

# Georgia Dental Hygienists' Association

## Student Graduation Packet 2022-2023





Dear Graduate,

Congratulations on your achievement! We are excited to welcome you into the profession of dental hygiene and we believe that you will find your career in dental hygiene both exciting and rewarding.

As you begin your career you may find that you have various questions. We hope that this packet will help to answer some of those questions. If you do not find the answers you need here, the Georgia Dental Hygienists' Association (GDHA) and ADHA offer a vast network of resources for you use.

We hope you find this packet informative. Welcome to the profession of Dental Hygiene!

Sincerely,

*GDHA Leadership*

# *GDHA*

## *Grad Packet*

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# Professional Member Tangible Benefits

<https://www.adha.org/membership/membership-benefits-overview/>

## HEALTH:

- Disability and major medical [insurance](#)
- Professional liability and other [insurance](#)

## EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT:

- [Scholarships \(ADHA and IOH\)](#)
- [Research grant opportunities \(IOH\)](#)
- ADHA Employment Assistance program
- Discounts on online and lecture CE courses with [CE Smart & Save](#)
- Discounts to [Events](#)

## ACCESS:

- Access to Smart Savings Membership Mall
- ADHA's [Journal of Dental Hygiene \(JDH\)](#)
- Subscription to Access magazine

## ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS:

- Loupes and accessories (OraScopic)
- Dental instruments (Henry Schein)
- Scrubs (Tafford Uniforms)
- Auto insurance (Geico)
- Room rates at over 4,000 hotels across the U.S.
- Rental car services (Hertz)
- ADHA Platinum Plus MasterCard credit card/mileage program
- Discounts on wireless mobile services

# Professional Benefits Continued

Whether you're a student, teacher, well-established dental hygienist or just embarking on your career, a legislator or political advocate, the benefits of membership are numerous and varied. The key to getting the most value from your ADHA membership is to use it. Your membership enables ADHA to bring you the resources and shared knowledge to expand your professional potential and further your success.

## **Online Career Center**

Having access to the right tools and support can make all the difference. The ADHA Career Center provides connections to career opportunities across the country. Find sample resumes and contract templates in our Employment Reference Guide and post your resume online. Plus, find continuously updated information about state licensing authorities, accredited programs, and networking contacts to help you navigate everything from local regulation to advanced educational opportunities.

## **Professional and Personal Savings**

Thanks to our ADHA sponsors, members receive discounts on professional and personal services nationwide. The consolidated buying power of dental hygienists nationwide allows us to give you access to special programs that give you more for your money.

## [Clinical Practice Resources](#)

### [Standards for Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice](#)

Based on current and relevant scientific evidence, the Standards promote the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, practices, and behaviors that support and enhance oral health with the ultimate goal of improving overall health. All to help you address practice issues and ethics questions in your day-to-day work.

**Center for Lifelong Learning:**

Held in conjunction with the ADHA Annual Session, the Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL) offers a wide variety of hands-on, evidence-based continuing education programming. With three days of courses in more than ten tracks CLL offers support and inspiration to help you develop as an individual and a leader.

**Publications:**

Access magazine and The Journal of Dental Hygiene are produced by ADHA to help you stay on top of changes reshaping the field and support you in making evidence-based treatment decisions.

**HYPAC:**

Through financial contributions and grassroots involvement, you and your fellow ADHA members can support congressional candidates with the American Dental Hygienists' Association Political Action Committee (HYPAC). Get involved with the only federal political action committee that represents the interests of dental hygienists.

**ADHA Institute for Oral Health (IOH)**

Expand your leadership potential with a foundation created to provide educational scholarships, fellowships, research grants and community service grants to dental hygienists throughout the United States.

# Membership Benefits Intangible

**ADHA/GDHA membership offers many intangible benefits.** We are proud to represent you as **your** voice in issues that impact your profession, such as scope of practice, employment settings you work in, requirements for licensure and continuing education.

You will not find any other organization solely committed to representing the voice of dental hygienists and the dental hygiene the profession as your state and national associations.

**Leadership opportunities:** Component, State, and National levels

**ADHA Career Resource Center** (for job searches): <http://careers.adha.org>

**Support and Mentorship** from other hygienist members

**Networking opportunities:** state-wide and nation-wide

# 2022-2023 Leadership

**GDHA President**  
**Lamara Moore**  
[lmoore@gdha.org](mailto:lmoore@gdha.org)

**President-Elect**  
**Elaine Kennedy**

**Immediate Past-President**  
**Autumn Reid**

**Vice President**  
**Sheriese Ferguson**

**Secretary**  
**Lisa Melvin**

**Treasurer**  
**Anita LaTourette**

**Member Engagement Chair**  
**Wanda Hill**  
[whill@gdha.org](mailto:whill@gdha.org)

**Advocacy Committee Chair**  
**Pam Cushenan**  
[pcushenan@gdha.org](mailto:pcushenan@gdha.org)

**Questions: email GDHA Webmaster: [GDHAwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:GDHAwebmaster@gmail.com)**



# *GDHA Meetings*

There are several types of meetings that are held throughout the year. Those meetings include component meetings, committee meetings, board of trustee meetings, and annual session.

**Component Meetings** are the local meetings for GDHA. Each component determines how and when to hold these meetings. Some are tied with a continuing education opportunity, and some are not. Some components have chosen to combine meetings in order to offer members more at these meetings. All component members are welcome to attend.

**Committee Meetings** are held either at a pre-determined interval or as necessary depending on the committee. All committee members are usually expected to attend, and any other members are welcome.

**Board of Chairman Meetings** are held quarterly. These meetings include the board, component trustees, and committee chairpersons. These are the meetings where the business of GDHA is conducted. Component Trustees and Committee Chairs report their doings over the last quarter and issues are discussed.

**Annual Conference** is the big meeting each year, usually in July. At this meeting our House of Delegates is held, and bylaws and rules are changed as necessary. This is also the meeting where elections are held, and new board members are installed for the next year. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

# Licensure

## General Information about Licensure

A dental hygienist is a licensed healthcare professional. Licensure is designed to protect the public from unqualified individuals and unsafe practice. Licensure is the strongest form of regulation used today. In accordance with state law, licensed individuals are the only persons meeting the minimum qualifications necessary to practice their profession.

***The Georgia Board of Dentistry has been moved to the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), effective July 1, 2013.***

Dentists and dental hygienists seeking to renew their professional licenses will be required to submit proof of citizenship or legal residency.

Current Information about Dental Hygienist Licensure may be obtained from the Georgia Board of Dentistry Web Site: [qbd.georgia.gov](http://qbd.georgia.gov)

[Georgia Board of Dentistry Qualifications for Dental Hygienists](#)

[Georgia Board of Dentistry Continuing Education Requirements](#)

## CRDTS

The Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. (CRDTS for short) is a testing service made up of seventeen State Boards of Dentistry who have joined forces to develop and administer fair, valid and reliable examinations of competency to practice dentistry and dental hygiene.

### To contact CRDTS:

Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc.

1725 SW Gage Blvd.

Topeka, KS 66604-3333

Ph: (785) 273-0380

Web Site: [www.crdts.org](http://www.crdts.org)

# *Do's and Don'ts of Job Interviews*

## **DO:**

- Practice with mock interview
- Arrive early.
- Wear professional clothing.
- Wear comfortable clothing.
- Bring copy of resume
- Make eye contact with interviewer.
- Turn cell phone off.
- Take a moment before answering questions if needed.
- Shake their hand.
- Be yourself!
- Follow up with office after

## **DON'T:**

- Arrive unprepared.
- Show up late.
- Wear jeans or revealing clothing.
- Wear excessive jewelry or obnoxious patterns.
- Chew gum or suck on mints
- Talk on cell phone or text at any time while in the office.
- Come unprepared.
- Discuss money unless appropriate.

# *Job Searching Tips*

*Remember, you will want to like the office as much as you want the office to like you!*

*If it doesn't seem like a place you'd want to work, don't work there.*

- ✓ Look at the office website. Does it seem like a place you'd want to be a patient? To work?
- ✓ Search everywhere. Newspaper, online job sites, online newspapers, friends, family, past classmates, and teachers, etc.
- ✓ Use a variety of keywords in online searching. RDH, hygiene, hygienist, dental hygienist, dental, etc.
- ✓ Take resumes to offices near your home. Just because they're not advertising, doesn't mean they won't need someone soon.

# *Interview Questions for a Dental Hygiene Position*

A dentist or interviewer could ask you any type of question. Following are commonly asked questions for a dental hygiene position.

## **Openers:**

- What do you know about our office/organization?
- Why are you interested in this position?
- What qualifies you for this position?
- Tell me about yourself.

## **Interests/Hobbies Experience:**

- What were your strengths/weaknesses at your last job?
- Name 2 or 3 things that you wished you would have done better at your last job?
- What qualifications do you have that will help you be successful in this position?
- In what kind of work environment are you most comfortable?
- How do you know when you are doing a good job?
- What outside activities are you involved in?
- To which professional associations do you belong?

## **Motivators:**

- What are your short/long term goals?
- How does this position fit into these goals?
- What are the rewards you expect from this position?
- What do you consider a reward?
- How do you value what you do?
- How should others value what you do?

## **Behavioral:**

- How do you work under pressure?
- Tell me about a situation when you were under pressure. How did you react?
- Would you do anything differently?
- What have you learned from your mistakes?
- How would you deal with administration decisions/ philosophies with which you do not agree?
- What motivates you to put forth your greatest effort?
- What 2 or 3 accomplishments are most proud of in your life so far?
- Why?

# *Interview Questions for a Dental Hygiene Position (continued)*

## **Others:**

- Describe your best friend.
- What qualities about yourself do you think makes you a good friend?
- How important is it to get along well with your colleagues?
- What type of personality do you think works best in a dental office?
- What part of a dental hygiene appointment do you enjoy best?
- If you were not a dental hygienist, what would you be? Why?

## **Questions to Ask an Interviewer:**

- What are the expectations of this position?
- Tell me about the equipment and working environment in this office.
- What is the overall office philosophy for dental treatment? preventive/periodontal protocols?
- What hours are for this position?
- How is the length of appointment determined?
- What qualities are you looking for in an employee?
- How are instruments, products, and uniforms selected?
- What instruments and techniques are already used in the practice?
- How is after hours care handled?
- How long do you (dentist) plan to practice?
- What are the future goals of the practice?
- What is the next step after this interview?
- May I have your business card?

## **TIPS:**

- ✓ Read each question and think about how you would answer.
- ✓ It may help to write down your answers to help prepare.
- ✓ When the interview occurs, you'll be ready to answer and be confident with what you would say.

# *Top Networking Opportunities*

## ***How to Get Started:***

Express interest

Ask around.

Come to events

Bring a friend.

Stay informed with GDHA meetings, Newsletters,  
Facebook:

✓ <https://www.facebook.com/TheGDHA>

## ***Websites, Resources and Volunteer Opportunities To help you get Connected:***

- 1. Find your GDHA [Component](#):**
- 2. Participate on a GDHA Committee:** Contact GDHA Webmaster at [gdhwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:gdhwebmaster@gmail.com) to express an interest on which committee you would like to serve.
- 3. Volunteer!** Opportunities in Georgia:
  - ✓ <https://www.gdha.org/volunteer>
  - ✓ <http://www.gadental.org/special-olympics.html>
  - ✓ <http://www.gaohcoalition.org/>
  - ✓ <https://www.benmasselldentalclinic.org>

## **Websites, Resources and Volunteer Opportunities (cont.)**

- ✓ **Other clinics that may accept volunteers:**  
[http://med.emory.edu/CDE/services/free\\_reduced\\_cost\\_dental\\_services.html](http://med.emory.edu/CDE/services/free_reduced_cost_dental_services.html)

**4. Attend GDHA Annual Session**

- 5. Attend Lobby Day at the Capital:** Contact GDHA Webmaster at [GDHAwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:GDHAwebmaster@gmail.com) for more information

**6. Resources for employment**

- \*\* <http://www.allhealthjobs.com/>
- \*\* <http://www.dentalpost.net/>
- \*\* <http://www.udent.com/>
- \*\* <http://www.dentalwordofmouth.com/>
- \*\* <http://www.jobs.net/>

**8. Take Advantage of GDHA CE Opportunities:**

**9. Other helpful GDHA Resources**





Georgia

Dental Hygienists' Association

***For a limited time only***  
GDHA will be giving away a new PDT hand instrument to all new graduates who join their professional association!

**Sign up today...**

Contact [GDHA Member Engagement](#) for details

***We urge you to join your profession and make a difference!***



Georgia  
Dental Hygienists' Association

***EMPOWERING, SUPPORTING,  
DEVELOPING YOU!***

***Notes:***