

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.

Admissions Information

Specific 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.

OPTION A -

Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible for Phase II Option A:

- Completion of five (5) prerequisite courses BIO 210, BIO 211, CHM 105, ENG 101, and MAT 101 with a minimum cumulative GPA 2.75 and a minimum grade of "C."

AND

- Teas score of **62** or above – valid for 2 years from date of testing.

AND

- Participated and logged 15 hours of clinical observation.

OPTION B -

Student must meet the following criteria to be eligible for Phase II Option B:

- Completion of BIO 210, BIO 211, BIO 225, CHM 105, ENG 101, and MAT 101, and core courses PSY 201, SOC 101, SPC 205, and a Humanities with a minimum grade of "C" (BIO time limits apply) with a GPA of at least 2.75

AND

- TEAS score of **58.7 or above**- valid for 2 years from date of testing, students may retest every 30 days.

AND

- Participated and logged 15 hours of clinical observation.

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.

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

Program Information

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.

Required Courses

Dental Hygiene Requirements

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: DENTAL HYGIENE

Component	Course Title	Semester Credit Hours
GENERAL EDUCATION		
CHM 105	General Organic and Biochemistry*	4
SPC 205	Public Speaking	3
PSY 201	General Psychology	3
SOC 101	Sociology	3
and		
Select one Humanities/Fine Arts class listed below:		
ART 101	Art History and Appreciation	3
ART 105	Film as Art	3
ENG 201	American Literature I	3
ENG 202	American Literature II	3
ENG 205	English Literature I	3
ENG 206	English Literature II	3
ENG 208	World Literature I	3
ENG 209	World Literature II	3
ENG 230	Women in Literature	3
ENG 236	African American Literature	3
HIS 101	Western Civilization to 1689	3
HIS 102	Western Civilization Post 1689	3
HIS 201	American History: Disc to 1877**	3
HIS 202	American History: 1877 to Present	3
MUS 105	Music Appreciation	3
PHI 101	Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHI 110	Ethics	3
PHI 201	History of Philosophy	3
PHI 211	Moral Philosophy	3
REL 103	Comparative Religion	3

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SPA 201	Intermediate Spanish I	3
SPA 202	Intermediate Spanish II	3
THE 101	Introduction to Theatre	3
CREDITS		16
REQUIRED CORE SUBJECT AREAS		
DHG 125	Tooth Morphology and Histology	2
BIO 225	Microbiology	4
DHG 141	Periodontology	2
DHG 140	General and Oral Pathology	2
DHG 143	Dental Pharmacology	2
DHG 151	Dental Hygiene Principals	5
DHG 121	Dental Radiography	3
DHG 230	Public Health Dentistry	3
DHG 243	Nutrition and Dental Health	2
DHG 242	Integrated Dental Hygiene II	1
DHG 165	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	5
DHG 175	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	5
DHG 255	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	5
CREDITS		41
OTHER HOUR REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION		
AHS 113	Head and Neck Anatomy	1
BIO 210	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 211	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
DHG 239	Dental Assisting for Dental Hygienists	2
DHG 241	Integrated Dental Hygiene I	1
DHG 265	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	5
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
MAT 101	Beginning Algebra*	3
CREDITS		23
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 for MAT 101, and CHM 110 for 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.

**The Reach Act was passed in 2021 by the General Assembly. To satisfy the Reach Act, those students intending to transfer are recommended to take HIS 201 as their Humanities/Social Science course selection.