

# Dental Hygiene



## 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 licensed 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.

## Why should I choose HCC's Dental Hygiene Program?

- The HCC Dental Hygiene Program 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](http://www.ada.org/en/coda).
- The dental hygiene faculty are knowledgeable and well-versed in the subject matter.
- Students get hands-on experience in HCC's Dental Education Clinic, which is well equipped for pre-clinical and clinical education.



- HCC's Dental Hygiene Program supports student success by offering guidance specific to each individual's needs.

## 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](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/admissions/forms-documents).
- Official transcripts from all schools attended. Current HCC students do not need to submit an official transcript from HCC.
- Completed HCC Dental Hygiene Observation Form (8 hours of observations). Observation forms older than three years will not be accepted.
- A minimum of 17 credits completed or in progress at the time of application to the program. The courses include ENG 101, BIO 116 (or BIO 203 completed, BIO 204 in progress, BIO 205 completed or in progress), CHM 101, MAT 109 or an approved general education math course, and PSY 101. 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.
- General Education science courses completed within five years 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.
- Attain predetermined levels of knowledge on the ACT WorkKeys® Standardized exam.

## PROGRAM OPTIONS

- A.A.S. Degree, Dental Hygiene

## CAREER OUTLOOK

### MEDIAN SALARY

**\$78K**

for Dental Hygienists

### EMPLOYMENT



214,000 jobs in U.S.  
9% growth in next  
10 years

(source: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh))

- 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 final course grade of 75% or higher in all dental hygiene courses, with the exception of clinical courses (DHY 111, DHY 202, and DHY 221).
2. A final clinical skills component grade of 75% for DHY 102; 80% for DHY 111 and DHY 202 and 85% for DHY 221.
3. Adherence to all program and college Codes of Student Conduct and dental hygiene professional standards of practice.

Students who receive a grade of unsatisfactory on the clinical laboratory or clinical skills competency evaluations will be referred for remediation. Students who receive a final total clinical course grade below the required passing grades outlined above, despite a passing theory grade, will not be permitted to progress in the dental hygiene program.

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 results 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 (can 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 24-29 credits

#### Arts/Humanities

Select from the approved General Education course list ..... 3

#### Behavioral/Social Sciences

PSY 101 General Psychology.....3

#### 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 Microbiology .....4

CHM 101 Introductory College Chemistry.....4

#### English

ENG 101 English Composition .....3

\*minimum grade of "C" or better is required

#### Mathematics

MAT 109 Introduction to Statistics .....3

OR

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

### Program Requirements.....46 credits

COM 103 Public Speaking.....3

OR

COM 108 Introduction to Human Communication..... (3)

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

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

DHY 104 Dental Radiology .....3

DHY 108 Head, Neck and Oral Anatomy .....4

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

DHY 111C 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 117 Introduction to Periodontics.....2

DHY 201 Dental Hygiene Theory III.....2

DHY 202C 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 221C Dental Hygiene Clinical IV .....4

DHY 222C Dental Hygiene Clinical V .....4

### Degree Requirement.....70

#### Selection Criteria

Students will be admitted to the Dental Hygiene Program each August. Students are selected for admission based on a point system. Points are earned by the number of courses complete, cumulative grade point average for all required program courses, residency, and credentialing of a dental assisting certificate or equivalent. Those with the greatest number of points are admitted to the program.

Those students not admitted to the August class will be placed on a standby list until August 1. The standby list is dissolved after August 1, and students who desire admission to the Dental Hygiene Program in the subsequent year must fill out another Supplemental Application for Selective Admissions Programs form.

#### 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.

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

#### Transfer from Other Dental Hygiene Programs/Advance 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:

1. Fulfill all academic criteria for admission to the dental hygiene program, including submission of official transcript(s) from the former institution.
2. A transfer evaluation will be completed on all transcripts by the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management 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.
3. Attended a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

7. 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 assistance.

#### 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](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/dental).

#### Vaccine Requirements

Several immunizations are required as part of your health documentation, including: HEP B 3 vaccine series AND Positive immunity titer, Tetanus (Tdap) within last 10 years, Varicella 2 vaccine series AND positive immunity titer, MMR 2 vaccine series AND positive immunity titer, and the Flu vaccine (fall and spring) At this time, the COVID-19 vaccination series is not required, but highly recommended.

Since many individuals fail to maintain immunity over time, you may be required to repeat vaccination series/ receive a booster in order to demonstrate positive immunity. Positive immunity titers are required to proceed with Clinical or Externship rotations in all Health Sciences Programs. It is the student's responsibility to verify immunity prior to the start of the program and take the necessary steps to ensure positive immunity by the health documentation deadline provided to each cohort.

#### Additional Information

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](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/dental).

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