

# DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL HYGIENE

## General Information

**Dr. Naquilla Thomas, Chair**  
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**Dental Hygiene Clinic**  
(678) 466-4920

## Mission and Goals

The mission of the Department of Dental Hygiene is to provide career relevant education in the discipline of dental hygiene and to support the lifelong learning goals of individuals aspiring to careers in the dental field. The Department of Dental Hygiene offers the following options in baccalaureate degrees:

- Basic licensure track leading to a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) with a curriculum that leads to eligibility for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist.
- RDH completion track leading to a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (RDH-BSDH) with a curriculum designed for the working Registered Dental Hygienist to expand their career opportunities.
- Both tracks have the option of Dual Bachelor Degrees in Dental Hygiene and Health Care Management.

## Honor Societies and Clubs

Among the honor societies, clubs, and service organizations designed to support, augment, and supplement the educational and professional development of students are the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association (SADHA) and Sigma Phi Alpha, the dental hygiene honor society.

## BSDH Outcomes

Broad-based general education, preparing students to contribute to their profession, community, and society by communicating effectively, thinking critically and conceptually, acting ethically and valuing diversity.

Requisite skills with a strong knowledge base, hands on experience and the mindset required for success in the dynamic field of dental hygiene.

Thorough foundation in the diversified fields of dental hygiene i.e., clinician, education/health promoter, consumer advocate, administrator/manager, change agent and researcher.

Emphasis on importance of life-long learning in the ever-changing profession of dental hygiene.

## Program Goals

- Accreditation - Maintain full program accreditation from the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation necessary to comprehensively prepare competent individuals in the discipline.
- Resources - Increase financial resources for all programs through departmental or school grant opportunities as well as through increasing extramural resources. Secure adequate number of faculty to meet ADA accreditation guidelines.

- Distance Learning - Expand distance-learning opportunities within the BSDH program.
- Experiential Learning - Expand experiential learning experiences in the community and the state.
- Graduate Education - Participate with other College of Health units to provide graduate education for BSDH program graduates.

## Accreditation

The BSDH program has approval of the Georgia Board of Dentistry and is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Information about approval and/or accreditation may be obtained from the following:

Georgia Board of Dentistry  
237 Coliseum Drive  
Macon, Georgia 31217-3858  
<http://sos.georgia.gov/plb/dentistry/>  
478-207-2440

Commission on Dental Accreditation  
American Dental Association  
211 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
<http://www.ada.org>  
312-440-4653

## Programs

### Baccalaureate Programs

- Dental Hygiene, BS (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/health/dental-hygiene/dental-hygiene-bs/>)
- Double Bachelor's Degrees in Dental Hygiene and Health Care Management (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/health/dental-hygiene/double-bachelors-degrees-dental-hygiene-health-care-management/>)
- RDH-BSDH Completion (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/health/dental-hygiene/rdh-bsd-completion-track/>)

## Faculty

Heather Eddy  
Kimberly Pyron  
Naquilla Thomas