



What is the Dental Hygiene Program?

The Dental Hygiene Program is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and clinical experience to function effectively in all areas as a professional dental hygienist. Graduates of the Dental Hygiene Program are eligible to sit for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) and the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA). Students must have a social security or tax ID number to sit for these exams.

What does a dental hygienist do?

Dental hygienists are licensed preventive oral health care professionals. They provide educational, clinical, and therapeutic services to patients in dental offices, schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other public health programs. Clinical skills include performing patient assessments; taking health histories; examining head, neck, and oral tissues for disease; checking blood pressures; exposing and processing dental x-ray images; applying decay-preventing agents to the teeth; periodontal debridement; and polishing teeth.

Where do dental hygienists work?

Dental hygienists typically work in dental offices, working closely with dentists and dental assistants. In addition to clinical practice in private dental offices and clinics, dental hygienists have careers in the fields of education, research, administration, public health, and advanced practice.

What type of students excel in this program?

Effective dental hygienists are attentive, compassionate, cooperative, reliable, and self-disciplined. They tend to have excellent critical thinking and interpersonal skills, and are extremely detail-oriented.

What is the employment outlook?

Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow by 20 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Ongoing research linking oral health and general health will continue to spur the demand for preventative dental services, which dental hygienists often provide. New and increasingly accurate technologies to help diagnose oral health problems are also expected to increase the demand. (source: www.bls.gov/ooh)

What do dental hygienists earn?

The median annual wage of dental hygienists was \$74,070 per year in May 2018. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$51,180, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$101,330. About half of dental hygienists work part-time. (source: www.bls.gov/ooh)

Why should I choose HCC's Dental Hygiene Program?

- The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of "approval without reporting requirements." The commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. For more information, contact The Commission on Dental Accreditation at 312-440-4653 or visit www.ada.org/en/coda.
- Students get hands-on experience in HCC's Dental Education Clinic, which is well equipped for pre-clinical and clinical education.
- HCC prepares dental hygienists to meet the challenges of today's health care industry and lay the foundation to rise to future challenges as new knowledge and technologies occur. Successful completion of the HCC Dental Hygiene Program enables the graduate to apply for National and Regional Examinations for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist.

What are the admission requirements?

Admission to HCC does not guarantee admission to the dental hygiene program. The requirements below must be completed and submitted to the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management by the application deadline (April 1):

- Submit a completed program application known as the Supplemental Application for Selective Admissions Programs form. This form

can be found at www.hagerstowncc.edu/admissions/forms-documents.

- Official transcripts from all colleges attended. Current HCC students do not need to submit an official transcript from HCC.
- Submit official scores for the ACT® WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Assessments. The assessments measure foundational skills required for entry in the dental hygiene program. For information on this test, visit <http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/docs/health-sciences-division/act-workkeys-ncr-testing-dental-hygiene>
- Completed HCC Dental Hygiene Observation Form (8 hours of observations). Observation forms older than three years will not be accepted.
- The following credits need to be completed or in progress by April 1st. The courses include ENG 101, BIO 116 (or BIO 203 completed and BIO 204 must be in progress), CHM 101, MAT 109 or an approved general education math course, and BIO 205. Recommended courses completed prior to application are SPD 103 or SPD 108, a three-credit arts and humanities course from approved General Education course list, and PSY 101.
- Completion of any previously earned, required program science credits within five years prior to program admission with a grade of "C" or higher.
- A minimum cumulative grade point average for all college coursework of a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. In addition, a minimum grade point average of 2.5 for all program courses is required.
- Foreign educated students' transcripts evaluated by WES (World Education Services).

What are the program requirements?

Students learn and practice dental hygiene skills on each other and provide preventive dental hygiene services to community members and patients in the HCC Dental Education Clinic. It is the student's responsibility to find their own patients to meet the clinical requirements necessary for program completion. All dental hygiene students must receive:

1. A minimum overall grade of 75 percent in each dental hygiene didactic course.
2. A minimum exam grade average of 75 percent in each dental hygiene didactic course.

- A final course grade as follows for clinical courses: 75% for DHY 102; 80% for DHY 111 and DHY 202; and 85% for DHY 221. Students who do not receive the minimal final grade for these clinical courses will receive a final grade of "F" for the course.
- Adherence to all program and college Codes of Student Conduct and dental hygiene professional standards of practice.

Students who do not receive the minimum passing grade for any dental hygiene courses will not be permitted to progress in the dental hygiene program. Students may be eligible for readmission according to the guidelines outlined in the HCC College Catalog.

Students who violate the college's Honor Code and Standards of Conduct, the dental hygiene program's Standard of Conduct, the American Dental Hygiene Association Code of Ethics for Dental Hygienists, and the American Dental Association Standard of Care resulting in termination from the dental hygiene program are not eligible for readmission.

Can I transfer to a four-year school after completing my associate degree?

Prerequisite courses to enter the dental hygiene program that transfer to four-year colleges and universities are ENG 101, BIO 116 (which may not transfer as science course but may transfer as an elective), BIO 203 (must be completed), BIO 204 (must be in progress), BIO 205, CHM 101, MAT 109, PSY 101, and SPD 103 or SPD 108.

A.A.S. Degree Dental Hygiene

General Education Requirements 27-32 credits

Arts/Humanities

Select from the approved General Education course list3

Behavioral/Social Sciences

PSY 101 General Psychology3

Biological/Physical Science

BIO 116 Human Anatomy and Physiology for Allied Health.....4

OR

BIO 203 & BIO 204 Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II... (8)

AND

BIO 205 Microbiology4

CHM 101 Introductory College Chemistry4

English

ENG 101 English Composition3

(ELL 101 - English Composition for English Language Learners is an approved substitution for ENG 101)

*minimum grade of "C" or better is required for ENG 101 & ELL 101

SPD 103 Public Speaking3

OR

SPD 108 Introduction to Human Communication3

Mathematics

MAT 109 Introduction to Statistics3

OR

Select from the approved General Education course list(3-4)

Program Requirements 43 credits

DHY 101 Dental Hygiene Theory I.....2

DHY 102 Dental Hygiene Clinical I.....2

DHY 104 Dental Radiology3

DHY 108 Head, Neck and Oral Anatomy4

DHY 110 Dental Hygiene Theory II.....2

DHY 111 Dental Hygiene Clinical II.....2

DHY 112 Dental Materials and Procedures.....2

DHY 113	General and Oral Pathology.....	2
DHY 116	Dental Pharmacology.....	2
DHY 201	Dental Hygiene Theory III.....	2
DHY 202	Dental Hygiene Clinical III.....	3
DHY 203	Periodontics and Advanced Procedures.....	4
DHY 204	Pain Management in Dental Hygiene.....	2
DHY 205	Nutrition and Biochemistry in Dentistry.....	2
DHY 210	Community Dental Health.....	2
DHY 211	Dental Hygiene Ethics and Jurisprudence.....	1
DHY 220	Dental Hygiene Theory IV.....	2
DHY 221	Dental Hygiene Clinical IV.....	4
Degree Requirement.....		70

Final Acceptance

Final acceptance into the program is contingent upon the criteria below. Students unable to meet these criteria will be withdrawn from the program and the seat filled by a student from the standby list. Those students accepted into the program must submit a \$50 enrollment deposit when accepting their spot in the program. This deposit will be applied to tuition for the semester and is not refundable.

- Successful completion of program requirements at the time of application
- Students attend the mandatory orientation session
- Students must successfully pass a drug screen and criminal background check
- Students must be able to meet Dental Hygiene Technical Standards
- Satisfactory completion of a health examination record and all required tests and immunizations, including a yearly TB test and Hepatitis series
- Current American Heart Association BLS Health Care Provider certification or American Red Cross BLS for Healthcare Providers

Transfer from Other Dental Hygiene Programs/Advanced Placement Requirements

Students transferring to HCC who have been enrolled in another dental hygiene program must be enrolled as an HCC student, complete the Supplemental Application for Selective Admissions Program form, and submit transcripts from other colleges attended. Students may be considered for advanced placement in the dental hygiene program if the previous dental hygiene coursework has been completed within the last year. Students transferring from another CODA-approved accredited dental hygiene program to HCC must meet the following criteria for advanced placement:

- Fulfill all academic criteria for admission to the dental hygiene program, including submission of official transcript(s) from the former institution.
- A transfer evaluation will be completed on all transcripts by the Registrar to determine which courses a student may transfer to HCC for credit. Science courses that are older than five years must be repeated. Online science labs are not accepted in transfer.

- Attended a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- Achieved satisfactory grades ("C" or higher) in non-science academic courses with a 2.0 G.P.A. A 2.5 G.P.A. in all science and previous dental hygiene courses is required.
- Achieved a score of 75% or greater on written and oral comprehensive examinations and 85% or greater in performance competency tests in the clinical area. For courses that include a lab, a practical exam is required. The student has to demonstrate clinical competence in all aspects evaluated in the course and pass a written exam.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from the director of the former program. In addition, the HCC Program Coordinator will conduct an interview with the dental hygiene program director of the student's previous institution.
- Admission of applicants for advanced placement in the dental hygiene program are considered on an individual basis and restricted by the student capacity of the program. Students should contact the dental hygiene program coordinator for information.

Technical Standards

There are technical standards and skill requirements which students are expected to possess and demonstrate in order to be successful in this program. More information on these standards is available online at www.hagerstowncc.edu/dental.

Additional Information

The dental hygiene program academic daily schedule varies each semester; however, courses, clinicals and labs typically occur between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The dental hygiene program requires a significant commitment in time with classes and studying; therefore, it is recommended that students limit their hours in employment obligations.

Additional information on program requirements including criminal background checks, drug screening, readmission to the Dental Hygiene Program, and standards of conduct can be found online at www.hagerstowncc.edu/dental.

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