

# ADVANCED DIPLOMA OF ORAL HEALTH (DENTAL HYGIENE)

10926NAT

tafesA



Government of  
South Australia



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## CENTRE FOR DENTAL STUDIES

TAFE SA Centre for Dental Studies provides career pathways with courses in dental assisting, dental radiography, dental technology and dental hygiene.

Our dental studies programs are nationally endorsed and the Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) (10926NAT) is accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) providing evidence of consultation with learners, industry and community towards provision of quality assured and industry supported programs of learning.

Dental studies programs incorporate innovative and flexible learning and assessment methodologies to reflect current practice within the dental community and industry. An emphasis on integrating current evidence-based science and practice is facilitated through scaffolded competency based learning that reflects required knowledge and skills for industry application.

The innovative methodologies include the online learning management system that facilitates a virtual environment for all learners to access valuable learning and assessment resource to support their learning endeavours.

## FACILITIES

The Centre for Dental Studies at TAFE SA Gilles Plains is a modern teaching facility for dental studies including an updated 36 station dental laboratory and a state-of-the-art 28 chair, fully functioning dental clinic and demonstration area, with intraoral and extraoral cameras. The clinic also includes 7 intraoral radiography units, and a panoramic radiography machine.

Students will also attend the University of Adelaide's Dental Simulation Clinic, located in the city's North Terrace campus. The simulation clinic has 90 individual simulators, each equipped with their own dental manikin simulator, dental equipment, computer and monitor.



## COURSE AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) (10926NAT) is designed to provide learners with the skills and knowledge on graduation to apply to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to work as dental hygienists in both private and government sectors. This is in accordance with the legislative provisions, and contemporary dental hygiene practice and theory.

The course has a focus on oral health, and aligns with the Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice of a dental hygienist, to provide services for all ages in:

- > assessment
- > diagnosis
- > treatment
- > management
- > education to prevent oral disease
- > promotion of healthy oral behaviours.

This may include periodontal and gingival treatment, preventative services and other oral care.

Each graduate will have developed the knowledge, skills, behaviours, attitudes, values and judgements that will enable them to:

- > provide preventive and therapeutic oral health care at team, individual and community level
- > work effectively in partnership with other allied health professionals to encourage the adoption of optimum oral health practices by the individual and/or community group
- > design, conduct and evaluate health promotion on links between general and oral health to individuals, at team, individual and community level
- > collect, analyse and interpret data for the individual patient and/or community group/s, to design, implement and evaluate strategies that:
  - addresses hygiene treatment and preventive oral health needs at individual and community level
  - collaborates with patient groups and other dental and health care professionals

- > maintain the highest level of professionalism in the practice of dental hygiene through:
  - the use of accountable and sustainable care management strategies
  - the adoption of reflective work practices and relevant lifelong learning
  - the identification and completion of professional development requirements
  - the provision of ethical patient care
- > provide leadership and mentoring in developing and promoting effective, professional and accountable work practices that are evidence-based and quality assured
- > monitor and evaluate treatment outcomes as a means of providing responsive dental hygiene practice.

## COURSE OUTLINE

The TAFE SA Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (10926NAT) is the only professional oral health advanced diploma available in South Australia. Students work and study as part of a small oral health community in a supportive and collegial manner. Key features of the program include early clinical experience, a significant amount and variety of clinical practice, health promotion and development of research skills.

The program focuses on developing students' competence in:

- > clinical examination and diagnosis of oral disease
- > formulation of individual treatment plans for patients
- > prevention and control of oral disease by clinical treatment and preventative procedures
- > health promotion to clients and the community to establish patterns of behaviour conducive to good oral health.

Graduates of the program strive through their advocacy and clinical practice to empower individuals and communities to maintain optimum oral health throughout their lives.

## COURSE DELIVERY

The course is delivered in a combination of simulated practice, competency based and problem-based learning. Students gain supervised clinical experience in the TAFE SA Dental Clinic, and in other specialist clinical areas throughout the course.

## COURSE LENGTH

The Advanced Diploma of Oral Health (Dental Hygiene) (10926NAT) take two years full- time of part-time equivalent to complete. Full-time Face to face contact is a minimum of 24-30 hours a week ( 4-5 days), which includes simulation, and clinic placements.

## COURSE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Course entry requirements include the following.

### ESSENTIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- > Certificate III in Dental Assisting or higher qualification in a health or dental field
- or
- > Completion of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) or equivalent.

**All applicants** are required to undertake Dental Hygiene Admission testing. Details of the testing are available on the TAFE SA website under the qualification code.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Successful students who do not already hold a licence to operate and ionising radiation apparatus will need to enrol in the following units within the first year of their studies:

- > Apply the principles of radiation biology and protection in dental practice (HLTDEN021)
- > Prepare to expose a prescribed dental radiographic image (HLTDEN022)
- > Produce a prescribed dental radiographic image (HLTEDEN023)

All students must have a current Australian 'Apply First Aid' Certificate prior to commencing their supervised clinical practice and are required to maintain a current certificate throughout the length of their studies in the program.



Prior to enrolment, candidates will be advised that to undertake the course they must be eligible for unlimited registration as a student with the Dental Board of Australia under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009.

Many health care facilities including those operated by SA Health, require candidates and other health care workers to present the result of a Criminal History Check, and evidence related to immune status to vaccine preventable diseases, blood borne virus infection, and tuberculosis screening, prior to allowing clinical access to patients. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements is likely to result in being unable to undertake the clinical placements necessary for completion of this course.

## UNITS

### CORE UNITS

UNITS OF COMPETENCY	NATIONAL CODE
Apply professional tooth whitening agents	NAT10926013
Apply rubber dam and fissure sealants	NAT10926014
Communicate effectively as a workplace leader	BSBLDR401
Apply basic principles and practices of infection prevention	HLTINF006
Confirm oral health status	NAT10926005
Confirm physical health status	HLTAAP002
Diagnose and manage dental hard tissue pathologies in the dental hygiene patient	NAT10926015
Diagnose and manage periodontal conditions	NAT10926016
Examine and assess a patient to devise a dental hygiene treatment plan	NAT10926004
Identify and interpret findings on a dental radiograph	NAT10926018
Implement a dental hygiene program for children and adolescents	NAT10926017
Manage pain and anxiety for dental hygiene treatment	NAT10926012
Manage pharmacotherapy in dental hygiene treatment	NAT10926001
Participate in workplace health and safety	HLTWHS001
Perform a nutritional oral health assessment	NAT10926007
Perform orthodontic procedures	NAT10926022
Plan and manage dental hygiene care for patients with special needs	NAT10926020
Promote Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural safety	CHCDIV002
Provide clinical dental hygiene treatment	NAT10926019
Provide community based oral health interventions and oral health promotion	NAT10926025
Provide dental hygiene care to elderly patients	NAT10926021
Provide individual oral health education and counselling to patients	NAT10926006
Research and apply evidence to practice	CHCPOL003
Research and apply personality and development theories	CHCCSL004
Take a clinical photograph	HLTDEN014
Take an impression and construct study models for dental hygiene patients	NAT10926024
Undertake and analyse diagnostic tests to determine oral health status	NAT10926009
Undertake temporary restorative therapy	NAT10926023
Use epidemiology and evidence-based research in dental hygiene practice	NAT10926003
Use fluoride and chemotherapeutic agents to manage and prevent dental disease	NAT10926010

Use knowledge of oral pathology and general medicine in dental hygiene practice	NAT10926011
Utilise dental instruments	NAT10926008
Work with diverse people	CHCDIV001
Work within a dental practitioner framework	NAT10926002

All clinical subjects are taught at the TAFE SA Dental Clinic located at Gilles Plains, and at the University of Adelaide's Dental Simulation Clinic, in the Adelaide CBD.

## ASSESSMENTS

Dental studies topics incorporate innovative and flexible learning and assessment methodologies, to reflect current practice within the dental community and industry.

## CREDIT TRANSFER

If you have completed equivalent studies, you may apply for credit transfer once you have been accepted into the TAFE SA course.

## RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

If you have gained the skills and knowledge equivalent to a unit in this course through work experience, life skills or on the job training you may apply for the recognition of these skills, once you have been accepted into the course. This may shorten the length of time required for you to study to complete the course.

## FEES

Full Fee: \$59,813  
Subsidised fee: \$15,281

This course is funded through the Government of South Australia's subsidised initiative. Eligibility criteria apply, incidental fees may apply for specific tools, materials, events or uniforms.

Students will need to check course fees directly with TAFE SA via website TAFE SA Courses. TAFE SA will advise students about all fees and publish their fee policies on TAFE SA website.

Subject to eligibility, only applies to courses that are listed on the subsidised training list.

Applying for a TAFE SA course is free.  
Concessions will be available for students who:

- > hold a health care card;
- > hold a pensioner concession card; and/or
- > hold a pensioner concession card issued by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

For further information: [tafesa.edu.au](http://tafesa.edu.au)

Please make an appointment with a TAFE SA student support officer to discuss your eligibility if you require assistance.

## HOW TO APPLY

Entry to the course in South Australia is administered through the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC). Visit [tafesa.edu.au/courses](http://tafesa.edu.au/courses) and click on courses listed with 'Apply Now'.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Students are able to apply for a VET Student Loan for TAFE SA diploma and advanced diploma qualifications.

VET Student Loans are a Commonwealth Government loan scheme which assists students to pay for all or part of the TAFE SA tuition fees. Like HECS, it is an income contingent loan. A VET Student Loan will be repaid through the Australian taxation system once your repayment income is above the minimum threshold.

To be eligible for VET Student Loan assistance, you must be:

- > a student of any age
- > an Australian citizen; or
- > the holder of a permanent humanitarian visa and resident in Australia for the duration of the TAFE unit of study
- > studying with an approved VET training provider.

It is recommended that students contact the TAFE SA Infoline for more information. Freecall **1800 882 661**.

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Student eligibility applies to all new students or ongoing students commencing a new course. Students will be eligible for subsidised training if they meet all three (only two are listed) student eligibility criteria at the time of enrolment, and a place is available.

### 1. AGE

The individual is aged 16 years or over.

### 2. RESIDENCY STATUS

The individual either resides or works in South Australia – as determined by postcode of home address or place of work; and

- > is an Australian or New Zealand citizen; or
- > is a permanent Australian resident; or
- > holds a state sponsored visa on a pathway to permanent residency.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

General career and education counselling and learning support are available. Most campuses have a learning resource centre (library), student lounge and recreational activities.

## ACCESS AND EQUITY

TAFE SA is committed to ensuring that all members of the public have access to all of the courses offered and a fair and non-discriminatory learning environment. Conditions of registration, including TAFE SA Code of Practice can be found at [tafesa.edu.au](http://tafesa.edu.au)



**TAFESA.EDU.AU/DENTAL**  
**1800 882 661**

If you are a person who is Deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment,  
contact us through the National Relay Service [relayservice.gov.au](https://relayservice.gov.au)

