) State Exclusion List.
Level II is for students already licensed or certified in any area. **Level II** requires all of the Level 1 elements plus (1) License Verification, (2) Certification Verification, and (3) Employment Verification, including reason for separation and eligibility for re-hire.
 A positive criminal history will require proof of the official case disposition for clearance. Generally: Disqualifying criminal offenses include but are not limited to any felony conviction within the last 10 years, or two or more misdemeanors in crimes against persons, or families, such as homicide, kidnapping, rape, sexual assault, assault, battery, aggravated robbery, theft. Any misdemeanor or felony conviction involving abuse, neglect, or exploitation against a child, vulnerable adult, or disabled individual. Felonies or two misdemeanors involving manufacture, importation, delivery, or possession of controlled substances, including felony conviction of DWI or two misdemeanor DWI convictions. Deferred adjudication for any felony is also a disqualifying event for enrolling into any of the Health Programs.
Please note that many professional licensure or certification agencies may have additional requirements. You should reference the requirements for each agency.
- **Substance Abuse Screening** will be required for each student enrolling in health career programs with clinical components. For further information, please ask a Health Counselor or call the program coordinator. **NOTE: Students must re-take and pay for substance abuse test if test was taken three months prior to the first clinical education course. Website: <http://www.elpasoex.com/>**
- **Additional Immunizations:** –The following must be completed upon acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program:
 - **Tuberculosis (TB) screening required annually. NOTE: It is highly recommended to complete any and all TB skin testing prior to receiving the MMR and/or Varicella vaccines, MMR or Varicella vaccines could cause a false negative TB skin test result. You may use either one of the following screenings:**
 1. **QuantiFERON (Q Gold) test OR**
 2. **Tuberculosis (TB) skin test.**
 - a. Individuals that will be using the TB skin test who have previously tested negative, have never tested, or are not sure if previously tested.
 - b. Initial 2 Step TB Skin Test (effective January 1, 2018, for all students/faculty new to health programs).
 - i. Initial TB skin test (TST) administered and read 48-72 hours later.
 - ii. If initial TB skin test is negative, the second TST must be administered no sooner than 7 days and no later than 21 days after administration of the initial TST.

- iii. If initial TST is positive, DO NOT ADMINISTER the second TST. Individual needs Chest X-ray and annual TB Assessment/Clearance (or equivalent document) from Health Care Provider.

NOTE: TB Skin Test that is Positive (previously). Requires completed Annual TB Assessment/Clearance form.

- **Flu Vaccine – Must be taken no later than in the month of November in 2026.**
- **Meningitis or Booster** – (Effective January 1, 2012, a Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination is required for all entering students under the age of 22. The term “entering students” includes new students to EPCC, transfer students, and returning students. Students must provide proof of an initial meningitis immunization or booster to the Admissions and Registration Department at any campus. The meningitis immunization must be administered at least 10 days before the start of the semester and must have been administered within the last five years).

NOTE: If you have had the vaccination at an earlier date, you may start with a Titer, as the result will indicate if you need the vaccine. If you have not had the vaccination and after vaccination is applied, you must wait 4-6 weeks for immunity to show up on the TITER.

- **HIPAA Training** - Conducted online: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/hipaa> (must be renewed every year).
- **Physical Exam (current)** completed by a Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant licensed in the United States (Not older than two years). **Website: FFAA-1.pdf (epcc.edu)**
- **Physical Technical Standards Form** (completed during the Program Orientation)
<https://www.epcc.edu/Administration/InstitutionalEffectiveness/PoliciesandProcedures/FB-8.pdf>
- **Professional Practice Insurance** (Liability Insurance) is required for all clinical and selected laboratory courses. This fee is paid during the time of enrollment. The instructor may ask for proof of payment (your registration receipt) on the first day of class.
- **Program Orientation** – two weeks after acceptance letters are returned.
- **Specialized Equipment and/or Lab Supplies**- In accordance with course syllabi; students must purchase their own supplies. The program coordinator will provide students with detailed information.
- **Textbooks** and other course materials must be purchased at student's expense in accordance with course syllabi.
- **Transportation** - Students are responsible for their own transportation to off-campus clinical/learning sites.
- **Uniforms, dental hygiene instrument kits, miscellaneous clinic supplies** in accordance with course syllabi; students must purchase their own uniforms and instrument kits. The program coordinator will provide students with detailed information.

Dental professionals do not discriminate against patients who present infectious diseases (i.e., hepatitis, HIV, herpes, etc.). Health Professionals use Standard Precautions to safeguard themselves and others from contracting diseases, whether infectious or non-infectious. Dental Hygiene students must adhere to strict safety protocols.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Visit Admission and Registration EPCC web page for additional information. **Website: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/immunization-law>**
- Students are expected to work on patients that may present infectious and/or communicable diseases. Students are taught to abide with Standard Precautions protocols and procedures.
- All courses within the EPCC Dental Hygiene Program are conducted in-person and take place Monday through Friday. The Program does not accommodate part-time students, nor does it provide classes during evenings or weekends.
- Our EPCC Rio Grande Border Health Clinic is located at the Rio Grande Campus, for information call: 915- 831-4016 for Nursing clinic or call 915- 831-4017 for Dental, Medical Sonography, Echocardiogram or Physical Therapy clinics.

This document is to be used with EPCC College Catalog, which provides complete information on courses as well as College regulations and procedures. This is for informational purposes only and is not a binding offer or contract between the College and the student. This document was revised September 2025 and is subject to change without prior notice.

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