

Associate in Applied Science Degree

DENTAL HYGIENE

The Associate in Applied Science in Dental Hygiene degree prepares students to provide direct patient care in the detection and prevention of oral diseases under the supervision of a dentist, as required by law. The dental hygienist's major role is as an educator and includes designing dental hygiene treatment and education for patients on an individual basis. Graduates of this program will be qualified to evaluate patient medical histories, take and record blood pressure, chart conditions of periodontal disease and decay for diagnosis by the dentist, conduct oral-cancer screening examinations, educate the patient on the latest techniques of oral home care, and perform a thorough cleaning of the patients' teeth. A dental hygienist is also qualified to apply sealants and fluoride for the prevention of decay, to expose and develop radiographs, and to provide nutritional counseling for dental patients.

Students in the Dental Hygiene program receive their education in a state-of-the-art Dental Clinic on the Grand Strand campus, under the direct supervision of licensed dentists and hygienists. Graduates are eligible to take national and state board examinations. After successful completion of these examinations, graduates will be licensed and recognized as a Registered Dental Hygienist.

Program Information

Admission Requirements for Program

Students have options for admission into the Associate in Applied Science in Dental Hygiene Program. With the assistance of an HGTC health science advisor, you can determine the best option for you based upon your academic credentials.

Student requirements AFTER being accepted into Limited Admission Dental Hygiene

After applying and being accepted to the Limited Admission phase of the Dental Hygiene program, students will receive a Dental Hygiene program acceptance letter from the HGTC admission office which provides instructions and due dates for the following requirements.

1. Criminal Background Check (repeated annually). *
2. Urine Drug Screening (repeated annually).*
3. Submit a Health Sciences Division Student Health Record Form indicating the candidate has the ability to perform the physical tasks required in the program prior to second semester.*
4. Proof of CPR certification for Health Care Providers prior to and throughout curriculum
5. Review and acknowledge the Technical Standards of the Dental Sciences Department
6. Payment of a non-refundable tuition deposit.

*Students should NOT complete these items until receiving official Dental Hygiene program acceptance email/letter from HGTC's admission office with due dates.

Course Sequence and Progression Requirements

Once enrolled in the Limited Access Dental Hygiene program, to progress students must receive a minimum grade of "C" or better on all Dental Hygiene General Education courses** **AND** all DHG-prefixed courses. Grades below "C" are considered course failures. Failure of **one** Dental Hygiene (DHG) course will result in the student being dropped from the curriculum with eligibility for readmission the next time the course is offered. Readmission will be on a space available basis and the student will also be required to meet all admission requirements for readmission.

The Dental Hygiene Program does not currently accept advanced placement students.

**Dental Hygiene General Education Courses includes BIO 210, BIO 211, BIO 225, SPC 205, PSY 201, SOC 101, CHM 105, MAT 101, ENG 101 and Humanities.

Option A - Curriculum Sequence

Below are the Dental Hygiene General Education courses students must complete prior to applying for Phase II – Dental Hygiene when choosing OPTION A pathway.

Course	Course Title	Semester Credit Hours
BIO 210	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 211	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
ENG 101	English Composition I	3

(Continued)

CHM 105	Gen Organic and Biochemistry	4
MAT 101	Beginning Algebra	3
Total Hours		18

Below is the course sequence for students after being accepted into Phase II – Dental Hygiene Program through OPTION A pathway.

First Semester - Fall	Course Title	Semester Credit Hours
AHS 113	Head and Neck Anatomy	1
BIO 225	Microbiology	4
DHG 125	Tooth Morphology and Histology	2
DHG 151	Dental Hygiene Principles	5
TOTAL		12
Second Semester - Spring		
DHG 121	Dental Radiography	3
DHG 141	Periodontology	2
DHG 165	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	5
DHG 243	Nutrition and Dental Health	2
SPC 205	Public Speaking	3
TOTAL		15
Third Semester - Summer		
DHG 175	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	5
DHG 239	Dental Assisting for Dental Hygienists	2
PSY 201	General Psychology	3
TOTAL		10
Fourth Semester - Fall		
DHG 140	General and Oral Pathology	2
DHG 143	Dental Pharmacology	2
DHG 230	Public Health Dentistry	3
DHG 241	Integrated Dental Hygiene I	1
DHG 255	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	5
TOTAL		13
Fifth Semester - Spring		
DHG 242	Integrated Dental Hygiene II	1
DHG 265	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	5
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology	3
Humanities**	3	
TOTAL		12
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS		80

*Students interested in transferring to a senior institution to complete a bachelor's degree may elect to take the following courses: MAT 110 in lieu of MAT 101 and CHM 110 in lieu of CHM 105. It is the responsibility of students who plan to transfer to verify the transferability of credits and other transfer issues with the receiving institution prior to enrolling in classes at HGTC.

**Humanities: ART 101, HIS 101, HIS 102, HIS 201, HIS 202, PHI 101, PHI 110, MUS 105. HIS 201 recommended for transfer students to satisfy Reach Act requirements. The Reach Act was passed in 2021 by the General Assembly.

Option B - Curriculum Sequence

Below are the Dental Hygiene General Education courses students must complete prior to applying for Phase II – Dental Hygiene when choosing OPTION B pathway.

Course	Course Title	Semester Credit Hours
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(Continued)

BIO 210	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 211	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
CHM 105	Gen Organic and Biochemistry	4
MAT 101	Beginning Algebra	3
BIO 225	Microbiology	4
SPC 205	Public Speaking	3
PSY 201	General Psychology	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology	3
Humanities**	3	
Total Hours		34

Below is the course sequence for students after being accepted into Phase II – Dental Hygiene Program through OPTION B pathway.

First Semester - Fall	Course Title	Semester Credit Hours
AHS 113	Head and Neck Anatomy	1
DHG 125	Tooth Morphology and Histology	2
DHG 151	Dental Hygiene Principles	5
	TOTAL	8
Second Semester - Spring		
DHG 121	Dental Radiography	3
DHG 141	Periodontology	2
DHG 165	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	5
DHG 243	Nutrition and Dental Health	2
	TOTAL	12
Third Semester - Summer		
DHG 175	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	5
DHG 239	Dental Assisting for Dental Hygienists	2
	TOTAL	7
Fourth Semester - Fall		
DHG 140	General and Oral Pathology	2
DHG 143	Dental Pharmacology	2
DHG 230	Public Health Dentistry	3
DHG 241	Integrated Dental Hygiene I	1
DHG 255	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	5
	TOTAL	13
Fifth Semester - Spring		
DHG 242	Integrated Dental Hygiene II	1
DHG 265	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	5
	TOTAL	6
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS		80

*Students interested in transferring to a senior institution to complete a bachelor's degree may elect to take the following courses: MAT 110 in lieu of MAT 101 and CHM 110 in lieu of CHM 105. It is the responsibility of students who plan to transfer to verify the transferability of credits and other transfer issues with the receiving institution prior to enrolling in classes at HGTC.

**Humanities: ART 101, HIS 101, HIS 102, HIS 201, HIS 202, PHI 101, PHI 110, MUS 105. HIS 201 recommended for transfer students to satisfy Reach Act requirements. The Reach Act was passed in 2021 by the General Assembly.