

## Dental Hygiene Frequently Asked Questions Updated: December 1, 2009

Many of you have been contacting us with similar questions regarding the selection procedures for the Dental Hygiene program. We thought we would provide you with some additional information to assist you with your applications to the program. Please carefully review the following frequently asked questions.

### 1. What are the admission requirements and selection criteria?

*Admission Requirements:*

*Grade 12 with a minimum overall average of 70% in:*

- *English Language Arts A30,*
- *English Language Arts B30,*
- *Biology 30, and*
- *one of Chemistry 30 or Physics 30*

**NOTE:** *Your admission average will be calculated by averaging the grades of the four courses listed above.*

*Selection Criteria:*

*Phase I - Average will be calculated on high school subjects required for admission (see Admission Requirements above).*

*Phase II - Additional selection criteria will be applied to those with the highest averages in Phase 1:*

- *Admission Average = 70%*
- *Candidate Portfolio = 20%*
- *Relevant Post-secondary Education = 10%*

### 2. What type of information should be included with my application when I submit it to SIAST?

- *In order to ensure that your application is complete, you will need to submit the SIAST application form and application fee between **October 1<sup>st</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>**. All required documents for Phase 1 of the selection process including the High-Demand Preliminary Statement of High School Standing form or official transcripts for post-secondary education and high school upgrading, and proof of Saskatchewan residency **must be received by February 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> to be considered.***

### 3. I am currently in Grade 12 and have submitted my application but I am not sure what my final Grade 12 average will be. What should I do?

*If final grade 12 marks are available, they should be reported on the High-Demand Preliminary Statement of High School Standing form. If a mid-term grade is available or if your counselor is willing to project a grade for courses started but not yet completed, they can report that grade on the form. If projected mid-term or final grade 12 marks are not provided, SIAST will use the final grade 11 mark for any specific course. The final*

grade 11 mark may also be submitted on the High-Demand Preliminary Statement of High School Standing form, or may be provided on a copy of the previous year's Ministry of Education transcript.

4. **I have completed my Grade 12 and already meet the admission requirements, but I am upgrading to increase my chances of admission into the program. Does my upgrading count towards my application score?**

*Yes. If you are still currently registered in the course(s), the High-Demand Preliminary Statement of High School Standing form must be submitted with a projected grade(s) by the deadline date of February 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> in order to be considered in the assessment of your application.*

5. **What if I do not have a second science? In the past, SIAST waived the requirement because I had a Dental Assisting certificate.**

*SIAST will continue to waive the second science requirement and will use your Dental Assisting GPA (average) as a mark in lieu of the second science (substituting for 'one of Chemistry 30 or Physics 30').*

6. **I have two sciences but my Dental Assisting GPA is a higher mark than my mark in Chemistry 30 and/or Physics 30. Which mark will SIAST use to calculate my overall average?**

*Should your Dental Assisting GPA be higher than your chemistry or physics mark, we will use that GPA in place of the science mark to calculate your overall average.*

7. **What do you consider approved equivalent university courses that can be used as alternatives to grade 12 courses?**

*The following chart outlines some examples of equivalent courses:*

<b>Grade 12 Courses Required for Admission</b>	<b>University of Regina Courses</b>	<b>University of Saskatchewan Courses</b>
<i>English Language Arts A30 and B30</i>	<i>English 100</i>	<i>English 110</i>
<i>Biology 30</i>	<i>Biology 140 or 150</i>	<i>Biology 110</i>
<i>Chemistry 30 or Physics 30</i>	<i>Chemistry 100</i>	<i>Chemistry 112</i>

8. **I applied to the Dental Hygiene program previously and have since taken several post-secondary courses. Will these count?**

*An official transcript should be forwarded to Registration Services directly from the issuing educational institution. Approved equivalent courses, having higher marks than required grade 12 courses, will be considered.*

9. **I have completed high school courses through Basic Education at SIAST. Will these count?**

*An official transcript must be sent **electronically** by the Ministry of Education in order for the courses to be considered in the assessment of the application.*

10. **The selection criteria indicate that relevant post-secondary education will make up 10% of my final score. What does the Dental Hygiene program consider to be “relevant post-secondary education”?**

*Examples of relevant post-secondary education would include courses, certificates, diplomas, or degrees in the health fields, biological/human sciences, sociology/psychology or communications.*

11. **What should be included in the candidate portfolio?**

*For specific information on the development of the candidate portfolio, please refer to the Portfolio Guide on the program’s website:*

*[http://www.siastr.sk.ca/programs\\_courses\\_descriptions/DHDIP.shtml](http://www.siastr.sk.ca/programs_courses_descriptions/DHDIP.shtml)*

12. **If I am not accepted into the Dental Hygiene program this year, do I have to reapply?**

**Yes.** *You will need to reapply to the Dental Hygiene program on an annual basis, during the application period, and meet all admission requirements and selection criteria for the year in which you are applying.*

If you require further information, please contact Counselling Services or Registration Services at 1-866-467-4278.