Dental Hygiene
Program Information Session
Speir Dental Sciences Complex  Grand Strand Campus
General Information

• Reviewing this information session is REQUIRED for admission to the Dental Hygiene Program.
• Please have available a printed copy of the Information Packet (also found on the Program web site) as references will be made to this packet throughout the session.
• Should you have questions following completion of the session, please do not hesitate to call me at 843-839-1060 or contact me by e-mail at the address below: alice.derouen@hgtc.edu
About the Dental Hygiene Program

Thank you for your interest in our program.

This program began in January 1998 on the Conway campus of Horry Georgetown Technical College. In 2012, the program moved to the new state-of-the-art building located on the Grand Strand campus. Since its inception, the program has maintained “Full Accreditation” status from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. The primary goal of this agency is to maintain and improve the quality of dental hygiene education.
The Career of Dental Hygiene

A dental hygienist is the only other licensed professional in the dental office besides the dentist. Dental hygienists are finding many new career pathways to explore - never before has there been more opportunity for professional growth!

The vast majority of dental hygienists work as clinicians. As a clinician, the dental hygienist’s major role is to assess, diagnose, plan, implement, evaluate and document treatment for the prevention and control of oral diseases in collaboration with other healthcare professionals. These services are usually performed in private dental offices, community dental clinics, hospitals, nursing homes and prison facilities.
The Career of Dental Hygiene

In the corporate world, dental hygienists can work as sales representatives, product researchers, and corporate educators.

In the public health domain, dental hygienists provide care to those who otherwise would not have access to dental care; such as Head Start programs, local health departments, school sealant programs, or rural or inner city community clinics.

As a researcher, a dental hygienist can work with colleges and universities and dental companies conducting surveys and analyzing results, as well as testing new products and procedures.
The Career of Dental Hygiene

As an educator, dental hygienists can work as clinical/classroom instructors, program directors or corporate educators presenting programs on dental products.

Many dental hygienists have become successful business owners in product development and sales, consulting, employment placement services, and professional speakers/writers.
The Career of Dental Hygiene

Additional education, such as a bachelors or masters degree may be required for some of the career pathways; however, an associate degree will allow you to work as a clinician in many different venues.

COME START YOUR DENTAL HYGIENE CAREER WITH US AT HGTC!
Dental Hygiene Curriculum
(p. 4 of the Information Packet)

• The curriculum is 5 semesters in length with students receiving an Associate in Applied Science degree upon graduation.

• There are 4 pre-requisite courses that MUST be completed by May 15th prior to the fall semester of application.
  BIO 210 – Anatomy & Physiology I*
  CHM 105 – General, Inorganic & Organic Chemistry
  ENG 101 – English Composition
  MAT 101 – Beginning Algebra
  * indicates course with a 5-year time limit

• All of these courses must be completed with a “C” or higher.
Curriculum cont’d.

• Please note that BIO 211 & BIO 225 MUST be completed by the end of the second semester, (Spring semester, first year). Information from these two courses is referenced in the second semester DHG courses. If at all possible, completing these courses prior to admission will be a distinct benefit to the student.

• As the Dental Hygiene program is a very in-depth science-based curriculum, it is highly recommended that students take as many of the general education courses listed below prior to admission to the program. This enables the dental hygiene student to focus on the major courses throughout the five semesters.

  SPC 205   SOC 101   Humanities   PSY 201

• The Humanities requirement can be satisfied with any of the courses listed on p. 5 of the Information Packet.
Admission Requirements
Admission Requirements
P. 6-7 of the Information Packet

• All applicants must be at least 18 years of age at the time of admission
• Successfully apply to the College by completing the online College application and forwarding all transcripts
• Complete the placement test or provide previous test scores
• Complete the 4 pre-requisite courses with a grade of “C” or higher
• Have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher for any of the general education curriculum courses that have been completed
• Complete the online Information Session prior to completing the observations, and send verification to the Program Director/Chair
• Complete the 15 hours of clinical observations
• Complete the Program Application (located on the Program web site)
• Submit all material to the Admissions Office on the Conway campus by MAY 15th
Clinical Observations
P. 20-22 of the Information Packet

- 15 hours of clinical observations are REQUIRED for admission to the program.
- All 15 hours must be completed observing a dental hygienist in a private dental office of your choice.
- These observation hours will provide the student with an understanding of the expectations of a licensed private practice dental hygienist.
- Prospective students will be responsible for making their own appointments to observe in a private dental office.
Clinical Observations, cont’d.

- After completing this Information Session, the prospective student will be required to sign a verification form and return it to the Program Director/Chair, alice.derouen@hgtc.edu. Once the student’s e-mail has been received, the student will be sent the actual Observation Form that is seen on pp. 21-22 of the Information Packet. The student should **NOT USE THE FORMS FROM THE PACKET!**
- The student should take the Observation Form and have it signed each time the dental office hygienist is observed.
- Once the observations and form have been completed, it is **THE STUDENT’S** responsibility to take the form to the Admissions Office on the Conway campus of HGTC.
- The student should follow the dress guidelines listed on p. 20 in order to look and act as professional as possible when completing observations.
How is Acceptance Awarded?

p. 10 of the Information Packet

• Acceptance is based on a weighted-point system that includes the required admission requirements in addition to other factors.

• Those factors include:
  ✓ Previous dental experience
  ✓ Residency status as an HGTC student
  ✓ Academic performance on the pre-requisite courses
  ✓ Academic performance on the curriculum general education courses
  ✓ Placement scores

• The maximum number of points is 34.
Acceptance, cont’d.

• On May 16th, all applications are reviewed and points are awarded.

• The top 18 students with the highest number of points are awarded admission to the program.

• The student should receive notification of acceptance no later than June 15th. If accepted, the student will be instructed to pay the non-refundable deposit and register for classes by a specific date. This will guarantee the incoming student a position in the program. *If for some reason the accepted student will not be attending the program, the student should inform the Admissions Office of the their decision not to accept the position granted.* This allows another qualified applicant a position in the program.
Acceptance, cont’d.

• The student will also be given instructions to complete the Drug Screening and Criminal Background checks. **DO NOT DO THIS PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE AS IT WILL NOT BE VALID.**

• Following acceptance, the student will receive a letter from the Director of Program regarding the annual *New Student Orientation* that is held prior to the start of classes.

• Should the student not be accepted and would like to try again for admission, the student **must** let the *Admissions Office* know immediately. There is no wait list or carry-over of names from one year to the next.
Progression Policies
p. 7 of the Information Packet

• All courses within the curriculum are sequenced and are offered only one time/year.

• As a student in the Dental Hygiene program, the student must earn a grade of “C” or higher in each curriculum course. A grade of “D” or “F” is considered a failure and the student will not be allowed to progress in the curriculum. Students wanting to reapply will have to follow the same application process as a new student.

• Some courses in the curriculum have a lecture/laboratory/clinic component and the student MUST pass both aspects of the lecture/laboratory/clinic to pass the course. If the student does not pass both components, the student will not be allowed to progress.
Progression Policies, cont’d.

- The Dental Hygiene program has a stricter grading scale than the College. A 77% is required to pass the lecture courses and a 78% is required to pass the laboratory/clinical courses. This grading scale is comparable to the scores required to pass the two exams necessary for licensure as a dental hygienist.
Currently, the ESTIMATED total cost of the program, not including any financial assistance, is $17,807.00.

Major 1st year expenses above and beyond tuition include:

- First Semester
  - Instruments $1200.00
  - Uniforms 300.00
  - Student Assoc. Dues 85.00

- Second Semester
  - Magnification Loupes 800.00 (increased cost if light is purchased)
  - Radiology Kit 500.00

TOTAL 1ST YEAR MAJOR EXPENSES: $2885.00 (minimum)

PLEASE NOTE THAT INSTRUMENTS MUST BE PAID FOR BEFORE FINANCIAL AID CHECKS ARE CUT!! PLAN TO SAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR THIS EXPENSE!
Program Expenses, cont’d.

- Major 2\textsuperscript{nd} Year Expenses above and beyond tuition include the following:
  - Ultrasonic Instrument Kit: $300.00
  - National Board Review Course Expenses: $800.00
  - National Board Dental Hygiene Exam Fee: $450.00
  - Clinical Board Exam Fee: $1,075.00
  - State License Fee: $150.00

**TOTAL MAJOR EXPENSES FOR 2\textsuperscript{ND} YEAR:** $2,775.00 (minimum)

- As these are the major expenses, the prospective student should review ALL of the expenses on pp. 13-14 of the Information Packet. The student should keep in mind that these are estimates and semester costs could change.
Licensure Exams to Practice Dental Hygiene

All dental hygienists in the United States must pass two licensing exams to practice as a dental hygienist.

National Board Dental Hygiene Exam

Clinical State Board Exam
Licensure Exams for Dental Hygiene

• National Board Dental Hygiene Exam
  ✓ 350 question multiple-choice exam
  ✓ Covers all courses from general sciences (A&P and Micro) through all of the dental hygiene courses
  ✓ Fully computerized
  ✓ Given at Pearson Professional Testing Centers located in Charleston, SC; Columbia, SC and Wilmington, NC.
  ✓ Must pass with a 75% or higher
  ✓ Every dental hygiene student in the country takes this exam
  ✓ You will take this exam during your very last semester or right after graduation.
Licensure Exams, cont’d.

- **Clinical Licensing Exam**
  - Offered at HGTC through CRDTS (Central Regional Dental Testing Service)
  - Every candidate must secure a patient that meets the stated requirements
  - The candidate will clean the patient’s teeth and be graded by the dental examiners
  - Must make a 75% or higher to pass.
  - This exam is usually scheduled the end of May each year.

Note: A student may opt to take other state licensing exams and the requirements may vary from state to state.
State Licensure

• After successfully passing the *National Board Dental Hygiene Exam* and the Clinical licensing exam, the graduate will then apply for state licensure.

• The South Carolina license fee is $150.00 (subject to change).

• Please note the following statement from the South Carolina Board of Dentistry:
  ✓ According to the South Carolina State Board of Dentistry Rules and Regulations #40-15-190, “any person convicted of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude or controlled substance may not be granted a license to practice dental hygiene in the State of South Carolina even if the dental hygiene curriculum is successfully completed.”

  ✓ Also, the Board will not issue a dental hygiene license unless the candidate possesses a VALID SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER!
Risks of a Dental Healthcare Worker

- As dental hygienists work with very sharp instruments and needles, there is always a risk of a needle/instrument stick.

- This could place the student at risk for HIV and/or Hepatitis C as there are no vaccines for these diseases.

- There is also a risk for Hepatitis B; however, the student is required to take the *Hepatitis B vaccination series* to be protected against this disease. If the student does not wish to take this series, the student **MUST** sign a *Declination Form* which will be kept in the student’s personal file in the Program Director’s office. (When the student declines the vaccination series, he/she should also realize that if the student was to do a clinical rotation outside of the *HGTC Dental Hygiene Clinic,* the dental facility may not allow the student to rotate through their clinical setting.)
Risks, cont’d.

• Throughout the program, each student will receive appropriate education on the *Bloodborne Standards and Infection Control* (per OSHA and CDC guidelines) utilized in the treatment of dental patients. The student will be tested on this material and **MUST** demonstrate classroom/laboratory and clinical competency prior to patient treatment.
• This completes the Information Session for admission to the Dental Hygiene program.

• Please make sure to read the *Information Packet* in its entirety, as not all of the topics were covered.

• Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 843-839-1060 or e-mail me at the following address:

   alice.derouen@hgtc.edu

• Please proceed to the next slide for the signature and verification page to receive your observation documents.
Please print this page, sign, date and return to Ms. Derouen at alice.derouen@hgtc.edu. The student may scan this page and attach it to the e-mail address as designated or hand deliver this document to the Program Director/Program Chair office (1282-F; Speir Building: Dental Sciences Annex, 3501 Pampas Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577). In any instance, the student should make sure that the Program Director/Program Chair has the correct e-mail address to send the observation documents.

I have viewed this Information Session PowerPoint for admission to the HGTC Dental Hygiene Program. I have also reviewed the Information Packet in its entirety. By signing this form, I verify that I fully understand the information that has been provided to me and that I may contact Mrs. Derouen at any time should I have further questions. I also understand that I will NOT receive my observation documents until I return this form to Mrs. Derouen.

Date__________________   H#________________________________

________________________________   _________________________
Signature                                    Print Name

E-Mail Address (Please print)