

ODHA STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROFILE – Rishuv Maini

SCHOOL: George Brown College



What made you want to become a dental hygienist?

My journey toward becoming a dental hygienist is rooted in personal experiences that have deeply shaped my understanding of compassion and oral health. As a child, I overcame a life-threatening battle with acute lymphocytic leukemia, which taught me the importance of trust and care in healthcare settings. Later in life, I faced challenges with my oral health, including a severe overbite, crowded teeth, and lockjaw. These conditions not only created functional difficulties, such as trouble chewing, but also made me self-conscious about my smile, affecting my self-esteem during critical moments of my adolescence.

Receiving orthodontic treatment was life-changing for me. The transformation of my teeth and the newfound confidence I gained was remarkable. This experience taught me the profound impact oral health can have on someone's quality of life, both physically and emotionally. I became fascinated by how dentistry addresses these challenges, and witnessing the work of dental hygienists sparked my desire to enter this profession. Their ability to build trusting, empathetic relationships with clients while playing a key role in preventive care inspired me to pursue a career where I could help others achieve the same confidence and oral health I had regained.

What type of practice setting do you hope to work in?

After graduation, I envision myself working in a community-based dental practice that places a strong emphasis on preventive care and client education. I aspire to serve diverse populations, especially individuals from underserved communities, to provide them with the tools and care needed for a lifetime of good oral health. Ideally, I would also like to work in a practice that provides collaborative care, where I can learn from other dental professionals and strive toward holistic client care.

How will you celebrate your graduation?

Graduating from the dental hygiene program is a milestone I would celebrate with my family, who have supported me through every challenge and achievement. I would take the time to reflect on the journey that brought me here, from my health challenges in childhood to my academic achievements. A small family gathering or dinner with close friends who shared this journey with me would be my ideal way of celebrating this momentous occasion.

What do you think dental hygiene students should know about their free student membership?

Dental hygiene students should know that their membership in the Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA) is an invaluable resource for professional growth and support. The ODHA provides access to continuing education opportunities, industry insights, and tools to help expand clinical knowledge and skills.

Additionally, the ODHA advocates for dental hygienists within the healthcare system, ensuring that their voices are heard and their roles are recognized. This advocacy is crucial for advancing the profession and

broadening the scope of care dental hygienists can provide. Being an ODHA member is not just about professional development—it's about being part of a movement toward better oral health for all.

For more information on the ODHA student ambassador program, visit
<https://odha.on.ca/students/student-ambassador-program/>
