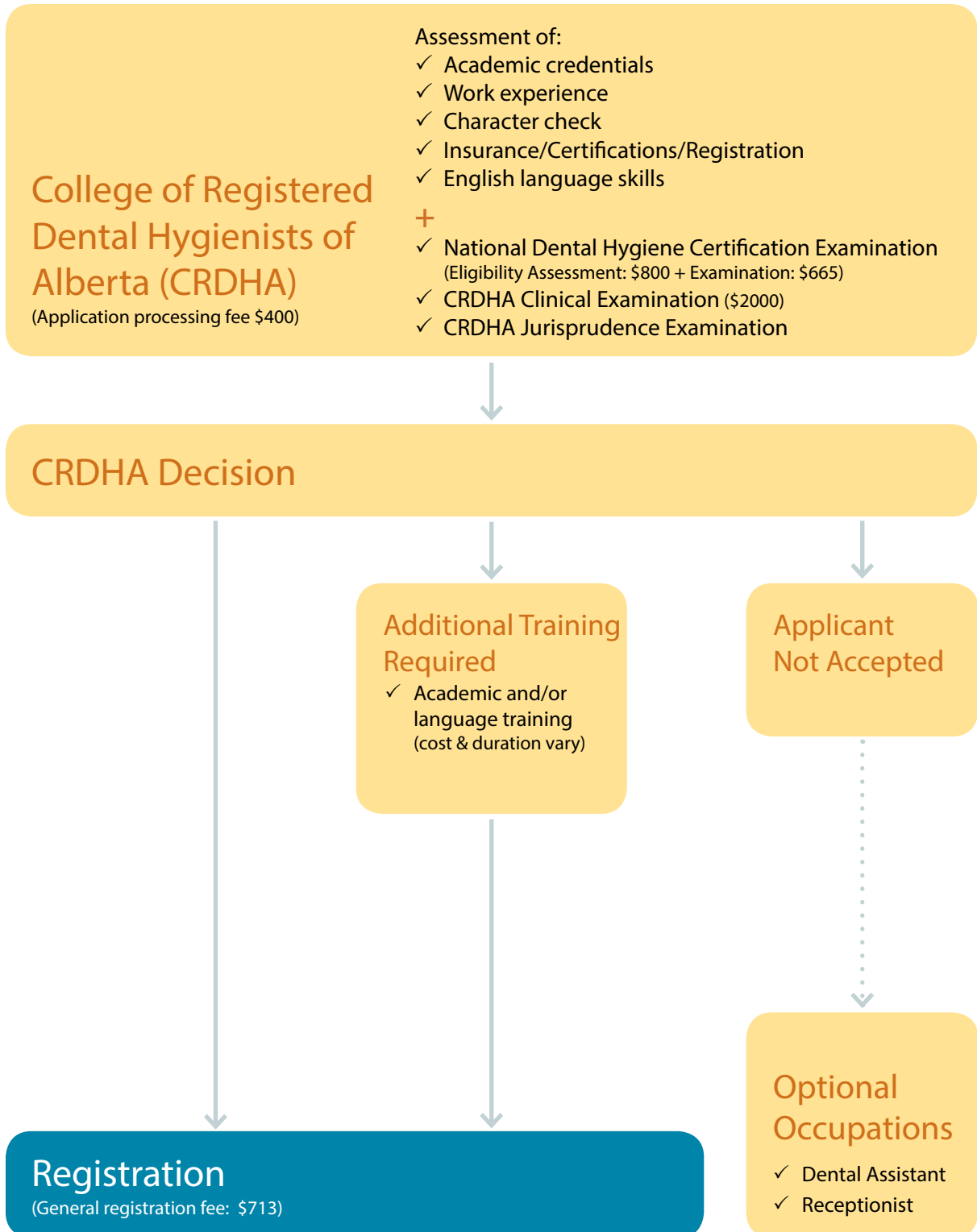


Dental Hygienist

Registration Process



Dental Hygienist Registration Process

Description of Occupation

Dental Hygienists assess, diagnose and treat oral health conditions. They also educate patients on oral hygiene and how to prevent oral diseases. Dental hygienists administer local anaesthetics, order, expose, develop and interpret dental x-rays, and use delicate hand and power instruments to provide clinical therapies such as scaling, root planing and removing tooth surface deposits and stains.

In Alberta, Dental Hygienists can set up their own practice and work independently, or they can work as part of dental practice with dentists and dental assistants. They can also work in community or public health settings such as schools.

Obtaining Licensing in Alberta

To practice in Alberta, Dental Hygienists must be registered with the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA).

You can and should begin the application process before you arrive in Alberta. To request an application package, complete the online Registration Package Request Form from the CRDHA website or contact the CRDHA by phone.

Contact information and other resources are at the end of this document.

Residency Requirement

There is no residency requirement to register with the CRDHA.

Registration Requirements

Internationally educated Dental Hygienists must meet the following registration requirements:

1. *Academic Credentials and Substantial Equivalency*

The minimum academic requirement is a diploma or degree in dental hygiene or equivalent completed within three (3) years from the date you apply for registration.

- Contact the school you graduated from and ask for official academic transcripts and detailed program information. Transcripts and program information must be sent directly to the CRDHA by the school.
- If the documents are in a language other than English, you must also send notarized translations along with your documents.
- If you graduated from a dental hygiene program or equivalent more than three (3) years ago, you must show currency in your skills by meeting the work experience requirements below.

Program information will be reviewed to assess substantial equivalence to the approved University of Alberta Dental Hygiene Program.

2. *Work Experience*

If you graduated from a dental hygiene program or equivalent more than three (3) years ago, you must show currency in your skills by providing work experience information. To become registered with the CRDHA you will need a minimum of six hundred (600) hours of practice as a dental hygienist in the three (3) years before your registration application is received by the CRDHA. This can be international experience as long as the scope of practice is comparable to Canadian experience.

- Provide your work experience information in the Employment History section of the application form.
- Include a letter from your previous employer(s) verifying your practical experience, character and the number of hours worked.

3. Good Character and Fitness to Practice

You must provide proof of your good character and fitness to practice dental hygiene. Evidence of good character will be confirmed by the work experience references you provide and by proof of good standing from a current/previous regulatory authority. You must provide information related to:

- Proof of current or previous registration or licensure with a regulatory authority in another jurisdiction. You must include the name of the regulatory body, the location, the registration/license number and the expiry date.
- Your dental hygiene or other health profession registration or license being denied, limited, restricted or cancelled in any other jurisdiction.
- Any professional misconduct, unskilled practice, incompetency or incapacity as a dental hygienist or in another health profession.
- Any reviews, investigations, disciplinary hearing or proceedings (including criminal proceedings) you are currently subject to in any jurisdiction.
- Any convictions of criminal offences in any jurisdiction.
- Any physical, mental or emotional condition, disorder or addiction that may impair your ability to provide dental hygiene services in a safe and competent manner.

4. Liability Insurance

All applicants must provide proof of current Canadian liability insurance or purchase insurance through the CRDHA during the registration process.

5. CPR Certification

You must provide proof of current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification for health care providers. Certification must either be from a Canadian agency/institution or an equivalent international certification. Required course content is provided in the CRDHA registration information package. CPR Certification must be completed no longer than twelve (12) months before registration is granted.

6. English Language

You must be competent in the English language, both written and oral, and be able to effectively communicate in the workplace. If English is not your native language or your diploma or degree was taken in a language other than English, you may demonstrate your English skills by:

- Taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)
- OR
- Taking the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Required test components and scores are listed in the CRDHA registration information package.

7. **Canadian National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination**

All applicants for registration in Alberta must successfully complete the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board (NDHCB) examination. **You must include a notarized copy of your NDHCB certificate with your application for registration.**

The examination tests the knowledge, skills, attitude and judgment needed for entry-level practice. The four (4) hour test is in electronic form and consists of two hundred (200) multiple-choice questions. An individual candidate's score on the NDHCE will be reported only as a pass or fail. The examination is offered three times a year. Complete information related to the NDHCB examination is available on the NDHCB website at www.ndhcb.ca.

If you have graduated from a program outside of Canada or the United States you will need to demonstrate that your program is of the same standard as programs offered in Canada. To determine your eligibility to write the examination, you must submit the following:

- Eligibility Application Form and fees.
- Proof of legal name change if any document has a different name than the name on the application form.
- A report that evaluates your educational credentials. This report must be prepared and submitted directly to the NDHCB by one of the international credential assessment services approved by the NDHCB.
- A legal description of the practice of dental hygiene in the country where you were educated. This must be submitted directly by the agency that issues a certificate of registration/license to practice.
- A notarized copy of your dental hygiene diploma/certificate and an official transcript of grades, submitted directly by the dental hygiene educational institution of graduation.
- An official statement of course descriptions in both the original language you were instructed in and a translated version. These must be submitted directly from the dental hygiene educational institution you graduated from.
- Applicant Self-evaluation and Credentials Form.
- Applicant Continuing Competence Activities Report (since graduation).
- Applicant Current and Former Employers Report (since graduation).

Once you have been deemed eligible, you may apply to write the examination and pay the examination fees.

Note: The Eligibility Evaluation process can take eight (8) to ten (10) weeks from the time the NDHCB receives all the required documentation (no evaluation will start until all documentation has been received).

8. **Other Examinations**

You must successfully complete the **CRDHA Jurisprudence Examination**. This examination tests your knowledge of the principles of law and justice as they relate to the practice of dental hygiene in Alberta; to the obligations between dental hygienists and their clients; and to the relationship between dental hygienists and other health care professionals, and to society in general.

You will also be required to complete the **Alberta Clinical Examination**. You must successfully complete the NDHCB examination before attempting the clinical examination. The clinical examination is a two-day examination that will test your competency to deliver care to clients, such as the ability to use x-ray equipment and interpret dental x-rays; gather medical and dental history; assess clients; chart; develop a dental hygiene diagnosis and care plan; and provide clinical therapy.

Payment

The following fees must be submitted during the registration process. Fees are in Canadian dollars.

CRDHA Application Fee	\$400
CRDHA General Registration Fee	\$713
National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination Eligibility Application Fee	\$800
National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination Fee	\$665
Alberta Clinical Examination	\$2000
*Fees are subject to change. See CRDHA and NDHCB for most up-to-date fees.	

Note: You may take the National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination more than once. The initial fee is listed above. The fee to re-write the exam is \$565.

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for all Dental Hygienists, according to the Alberta 2013 Wage and Salary survey:

Average hours worked per week	28.3
Average wage per hour	\$50.27
Average salary per year	\$72,394.00

Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in a related occupation such as a Dental Assistant or Receptionist.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Dental Hygienist](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo). (for information on all occupations see www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta
 302, 8657-51 Avenue
 Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6A8
 Telephone: (780) 465-1756
 Toll-free telephone (within Alberta): 1-877-465-1756
 Fax: (780) 440-0544
 Email: info@crdha
 Website: www.crdha.ca

Resources

This information is an overview of the registration process. For the most current information on Dental Hygienist registration visit the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta website at www.crdha.ca.

For the most current information on the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board examination process visit www.ndhcb.ca

Registration Information

- [General Registration Information](#)
- [General Registration Requirements](#)

English Language

- [Test of English as a Foreign Language \(TOEFL iBT\)](#)
- [International English Language Testing System](#)

Examinations

- [NDHCB General Information](#)
- [NDHCB Examination Eligibility Information](#)
- [NDHCB Examination Application Information](#)
- [NDHCB Examination Educational Requirements](#)

International Credential Assessment Services Approved by the NDHCB

- [World Education Services](#)
- [International Credential Evaluation Service](#)
- [International Qualifications Assessment Service \(IQAS\)](#)

Accredited Programs

- [Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada \(CDAC\) Accredited Programs](#)