

FAQ's  
**Merit Dental Hygiene Admissions 2009**

**Q1. What is Merit Admissions?**

**A1.** Merit Admissions is a process by which students who have been accepted to the Pre-Dental Hygiene Program for Phase I of the Dental Hygiene program may apply for special consideration for priority admission with an earlier clinical (Phase II) start date. Points are awarded on pre-set, published criteria. Students are ranked based on their total number of points (with a minimum of 18). The top students by point total are then admitted based on the number of available slots. If a student earned a grade of D, F, or WF in any DAT or DHG course, he/she is not eligible for Merit Admissions.

**Q2. Is Merit Admissions replacing the regular Dental Hygiene admissions process?**

**A2.** No, in fact, in order to be eligible for Merit Admissions, the applicant must already be accepted through the regular admissions process to the Pre-Dental Hygiene Certificate Program and plan to complete that certificate program in time to submit the completed certificate transcript with their merit admissions application.

**Q3. Who can apply for Merit Admissions?**

**A3. Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be considered for Merit Dental Hygiene Admissions:**

- a. Regular admission criteria for the Dental Hygiene program; and
- b. Successful completion of the Dental Hygiene interview with acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program; and
- c. Successful completion of the Pre-Dental Hygiene program (Phase I) or equivalent coursework within the published Health Science guidelines.

**Q4. I already have a future start date. Am I automatically considered for Merit Admissions?**

**A4.** No. If you wish to be considered for Merit Admissions, you must submit a completed Merit Checklist to the Student Center (Airport Campus), Room 215, c/o Kim Lander or mail to Midlands Technical College, PO Box 2408, Columbia, SC 29202, and Attn: Admissions/Airport Campus. Completed Checklists must be received by March 3, 2009, no later than 4:30 pm. *Checklists postmarked on or before March 3, 2009, will not be accepted if they arrive after March 3, 2009 at 4:30 pm.* All required documentation must be submitted with the Merit Checklist. **Only complete Merit Checklists will be processed.**

**Q5. I have not yet applied to the Dental Hygiene Program. How do I apply for Merit Admissions?**

**A5.** You must first apply for admissions to Phase I of the Dental Hygiene program; i.e., the PreDental Hygiene Certificate Program, in the usual manner. (See Q2 and Q3 above.)

**Q6. I'm waiting for my start date and don't think I'll qualify for Merit Admissions. Does this mean I can lose my place or get bumped down the waiting list?**

**A6.** No.

**Q7. When/How will I know if I've been accepted?**

**A7.** Letters indicating whether acceptance for Merit Admissions have been met will be mailed by April 1, 2009.

**Q8. If I am accepted for Merit Admissions, when will I start the Clinical (Phase II) program?**

**A8.** You will start the clinical program in August 2009 for the fall semester.

**Q9. Once admitted for Merit Admissions, will students admitted under Merit Admissions be treated any differently than those admitted under the usual Dental Hygiene admissions process?**

**A9.** No. Once accepted, students accepted for Merit Admissions will be admitted to the class for which they apply. All Dental Hygiene students will be expected to uphold regular Allied Dental Education department standards.

**Q10. What if I still have questions?**

**A10. After reviewing all available information on Merit Dental Hygiene Admissions, you may contact the following people with additional questions:**

Catherine Milejczak (803) 822-3451 or [milejczak@midlandstech.edu](mailto:milejczak@midlandstech.edu)  
Allied Dental Education Program Director  
Midlands Technical College

or

Kim Lander (803) 822-3520 or [landerk@midlandstech.edu](mailto:landerk@midlandstech.edu)  
Merit Dental Hygiene Admissions Coordinator  
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