

# Dental Sciences Program Manual

Academic Year 2026-2027



Speir Dental Complex  
Grand Strand Campus  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

## **Horry-Georgetown Technical College**

### **Department of Dental Sciences**

This program manual provides the Dental Hygiene and Expanded Duty Dental Assisting student with information regarding the policies and procedures they are expected to follow while enrolled in their professional program. Additionally, the Dental Sciences follows the policies and procedures of Horry-Georgetown Technical College. Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to the Dental Sciences program manual and HGTC college policies and procedures. The HGTC 2026-2027 Catalog & Student Handbook can be accessed via <https://www.hgtc.edu/devcatalog/current/catalog.pdf>

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|                                                         |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Horry-Georgetown Technical College Mission              | 4     |
| Dental Sciences Program Mission                         | 4     |
| Program Goals and Learning Outcomes                     | 5-6   |
| Dental Sciences Program Standards                       | 7-9   |
| Department Policies                                     | 10    |
| Attendance                                              | 11-13 |
| Communication                                           | 13    |
| Textbooks                                               | 13    |
| Clinic Attire Policy                                    | 13-15 |
| Use of Technology                                       | 15-16 |
| Professionalism & Academic Dishonesty                   | 16-17 |
| Disciplinary Policy                                     | 17    |
| Chain of Command Policy                                 | 17-18 |
| Student Officers                                        | 18    |
| Grievance Policy                                        | 18    |
| Classroom Etiquette                                     | 18    |
| Social Media Policy                                     | 19    |
| Grading and Testing Policies                            | 20    |
| Grading and Competency Skills                           | 21-22 |
| Exams and Testing Center Policy                         | 22-24 |
| Makeup Exams                                            | 24-25 |
| Artificial Intelligence Policies                        | 25    |
| Academic Alert                                          | 25-26 |
| Student Advisement                                      | 26    |
| Remediation                                             | 26    |
| Academic Probation/EDDA                                 | 26-27 |
| Incomplete Grade                                        | 27    |
| Withdrawals                                             | 27-28 |
| Re-Admittance                                           | 28-30 |
| Advanced Placement                                      | 30    |
| Student Support                                         | 31    |
| Counseling Services                                     | 32    |
| Student Success & Tutoring                              | 32    |
| Accessibility & Disability Services                     | 32    |
| Pregnancy/Nondiscrimination/Title IX                    | 33-34 |
| Clinical Admission Program Requirements                 | 35    |
| BLS & Immunizations                                     | 36    |
| Criminal Background Check/Drug Screening                | 36-39 |
| Technical Standards/Essential Functions Dental Programs | 40-42 |
| Acknowledgement of Dental Sciences Policies/Revisions   | 43-44 |

## **HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE MISSION**

### **HORRY-GEORGETOWN MISSION**

Horry-Georgetown Technical College is dedicated to enriching the lives of students and empowering communities through accessible and affordable education. We are committed to fostering economic development and innovation by providing a premiere, comprehensive two-year college and workforce education experience that will leave a lasting positive impact on our students and the regions we serve.

## **DENTAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS MISSION**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Horry-Georgetown Technical College Dental Hygiene and Expanded Duty Dental Assisting programs believe that the dental hygienist and dental assistant are extremely key members of the dental health team who make significant contribution to the total health care of all people. Using state-of-the-art technology in lecture and clinical instruction, it is the mission of this program to provide the student with a well-rounded general education as well as an evidenced-based professional education. In so doing, the student will be prepared for his/her role as a successful dental professional, as well as an enlightened and contributing citizen to the community.

It is the aim of the dental sciences faculty to create a supportive environment in which the student will develop self-confidence, expertise in clinical skills and the desire to learn to become a successful, dedicated healthcare provider. Using problem solving, planned experiences, goal setting, and self-assessment, the graduate is expected to become a purposeful, critically thinking, and self-directed member of the profession, able to make pivotal judgments in both personal and professional roles. To fulfill our mission, core mission goals include:

- 1) Prepare graduates to be confident, successful, and ethical members of the dental team.
- 2) Promote interprofessional collaboration with focus on patient-centered care.
- 3) Instruct students on current technology and practices to prepare them to confidently enter the dental workforce.
- 4) Encourage community service, professional growth, lifelong learning, and engaging in evidence-based practices.

## **DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES/GOALS**

### ***GOAL 1. The dental hygiene student will demonstrate knowledge in the fundamental components of the Dental Hygiene curriculum.***

1.1 Demonstrate working knowledge of the general education component of the curriculum.

- Display effective interpersonal, written, and communication skills with individuals and groups from diverse cultural populations.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills.
- Demonstrate technology literacy.
- Demonstrate quantitative reasoning.

1.2 Demonstrate a working knowledge of biomedical sciences and their relationship to total body health.

1.3 Demonstrate essential knowledge of the dental sciences focusing on oral health and disease to effectively apply the dental hygiene process of care and prevention methodologies to all patients.

### ***GOAL 2. The dental hygiene student will demonstrate competency in the clinical and interpersonal skills necessary for the provision of evidence based comprehensive preventive, educational, and ethical dental hygiene services within a diverse patient population.***

2.1 The student will demonstrate core values in ethics, skills, and knowledge in relationship to the dental hygiene process of care (assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation).

### ***GOAL 3. The dental hygiene student will exhibit attributes of professional growth and development.***

3.1 Continuously perform self-assessment for life-long learning and professional growth.

### ***GOAL 4. The dental hygiene student/graduate will participate in community service activities promoting oral health initiatives.***

4.1 Advance dental hygiene and the dental profession through service activities and affiliations with professional organizations.

## **EXPANDED DUTY PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES/GOALS**

***GOAL 1. The dental assisting student will demonstrate an extensive understanding of infection control procedures and practices, including biomedical sciences.***

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of bloodborne pathogens and hazard communications standards.
2. Display a working knowledge of dental sciences including the development and function of the oral cavity, oral pathology, anatomy, and pharmacology.

***GOAL 2. The dental assisting student will demonstrate competencies in various aspects of radiation health and safety.***

1. Demonstrate working knowledge and competence in the skills required to produce diagnostic image surveys.
2. Display adherence to radiation health protection techniques.
3. Demonstrate competence in identifying anatomical landmarks and pathologies.

***GOAL 3. The dental assisting student will exhibit and interpret important concepts of General Chairside Assisting.***

1. Demonstrate laboratory/preclinical/clinical knowledge and competence in essential dental assisting skills and functions at the program facility and clinical setting.
2. Demonstrate laboratory/preclinical/clinical knowledge and competence in performing advanced/expanded dental assisting functions.
3. Demonstrate competence in the knowledge of dental practice management to include software systems, ethics, communication, and management of patient information.

## **DENTAL SCIENCES PROGRAM STANDARDS**

Horry-Georgetown Technical College Department of Dental Sciences follows strict guidelines mandated by the Commission of Dental Accreditation (CODA). The following are standards faculty must adhere to when developing clinical, laboratory and didactic instruction.

A full list of Dental Hygiene and Expanded Dental Assisting Accreditation Standards can be found at <https://coda.ada.org/standards>

### **DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS WILL BE COMPETENT IN:**

- 1) Providing dental hygiene care for children, adolescents, adults, geriatric, and special needs patients.
- 2) Be proficient in collecting patient data and utilize critical thinking skills to provide evidence-based patient-centered care.
- 3) Complete accurate documentation to provide optimal patient care.
- 4) Be competent in providing dental hygiene care to all levels of periodontal care.
- 5) Providing patient-centered care based on interprofessional collaboration.
- 6) Planning oral health education events and programs that meet community-based needs.
- 7) Apply ethical, professional, and evidence-based research to deliver optimal patient care.
- 8) Develop strategies for problem solving.
- 9) Demonstrate clinical competency in the following areas by the completion of DHG 165/175:
  - a. Care of Removable Appliances
  - b. Calculus detection
  - c. Care plan development (child, adolescent, adult)
  - d. Debris index
  - e. Dental and Periodontal Charting
  - f. Taking a Dental and Medical History
  - g. Exposing and Evaluating a Panoramic, Full Mouth, Periapical, and Bitewing Radiographs
  - h. Oral Health Education.
  - i. Intraoral and Extraoral examinations
  - j. Placing Fluoride Varnish and Fluoride Trays
- 10) Demonstrate additional clinical competency in the following areas by the completion of DHG 255/265
  - a. Periodontal Antimicrobial Therapy (Arestin)
  - b. Calculus Detection
  - c. Care of Removable Appliances
  - d. Care Plan (Child, Adolescent, Adult)
  - e. Debris Index
  - f. Dental Charting
  - g. Hard Tissue Desensitizing
  - h. Health History
  - i. Exposing and Evaluating Intraoral Radiographic Exposures
  - j. Local Anesthesia

- k. Oral Health Education
- l. Oral Inspection
- m. Periodontal Charting
- n. Scaling & Root Planing/Nonsurgical Periodontal Therapy
- o. Dental Sealants
- p. Fluoride Varnish Application
- q. Use of Ultrasonic Instrumentation & Air Flow
- r. Fabrication and Delivery of Whitening Trays

\* *TalEval Software* has been implemented as a comprehensive, objective grading format for the dental hygiene program which gathers data about the student's performance on specific procedures on a variety of patients of various levels of difficulty. *TalEval Software* identifies skills performed at a level of competency and which need improvement, focusing on patient care and individual skill development. *TalEval Software* is utilized to provide equal student opportunities in treating all classifications of periodontal disease and all types of patient populations in the clinical setting.

## **EXPANDED DUTY DENTAL ASSISTANT STUDENTS WILL BE COMPETENT IN:**

- 1) Understanding and utilizing dental office software.
- 2) Managing inventory systems, supply ordering, patient information, and recall systems.
- 3) Displaying professional and ethical standards for both personal and professional settings.
- 4) Providing oral health education to improve the oral health of others.
- 5) Working as a “team player” in the dental office.
- 6) The following skills:
  - a. Taking medical and dental patient histories
  - b. Taking and recording vital signs
  - c. Assist with Intra/extra oral exams.
  - d. Perform dental charting, pit and fissure sealant application, polishing coronal tooth surfaces and amalgam restorations, suture removal, pulp vitality test, remove periodontal dressing, and various orthodontic functions.
  - e. Managing infection control standards in the dental setting
  - f. Prepare the dental operatory for all types of dental procedures.
  - g. Patient management
  - h. Operate oral evacuation devices and air/water syringe.
  - i. Utilize proper ergonomics while performing instrument transfers and keeping a clear field of vision.
  - j. Provide patient pre/post-operative instruction and oral health education.
  - k. Maintain clear, accurate patient treatment records.
  - l. Identify and respond to medical and dental emergencies.
  - m. Assist with or apply topical anesthetic, desensitizing agents, fluoride agents, bases, liners, and bonding agents.
  - n. Assist with and/or place rubber dam, provisional restorations, matrix retainers, matrix bands, gingival retraction cords, wedges, and remove excess cement.
  - o. Assist with a direct permanent restoration.
  - p. Take a preliminary/final impression and fabricate trays.
  - q. Clean removable dental appliances
  - r. Take impressions for study models.
  - s. Place and remove socket dressing.
  - t. Fabricate and cement temporary crowns and bridges.

## **DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

As a student in a professional program, it is important to attend all clinical and lecture sessions. Missing lectures, clinics, or lab negatively affects student success. Students must make every effort to attend all clinical and lecture sessions. "If you aren't here, you aren't learning."

Horry-Georgetown Technical College has a mandatory attendance policy requiring students be present for a minimum amount of time to be eligible for financial aid, tuition promotions, and to receive credit for their class. The Dental Sciences Program adheres to a stricter attendance policy to ensure students meet accreditation standards.

### **For the Dental Sciences Programs, students are expected to be present for all lectures, labs, and clinical sessions.**

Students may not miss more than 10% of a lecture class (equals 1 class) and are expected to complete 100% of all lab/clinical hours required in the program of study.

- **Lecture:** If one (1) absence of lecture occurs, it is the student's responsibility to meet with faculty to review missed lecture content.
  - **Lab/clinic:** If a lab or clinic absence occurs, documentation from a physician is required and cannot be a telehealth document. The documented excuse should state the name of the medical office, treating physician, general diagnosis of illness, and date student can return to school.
    - It is the student's responsibility to meet with faculty regarding missed lab/clinic hours.
    - Make-up hours will be approved at the discretion of the faculty/program director.
    - An incomplete grade may be given for an absence until the hours can be made up the following semester.
    - Any missed lab/clinic hours **MUST** be made up, including two tardy arrivals which equal one absence.
  - If a student misses more class, lab, or clinic than is allowable, they will be withdrawn from the program unless extenuating circumstances apply.
  - If extenuating circumstances occur (example: serious illness or medical event affecting the ability to attend school) clear documentation will be required from the student. The Program Director will meet with the student to discuss and determine the best course of action.
  - It will be at the discretion of the Program Director to determine if a student can continue based on the circumstances.
- 1) Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class/lab/clinic. Students must sign in using blue or black ink and cannot have another classmate sign in for them.
  - 2) Students are expected to be in class/lab/clinic prior to the start of the session. If a student arrives at class/clinic late (8:01am for an 8:00 am class is considered late),

they will be recorded as tardy. If the tardy occurs on a clinical day when a student is scheduled to see a patient (dental hygiene or dental assisting clinical rotation), points will be deducted from professionalism for the day by faculty who are supervising those experiences.

- 3) If a student is tardy two (2) times to class/lab/clinic, it will be recorded as an absence. If a student arrives 15 minutes late, they will be marked absent. Students who leave class/lab/clinic for an extended period (over 10 minutes), will be marked absent.
- 4) Chronic tardiness (considered more than six (6) tardy arrivals across all classes per semester) will result in disciplinary action for violation of professional behavior. Tardy arrivals greater than six (6) times over the class of a semester may result in being withdrawn from the program for excessive absences.
- 5) If a student leaves class/lab/clinic early, it will be recorded as an absence.
- 6) To meet accreditation standards, **students must complete 100% of all lab/clinical hours** required in the program of study regardless of the reason for the absence.

In dental hygiene clinics, this includes Radiology Assistant (RA) and Clinical Assistant (CA) days for dental hygiene students in clinic. If a student misses any scheduled clinical, including RA or CA days, he/she must make up for the time missed and will do so rendering patient care. Make-up lab/clinic times will be determined by faculty for the missed session and students will be required to make up missed days during the semester at an alternate time or during finals week.

If the number of hours of missed lab/clinic time exceeds the available hours during finals week to make up the time, the student may receive an incomplete with the possibility to make up missed time the next semester or the student may be withdrawn from the program. The Program Director will meet with the student to discuss and determine the best course of action regarding the missed hours.

- 7) If a student is *anticipating late arrival* or *is unable to attend class/lab/clinic*, or office rotation, it is **mandatory** for the student to notify the Program director and faculty via email prior to the start of the students scheduled class/lab/clinic time.
  - a. If a student fails to notify faculty prior to the start of class/lab/clinic or office rotation, a 5-point deduction for the session will be deducted from the final grade overall grade. \*For example: A final grade of eighty-five will be changed to an eighty (80). Communication is critical to success.
- 8) Personal, medical, and dental appointments, except emergencies, cannot be scheduled during scheduled class/lab/clinic sessions.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Faculty and the College often send important email correspondence. Students are expected to check their HGTC student email daily. With regards to emails sent by faculty, students are expected to respond in a timely manner, which is no more than 24 hours later. Ignoring emails is not acceptable and displays a lack of respect. If lack of communication is an ongoing issue, it is at the instructor's discretion to enforce the disciplinary policy on professionalism.

## **TEXTBOOK POLICY**

It is mandatory for all students to purchase the required textbooks for their classes. If a student does not purchase/rent and possess textbooks within two (2) weeks of the beginning of the semester, the student may be withdrawn from the program.

Starting classes without books creates a serious disadvantage. This is strong support for planning ahead and purchasing textbooks in advance of a new semester. It is at the discretion of the instructor to assign an open book activity during the beginning of the semester.

## **CLINICAL ATTIRE & CLINIC POLICY**

Students are expected to follow the guidelines for clinical and pre-clinical dress during all sessions. These regulations have been established to promote maximum infection control and safety for all clinical operations and to demonstrate a professional appearance.

***Student adherence is expected.*** Anyone not adhering to the following guidelines will be asked to leave the clinic area and change into proper attire. Points may be deducted for professionalism and if the problem cannot be resolved, the student may be subject to disciplinary action.

- 1) The designated clinic uniform scrubs must be worn during clinical sessions. Uniforms must be purchased at Scrubs & Beyond. Uniforms and lab jackets must be clean, neatly pressed, and fit properly with the appropriate undergarments. If at any time uniforms become too tight, you will be asked to purchase new uniforms at the students' expense. Scrub pants must not drag on the floor and should be hemmed if it is too long. Jogger pants are not permitted during clinical care or clinical rotations.
- 2) Long-sleeved solid color shirts may be worn under scrub tops.
- 3) If at any time scrub uniforms become soiled, stained, or discolored, the student is responsible for purchasing replacement items.
- 4) Clinic shoes must be solid white, with no shoelaces, closed toed and heels must be covered. Shoes must be made of a material that is easily

cleaned of blood and infectious materials, such as vinyl or leather. Fabric canvas shoes are not permitted.

- 5) Hair must be off the collar, up and away from the face and should not hang down. Long hair and ponytails beyond shoulder length must be neatly secured up off the shoulders. Hair should not fall into the eyes and obscure vision. Barrettes, headbands or scrunchies matching hair color may be worn.
- 6) Extreme hair colors and hairstyles are not permitted. Colors that are allowed are blondes, brunettes, reds, and grey colors only. If hair does not meet the regulations, the student must wear a clinical hair covering approved by faculty. Students with professional braids or dreadlocks must have hair up and completely covered with a scrub cap, to adhere to infection control.
- 7) Solid white socks are required and should be long enough to avoid showing bare legs, such as crew socks or knee-high socks. Ankle socks are not acceptable socks.
- 8) Nails must be clean and short (should not extend beyond the tip of fingers) and polish free. False nails must not be worn. Even though gloves are being worn, micro-pores do exist in the gloves and bacteria could penetrate the material, causing a serious infection around the false nails. This can also happen if there are any cuts on the cuticle or hand area.
- 9) Small single, solid design stud earrings may be worn. Only one (1) earring per earlobe is allowed.
- 10) Absolutely no other piercings of any kind (nose, tongue, eyebrow, etc.) can be worn during clinic sessions, or other school sponsored professional events. If a piercing exists for medical reasons, the student's physician must provide documentation.
- 11) False eyelashes are prohibited as they can harbor bacteria and cause infection in or around the eye.
- 12) Absolutely no ring of any kind may be worn in clinic.
- 13) Watches and smart watches may not be worn in lab or clinic. Smart watches may be worn during lectures but cannot be used for texting; smart watches must be removed during examinations and assessments.
- 14) Nametags will always be worn with your clinic uniform scrubs. If lost, you will be responsible for paying for an additional nametag.
- 15) If a student needs to enter the clinic outside their lab/clinic time, a clinical lab

jacket must be worn over street clothes. No open-toed shoes are permitted.

- 16) Perfume, scented lotions, and sprays should not be worn during clinic sessions. The fragrance may be irritating to the patient. Some patients are highly allergic to fragrances.
- 17) Students with tattoos must have them covered during clinical and school sponsored events. Students should cover tattoos with skin-colored bandages, at their own cost. Clinic bandages are not to be used by students to cover their tattoos.
- 18) Chewing gum is not permitted during clinical or laboratory sessions.
- 19) Tobacco products/vaping products are not allowed during clinical/laboratory experiences. A uniform that smells of smoke is offensive to patients – remember, you are a dental healthcare professional and should be a setting an example. Students will be asked to change uniforms or leave the clinic with an unexcused absence if tobacco odor is noticed. The College is a smoke-free campus.
- 20) Safety glasses are mandatory and should be part of the clinical uniform. They must have side shields for your safety.
- 21) No food or drink is permitted inside the clinic or in your dental unit. Drinks must be placed outside clinic, away from aerosols.

### **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Use of cell phones, computers, or smart watches is prohibited during clinic, lab, lecture, or office rotations. This includes texting or use of earbuds. Student engagement and participation are top priorities for student success. Use of technology can be an unwelcome distraction and therefore is not allowed during class sessions.

All cell phones must be powered off prior to entering the lab or lecture. Students may use cell phones and smart watches during breaks. Students are not allowed to have cell phones in the HGTC dental clinic or dental offices during clinical hours. If a student has an extenuating emergency which requires them to have their cellphone on, they must disclose the reason to their instructor prior to that class or lab session. Cell phones are permitted for recording lectures only; students must ask for permission prior to doing so.

#### **Lecture**

- If a student is using or possessing a cell phone during class lecture, the student will be warned to put away the phone. If a second warning is required, the student will be dismissed from lecture and marked absent.

## Clinicals & Lab

- If a student is using or possessing a cellphone during clinical time and/or lab they will be asked to leave immediately and will be marked as absent for that session. The absence is required to be made up before the end of the semester.
- Additionally, if a student is using or possessing a cellphone during clinical time and/or lab it will also result in a 5-point deduction from the student's final grade for that clinical or lab for each violation.

Faculty will periodically plan class/lab activities which allow use of technology and will advise students accordingly that use of technology is permissible.

## **PROFESSIONALISM POLICY**

Professionalism is a way of conducting oneself that includes respect for others. Courtesy and respect for others are fundamental elements of professional behavior in the dental profession. A professional also takes responsibility for his or her actions with care of consequences that might evolve and for how their actions will affect others. Integrity is defined as being honest and having good moral character, ethics, truthfulness, and trustworthiness.

Students must conduct themselves in a professional manner displaying integrity during school hours and when representing themselves as an HGTC student during non-school hours. Failure to conduct yourself in a professional manner will result in disciplinary actions.

The HGTC Student Code of Conduct is enforced while students are enrolled in our programs. The program reserves the right to contact the Office of Student Affairs for any professionalism infraction. Students may be subject to the disciplinary policy of the Dental Sciences Program and/or the College.

The seriousness of a professionalism infraction will determine which disciplinary action(s) may be required. For example, if multiple unprofessional behaviors are displayed, it may constitute a verbal and written warning at the same time. It may also constitute immediate expulsion depending on the seriousness of the situation as determined by the Office of Student Affairs.

Unprofessional behavior includes but is not limited to violation of academic honesty policy such as cheating, plagiarizing, or misuse of patient information; use of profanity; speaking disrespectfully to an instructor, classmate, or staff member; bullying behaviors; making racial remarks; refusing to participate in lab/clinic activities when asked; repeated tardiness; and leaving lab/clinic without informing an instructor where you are going. Engaging in cheating, plagiarism, or misuse of patient information violates the academic honesty policy and may result in immediate dismissal from the Dental Sciences Program.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

All forms of academic dishonesty, as outlined in the Student Code in the HGTC catalog, will NOT be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Anyone caught cheating (Defined in the code as: "a. Copying from another student's test or answer sheet. b. Using materials or equipment during a test not authorized by the person giving the test. c. Collaborating with any other person during a test without permission. d. Knowingly obtaining, using, buying, selling, transporting, or soliciting in whole or in part the contents of a test prior to its administration. e. Bribing or coercing any other person to obtain tests or information about tests. f. Substituting for another student or permitting any other person to substitute for oneself. g. Cooperating or aiding in any of the above.") or committing plagiarism (Defined in the code as: "(1) the appropriation of any other person's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work or (2) submitting content for academic purposes that are created by artificial intelligence, technology platforms, or writing services and representing that such content is the person's own work product.") will be given a grade of a zero for that assignment and reported to Student Affairs. A second offense will result in a withdrawal from the course. The designation of a W or WF is at the discretion of the professor.

The HGTC Policy on Academic Misconduct can be found at:

<https://www.hgtc.edu/devcatalog/current/catalog.pdf>

## **DISCIPLINARY POLICY ON PROFESSIONAL VIOLATIONS**

- First offense: If faculty determines a student's behavior is unprofessional, a verbal warning will be given for the first offense, and the incident will be documented and signed by the student and Program Director. The student is required to meet with the Program Director and faculty member; to ensure open communication between the student and faculty, as well to discuss program expectations.
- Second offense: If a student engages in a second instance of unprofessional behavior, they will be given a written warning, marked absent for the lab, lecture, clinic in which the offense occurred, and will be required to write a 2-page paper on professionalism as it relates to the student's offense. The incident will be documented and signed by the student and Program Director. The student is required to meet with the Program Director and faculty member.
- Third offense: If a student engages in a third instance of unprofessional behavior, the Office of Student Affairs and the Dean of Allied Health will be consulted. The student may be withdrawn from the program at this time. The incident will be documented and signed by the student and Program Director.

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND POLICY**

The Program Director and all faculty make every effort to keep open lines of communication with students in the dental sciences programs. If a student has a concern of any kind regarding a specific class, and/or program of study, the chain of command must be followed as detailed:

- The student is advised to speak with the faculty member teaching the class/lab as a first class of action.
- If a resolution of the student's concern does not occur, the student and faculty member should meet next with the Program Director/Chair, as the second class of action.
- If further discussion is still required after the second meeting, the student, faculty member, and Program Director/Chair will meet with the Dean of Allied Health Programs, to seek a resolution.

Within each program, once a class president has been selected, that student representative is encouraged to bring overall class concerns and opinions to the attention of the Program Director as a first course of action. Students are strongly encouraged to follow the chain of command for any concerns related to classwork, faculty, or fellow classmates. Following this protocol allows for student feedback to be heard and addressed in a professional and timely manner.

## **STUDENT OFFICERS**

Students interested in taking on leadership roles among their class may submit letters of interest to the Student Club Advisor. Faculty will select officers based on student statements pertaining to their interest in taking on this responsibility. To ensure all students can participate and to reduce the workload for current officers, student officers will serve a term of one academic year, at which time a new election will be held, to elect new officers (President and Vice-President).

Previous student officers may submit letters of interest again even if they have served already.

## **GRIEVANCE POLICY**

Grievances should follow the chain of command and should be addressed as they occur, not at the end of the semester. To provide information regarding students' rights to due process, students are instructed to follow the grievance procedure stated in the HGTC Catalog and Student Handbook.

## **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

The classroom is conducted in an area of mutual respect. Students are encouraged to engage in conversation related to class/lab topics. Students engaging in conversations during class, not related to class topics, are inconsiderate to both the instructor and fellow classmates. If this happens the student(s) will be warned and asked to refocus. If the behavior continues the student(s) will be asked to leave the class or lab and will be marked absent. It is at the discretion of the faculty to deduct professionalism points for this behavior.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

### Purposes:

1. To promote professionalism with respect to the use of social media within the Dental Sciences program.
2. To provide information to students regarding prohibited social media activity related to disclosure of confidential information and the Dental Sciences program.

### Policy:

*Participation in the HGTC Dental Sciences program involves an elevated level of professionalism and respect for the privacy of medical information used in the program. As a result, students are required to refrain from engaging in social media activities that would result in significant harm to the program, a patient, other students, or program affiliates.*

*Specifically, students must refrain from making any "posts" containing any medical or other confidential information obtained in the clinical or classroom setting. This includes reference to a patient, or a patient's health status. In addition, students should not post anything that contains a threat of physical or mental harm to another individual involved in the program or that significantly impedes the operations of the program or another student's access to the program (e.g., bullying).*

*Students are also prohibited from posting false statements regarding HGTC or the Dental Sciences program. Further, posting pictures of the clinical or classroom setting, or of students, faculty, or program affiliates in the classroom or clinical setting, or in a HGTC identifying uniform, is strictly prohibited unless the student receives express written consent from the College. In addition, students are prohibited from using the Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) name or any HGTC logo in social media posts unless the student receives express written consent from the College.*

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including immediate dismissal from the program.

# **GRADING & TESTING POLICIES**

## GRADING

The Dental Sciences Program utilizes the following grading scale:

| Grading Scale |
|---------------|
| A= 100-90     |
| B= 89-80      |
| C= 79-77      |
| D= 76-70      |
| F= 0- 69      |

**Dental Science Students (Dental Hygiene and Expanded Duty Dental Assisting) must earn 77% or higher in class/lab/clinic to continue in the program.**

**If a student does not achieve a 77% or higher in either the clinical or laboratory section of a dental core class, he/she will not be able to continue in the program.** (Example: a student scores 92% in lecture and 73% in lab, they cannot pass the class and progress in the program).

HGTC's Learning Portal, D2L, contains all class documents, grades, attendance rosters, and announcements. Students are required to check D2L and College email daily for important announcements pertaining to classwork. In the Dental Sciences programs, all learning takes place via didactic and clinical learning in a face-to-face or hybrid format. It is the ultimate responsibility of the student to check their academic progress in D2L and within the Tal-Eval program (dental hygiene only).

For dental hygiene co-requisites classes that are not part of the dental hygiene core classwork (BIO 225, PSY, SPC, SOC, HUM) students must pass with a "C" or better, 70% or higher. If a student does not pass a co-requisite class, they will not be permitted to continue in their program of study. Students have the option to re-apply to the program the next academic year following the same criteria for all other first-time applicants.

Late assignments will not be accepted for class. Refer to your Course Information Sheet for detailed information.

Students may utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) to help clarify curriculum content or as an aid when creating school projects. Use of AI is prohibited for assignments such as homework, or discussion boards. Copying AI content and submitting as original work is considered plagiarism and would trigger the academic misconduct penalties in place at the College. Refer to your Course Information Sheet for more information on the use of AI.

## **COMPETENCY SKILLS**

- Instructional packages and class information sheets for DAT 154, DAT 174, DHG 175, DHG 255, and DHG 265 will contain specific information about grading of required clinical competencies. It will be at the discretion of faculty to use professionalism rubrics within their classes and deduct points as necessary from final grade.
- For the Dental Hygiene program, it will be at the discretion of the Program Director as to whether extraordinary circumstances affected a student's ability to complete clinical competencies. (Example: difficulty scheduling required number of skill level of patients).
- **A student will not be permitted to progress within the program if all clinical competencies are not met by the deadline at the end of each semester.** A student will not be permitted to graduate if all clinical competencies are not completed by the end of their final semester.

## **Competency Attempts**

- Students have up to a maximum of three (3) attempts to pass a competency.
- Faculty will use a numeric rubric to grade the competency and determine the outcome of the attempt.
- Students will receive the grade earned **on the first attempt** as their recorded grade, regardless of whether additional attempts are needed.
- Additional attempts (if not passed on attempt one) will not change the initial grade earned.
- Students are required to pass all competencies.
- If a second or third competency attempt is required, student remediation is required prior to further attempts. Additional attempts will be made during office hours and when the instructor deems it appropriate.
- Instructor comments can be placed in the gradebook to clarify the score was a 'second' or 'third' attempt but will note the initial grade earned is the final grade for that competency.
- If a student cannot pass the third attempt, a grade of "D" will be assigned for the class, and the student cannot progress in the program.

## **EXAM POLICY:**

It will be at the discretion of the faculty to require students to test in designated computer labs on campus or at campus testing center locations.

Exam grades will be posted within 48 hours of taking the exam. Any inquiries about attempts prior to posting will result in professionalism deductions. Faculty requires time post-test to review questions and statistics, to ensure no errors were made on their part.

Exam reviews are welcomed and encouraged but must be completed within 2 weeks of taking the exam. No exam reviews will be permitted after this period. (Ex: reviewing a semester's worth of assessments the week before finals will not be permitted).

- Quality learning occurs immediately after an assessment is taken; students must learn content and not simply attempt to memorize questions. It is not logistically possible for faculty to review multiple assessments in a brief period for numerous students. This is a strong rationale to meet with your faculty after an assessment for clarification/review of content.

### In-Class Exam Policies

- At the start of every in-class assessment, students are required to sign and date their understanding of academic misconduct, and an honesty statement as related to the departmental and college policies. This statement may be on paper form or included electronically in an assessment. See the document shown below:

| <b>Academic Misconduct/Honesty Statement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>I understand that all forms of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism, collusion, and falsification of information <u>will call for discipline according to department and college policies</u>. Cheating on tests is defined and includes, but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copying from another student's test.</li><li>• Using testing materials before, during, and after a test not authorized by the person giving the test.</li><li>• Collaborating with any other person during a test without permission.</li><li>• Knowingly obtaining, using, buying, selling, transporting, or soliciting in whole or in part the contents of a test prior to its administration.</li><li>• Bribing any other person to obtain tests or information about tests.</li><li>• Substituting for another student or permitting any other person to substitute for oneself.</li><li>• Cooperating or aiding in any of the above.</li></ul> <p><b>Signature</b> _____</p> |

- Once students complete in-class exams, they should quietly leave the room until all other peers complete testing. Students are not permitted to reenter until all testing is complete and should not congregate directly outside the classroom, as the noise impacts those still testing.

### **TESTING CENTER**

Students requiring use of the Testing Center (example: make up exam after illness) will take their exams at the specifically scheduled time assigned by the faculty teaching the class. Students are

encouraged to schedule testing dates with the Testing Center in a timely manner. If the Testing Center cannot provide the exact exam time requested, the student should contact the Testing Center directly for assistance. Students are not permitted to begin exams at the Testing Center later than the scheduled start time and will incur a grade penalty if this occurs (see below).

- **Testing Center & Accommodations:**

- Students approved for accommodations through Disability Services must utilize the Testing Center for ALL tests, quizzes, and exams as directed by the instructor. At-home assessments do not require use of the Testing Center.
- Accommodations like extended time or reduced distraction settings ensure fair access to the material. Please be aware that, even with accommodations, testing must occur within the instructor's required period or testing window. Book your appointment well in advance to secure your spot and meet all deadlines.
- Students must test at their scheduled time. Starting late or missing scheduled accommodation testing appointments will result in a penalty for that specific assessment. ( A 5-point deduction from the exam or quiz). The instructor reserves the right to confirm the official start time and duration with the Testing Center to ensure the accommodation is implemented correctly and fairly.
- If a student chooses not to use their approved accommodations, they are required to meet with the Program Director to sign a refusal form, acknowledging they understand they are opting out of specific accommodations and are accepting the standard course requirements and deadlines. The form serves as documentation that the decision was voluntary and informed, absolving the instructor/institution from responsibility for barriers encountered due to not using the accommodations.
  - A student who has opted out of using approved accommodations may reinstate the approved accommodations at any time during a semester by contacting the Program Director and Disability Services.

## **MAKEUP EXAMS**

Students are expected to be present for all tests. Make-up tests will be provided only in those exceptional cases where the student is able to provide clear and convincing documentation about a severe illness or emergency. The burden of proof rests with the student requesting the make-up test. If you have an exceptional circumstance and are going to miss an exam, you must call the instructor before the class meets. The final decision on whether to allow a make-up test is at the instructor's discretion.

If make-up examinations are given, the highest obtainable score will be 92%. The student is required to make up the missed exam in person and on the first day they return to school after the initial exam date occurred. If a student does not make up the test on the first day,

they return to school and they will be given a zero for the test. The format of the make-up test will be at the discretion of the instructor.

If a student has a test in the afternoon, is absent in the morning for class or lab, and shows up for the afternoon test, the student will still be considered absent for the entire day, and the grade will be based on 92%.

Students will not be allowed to take tests early unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as a funeral or serious illness. All make-up or early testing must be approved by the Program Director and will be out of 92%.

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY**

The College and your professor recognize the value of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in promoting innovation and supporting learning. In this course, AI tools may be used only for limited purposes, such as brainstorming ideas, organizing your thoughts, or proofreading written work. All assignments must represent your own understanding, analysis, and perspective. Overreliance on or unacknowledged use of AI tools as is shown in HGTC's Guidelines for the Use of AI will be treated as a violation of the College's Student Code of Conduct. If you have questions about this policy, please reach out.

### **USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DURING CLINICAL PATIENT CARE**

To protect patient privacy, ensure documentation integrity, and maintain professional standards, dental hygiene students are prohibited from using artificial intelligence (AI) tools during patient clinical experiences for any patient-specific activity. This includes, but is not limited to, entering patient information into AI platforms, generating or revising chart notes, treatment documentation, care plans, or translating patient communications. Students must independently complete all clinical documentation and use approved institutional resources for interpretation and translation services. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action and could constitute a violation of patient confidentiality and professional standards.

### **ACADEMIC ALERT SYSTEM**

The purpose of the Academic Alert System is to provide faculty and staff members with an opportunity to supply early feedback on a student's academic behavior and progress so that the student has the best chance of success. This alert may be sent at mid-semester or sooner, if necessary.

- If a student falls below 77% on any course assessment, faculty will initiate an Academic Alert for the student.
- Faculty may also utilize the EAB online messaging portal to also communicate areas of concern to students.

When a faculty member chooses to refer a student through the Academic Alert System, the Department of Student Services at Horry-Georgetown Technical College will ensure that the student receives the support services that he or she needs to develop a plan of support and/or correction. It is important for the faculty and staff members to be cognizant that the timeliness of

the referral and the amount of information provided enhances the chance that this notification system will help a student achieve academic success.

### **STUDENT ADVISEMENT**

Advising sessions between students and faculty are a shared responsibility, with focus placed on career goals, student success, referrals to resources, identifying strengths and addressing barriers.

Advisors are a primary point of contact to help students maximize their educational experience and navigate challenges. Advisors should be accessible by communicating availability and office hours and responding to student messages within a reasonable period.

Advisees have expectations placed upon them, including being informed and engaged, preparing for advising sessions in advance, following recommended actions, and taking ownership of their academic plan and overall educational experience.

Advising sessions may incorporate any or all the following: use of advising forms, electronic alerts (academic alert system-see above), use of online messaging portals (EAB), and email correspondence.

### **REMEDATION POLICY**

If a student is struggling academically and has scored below 77% on an assessment, it is the student's responsibility to meet with the class instructor for further guidance. This meeting is mandatory. The instructor will provide support to the student and refer to resources such as the SSTC [https://www.hgtc.edu/current\\_students/studentsuccesscenter/](https://www.hgtc.edu/current_students/studentsuccesscenter/) or to a designated dental tutor.

As noted above, an academic alert will be issued for a student who is struggling by mid-semester, if not sooner.

If a student is struggling with clinical skills or competencies, they will be encouraged to work one-on-one with a clinical faculty member during lab or clinic. If additional remediation time is required, the clinical faculty member will select a date/time, and it will be mandatory for the student to attend. Open labs may be offered as needed. The dates/times of any open lab will be at the discretion of the clinical instructor.

### **ACADEMIC PROBATION-EDDA**

The option to place a student on academic probation at the end of a semester is at the discretion of the Program Director and applies to students in the Expanded Duty Dental Assisting program only. If a student's final grade in a dental assisting class is within two percentage points of 77%, (final grade of 75%-76%) the Program Director will meet with the student to discuss academic probation and the parameters for the probation.

A signed contract between the student, faculty member teaching the class and the Program Director will be required after discussing the stipulations for academic probation.

A student cannot be placed on academic probation after their final semester. A student cannot be placed on academic probation if they were unsuccessful in more than one class.

### **INCOMPLETE POLICY**

Incompletes will be given for clinical classes only. This may occur when a student has not completed the required number of patients/clinical hours due to extenuating circumstances, such as illness. If this occurs, the student will receive a grade of "I" (incomplete).

The incomplete must be made up as soon as possible after the last day of classes or during an agreed upon period between the Program Director and the student. A contract will be drawn up between the student and Program director, which outlines the terms of what is required of the student to complete the clinical class. An incomplete grade negatively affects financial aid and tuition promotion benefits.

Failure to complete this work in the agreed upon amount of time will result in an "F" and the student will be dismissed from the program.

### **WITHDRAWALS**

The College maintains that it is the responsibility of the student to apply for honorable withdrawal. This protects the student's records, his/her right to re-enroll and the right to transfer credits. The academic calendar shows each of the dates mentioned below.

Students needing to withdraw from a class or class must do so on myHGTC, on the College website, if prior to the two-thirds point of the semester.

During the add/drop period for the term, the student will perform a Web Drop. If a student withdraws during this period, classes do not appear on the transcript, and no tuition is charged. After the add/drop period and before two-thirds points for the term, the student may perform a withdrawal which results in a grade of "W."

After the two-thirds point, a student will receive a "W" if passing the class on the date last attended, or "WF" if failing the class on the last date attended.

After the two-thirds point, the withdrawal grade of "W" (passing) or "WF" will be assigned by the class instructor. Students should contact the class instructor to initiate withdrawal after the two-third point. Students should discuss their withdrawal plans and the grade with the instructor(s) prior to withdrawal.

Because changes in class loads impact financial aid, veteran's benefits, and other enrollment-related financial situations, it is important that students who anticipate withdrawing from a class(s) investigate the impact of this withdrawal with the appropriate College office. Students who do not attend or withdraw from classes may be required to repay funds allocated for financial assistance for tuition and/or books.

NOTE: If a Dental Science student elects to drop any of the core dental program class, the student will automatically be dropped from the Dental Hygiene or Expanded Duty Dental Assisting curriculum. Due to class being in a sequential order, the next time the class will be offered is one year from the time the student withdrew. The student may remain at the college to take general education classes required in the Dental Sciences curriculum; however, the student must re-apply for admission to the program the next Fall Semester. Readmission will be on a space available basis. (Refer to Readmission Policies).

### **RE-ADMITANCE POLICY/DENTAL HYGIENE**

If a dental hygiene student fails one or more classes during the first semester of their program (EDDA or DH) the student cannot progress in the program and is encouraged to re-apply to the program the next academic year following the same criteria for all other first-time applicants.

A student cannot progress in the program or be readmitted if they fail two or more classes during a semester. If a student fails two or more classes in the Dental Hygiene program, they will be given their final grades or withdrawn from the classes which were unsuccessful. Students are encouraged to re-apply to the program the next academic year following the same criteria for all other first-time applicants.

If a student fails one (1) class in semesters 2-5 in the Dental Hygiene program, they will be assigned their final grade for the class and supplied with information regarding the possibility of readmission to the program if a seat is available when the course is offered next. Students seeking readmission will be required to complete a Readmission Application.

- Upon re-admittance application, if granted and a seat is available, a student must pass focused course reviews and skill competencies based on class content previously completed, as determined by the Program Director. Any expenses incurred to administer such skill competencies will be at the expense of the student. These fees are determined by HGTC, the Continuing Education Department.

The Readmittance Policy is as follows:

### **Readmission Policy**

1. Each candidate for readmission to the dental hygiene program will be considered based on space availability in both lecture and clinical for the course. Each candidate must:

- a) Complete the HGTC Readmission Application form. The Readmission Application form must be completed and submitted to the Academic Chair.
- b) Have a GPA of 2.75 or higher.

c) Dental hygiene courses older than two calendar years for candidates at the time of readmission are not accepted.

d) Students applying and accepted for readmission must attend the course(s) next semester the course(s) is offered.

2. Each candidate for readmission must:

a) Complete assigned focused reviews for each course successfully completed at the time of the readmission request.

- Example: If a student is applying for readmission into DHG 165 (2<sup>nd</sup> semester), they must complete focused reviews for previous completed coursework in semester 1 and semester 2.

b) Each candidate for readmission must complete specific focused review test(s) for applicable courses.

c) The readmission candidate is responsible for contacting the Academic Chair of Dental Sciences to obtain the listing of focused reviews and focused review tests required for the course's readmission.

d) Candidates for readmission must successfully complete specific focused review tests and applicable clinical skills assessments with 77% or better on ALL assigned focused review tests. Students have one attempt only to achieve a score of 77% or better on ALL assigned focused review tests.

e) For students applying for readmission to the dental hygiene program, completing all readmission requirements as described above must be completed by the close of business day on the add/drop day. Please meet these requirements to avoid being immediately dropped from the class.

3. Students who have applied for readmission will be contacted prior to the beginning of the semester they want to attempt to rejoin.

4. Students who withdrew or failed in AHS 113, BIO 225, DHG 125, or DHG 151 are not eligible for readmission and may apply for admission into the dental hygiene program through the college's Admissions Department.

5. Readmitted students will become a cohort of that class and will be required to follow that class's progression. The Dental Sciences Department will register approved applicants.

6. Students are notified of readmission approval/denial along with additional requirements for readmission via myHGTC email by the end of final exams.

7. Students who are readmitted will be required to meet with a tutor three times prior to the mid-semester point.

**RE-ADMITANCE POLICY/DENTAL ASSISTING**

If a dental assisting student fails a class during the first semester of the Dental Assisting program and does not qualify for academic probation (final grade below 75%) the student cannot progress in the program and is encouraged to reapply in the future.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT**

HGTC Dental Sciences does not take students from other institutions. If a student wishes to attend the Dental Sciences Programs, they must start with the application process and will be scored with the criteria set forth by the Admissions Selection Committee.

If a student decides to withdraw from the program, it must be done officially by notifying the Program Director and the Registrar's office. The proper paperwork must be completed; otherwise, the student will receive a grade of "F" for each class in which he/she was enrolled. These grades will affect the students' overall GPA and will remain on the students' permanent records.

# **STUDENT SUPPORT**

## **COUNSELING SERVICES**

HGTC Counseling Services strives to optimize student success through managing personal and academic concerns that may interfere with achieving educational goals. Staff are available to every student for assistance and guidance on personal matters, academic concerns and other areas of concern. HGTC offers free in-person and telehealth counseling services to students. For more information about counseling services, please reach out to [counseling@hgtc.edu](mailto:counseling@hgtc.edu) or visit the website the [Counseling Services webpage](#).

## **STUDENT SUCCESS & TUTORING CENTER**

The Student Success & Technology Centers (SSTC) have been established to provide students with assistance in achieving academic success. The Student Success & Technology Centers provide such services as tutoring for mathematics sciences, reading and English; supplemental materials and learning tools for many college class; and a study area and special assistance for reading and writing assignments. Tutoring appointments may be scheduled one-on-one, meeting in-person or online, and scheduled weekly support is available. Tutoring is available on all three campuses and online. You can also meet online with tutors via Tutor.com through the SSTC portal, a free 24/7 service provided to all HGTC students, or schedule an appointment in Penji.

\*The Dental Sciences department has a dedicated dental tutor who is available to tutor students using the Penji app found on your Student Dashboard in myHGTC.

[https://www.hgtc.edu/current\\_students/studentsuccesscenter/index.html](https://www.hgtc.edu/current_students/studentsuccesscenter/index.html)

## **ACCESSIBILITY & DISABILITY SERVICES**

At Horry-Georgetown Technical College your success is our highest goal. The Office for Accessibility and Disabilities provide students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and services offered at HGTC. HGTC provides appropriate services and accommodations to students with documented disabilities, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and other applicable regulations.

[https://www.hgtc.edu/current\\_students/disabilityservices.html](https://www.hgtc.edu/current_students/disabilityservices.html)

To access services and accommodations, students must first self-identify, obtain documentation about the disability, and make an appointment with an appropriate staff member. To obtain services, please email [\*\*disabilityservices@hgtc.edu\*\*](mailto:disabilityservices@hgtc.edu).

## **PREGNANCYACCOMODATIONS**

Under Title IX, colleges must not exclude a pregnant student from participating in any part of an educational program. Horry-Georgetown Technical College is committed to ensuring that pregnant students receive reasonable accommodations to ensure access to our educational programs.

Students should advise the Title IX Coordinator of a potential need for accommodations as soon as they know they are pregnant. It is extremely important that communication between students, instructors, and the Title IX Coordinator begin as soon as possible. Each situation is unique and will be addressed individually.

Title IX accommodations DO NOT apply to Financial Aid. Financial Aid regulations do not give the College any discretion in terms of Financial Aid eligibility.

Certain educational programs may have strict certification requirements or requirements mandated by outside regulatory agencies. Therefore, in some programs, the application of Title IX accommodations may be limited.

To request pregnancy accommodations, please complete the *Pregnancy Intake Form* that can be found [here](#).

## **STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Horry-Georgetown Technical College shall not discriminate in employment or personnel decisions or in student admissions or in student decisions, or in all other segments of the College community on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, marital or family status, veteran status, political ideas, sexual orientation, gender identity, or pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including, but not limited to, lactation, in the educational programs and activities which it operates, and the college is prohibited from discrimination in such manner by applicable laws. Practices and requirements for nondiscrimination extend to the enrollment of students in programs and activities of the College and employment by the College.

Student inquiries concerning Section 504, Title II, Title VII, and Title IX and their application to the College or any student decision may be directed to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Dr. Melissa Batten, VP Student Affairs  
Title IX, Section 504, and Title II Coordinator  
Building 1100, Room 107A, Conway Campus  
PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066  
843-349-5228  
[Melissa.Batten@hgtc.edu](mailto:Melissa.Batten@hgtc.edu)

## **TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination.

HGTC prohibits the offenses of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and will provide students, faculty, and staff with necessary information regarding prevention, policies, procedures, and resources.

Any student, or other member of the college community, who believes that they have been a victim of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may file a report with the college's Title IX Coordinator or campus law enforcement\*.

\*Faculty and Staff are required to report these incidents to the Title IX Coordinator when involving students. The only HGTC employees exempt from mandatory reporting are licensed mental health professionals (only as part of their job description such as counseling services).

All inquiries regarding the federal laws as they relate to discrimination based on sex may be directed to Jen Riddei, Title IX Coordinator, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 1100C, Room 107B, 2050 HWY 501 E, PO Box 261966, 843-349-5218, [Jenifer.Riddei@hgtc.edu](mailto:Jenifer.Riddei@hgtc.edu).

# **CLINICAL ADMISSIONS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

## **BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) & IMMUNIZATIONS**

Per College policy, current training in BLS/AED is mandatory for faculty and students involved in direct provision of patient care. Upon admission into the dental programs, students receive email correspondence regarding clinical admission requirements, including immunizations.

Students are informed that they will not be permitted to begin the program and/or to have clinical patient contact until immunization documentation is complete. These policies are found on the College website and within the Dental Sciences Clinical Policies Manual.

- Failure to complete BLS/Immunizations in a timely manner will lead to the student being withdrawn from the program.

## **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK/DRUG SCREENING POLICIES**

Students who are offered acceptance into a Dental Sciences Program require successful completion of a Criminal Background Check (CBC), Urine Drug Screen (UDS), and/or submission of health and immunization histories prior to class registration and clinical/field placements. All questions and concerns about Clinical Admission requirements prior to and during the program of study must be directed to [HGTC-clinical@hgtc.edu](mailto:HGTC-clinical@hgtc.edu)

Students whose Criminal Background Checks and/or Urine Drug Screening disqualify them from placement will be declared ineligible for continued enrollment and removed from the programs. All costs related to Criminal Background Checks, Urine Drug Screening and compilation of health and immunization histories are solely the responsibility of the student.

Students must complete a Criminal Background Check yearly at their expense. *If a student has ANY criminal charges during their enrollment in the Dental Sciences Programs, they MUST disclose their charges to the Program Director. The student must contact the Program Director to disclose the criminal charges within 7 days of the offense. Failure to disclose any criminal charges within 7 days of the offense may lead to dismissal from the program, as criminal charges negatively reflect on the professionalism our program aims to uphold.*

All students must complete a drug screening at the start of each school year. However, if faculty or staff suspect a student may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during lecture, lab, or clinic, the Program Director has the right to mandate a drug urine-screening test within 12 hours of the suspected behavior. This test will be at the expense of the student if the student is found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If the student was falsely accused of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, based on the test results, the program will pay the expense of the test.

*Failure of a student to complete and submit documentation of required health and immunization records in a timely manner will prevent the student from having clinical patient contact and may result in the student being withdrawn from the program.*

**Title:** Criminal Background Check and Urine Drug Screening

Original Approval Date: May 2026

Revision Date: N/A

**I. Purpose**

To provide clear information and enforceable guidance regarding criminal background checks and urine drug screening requirements for students enrolled in health sciences programs, as required by clinical education affiliates and institutional policy.

**II. Policy Statement**

All students admitted to health science programs must complete and pass a criminal background check as a condition of enrollment and clinical placement. Students will be required to complete a urine drug screen prior to clinical courses. Clinical affiliates reserve the right to accept or deny student placement based on the results of the background check. A positive background check does not automatically disqualify a student from program continuation; however, clearance from clinical affiliates is required for placement eligibility.

Failure to obtain clinical clearance will impact completion of required clinical competencies. Therefore, students who cannot be placed into a clinical site are not eligible to enroll in/continue enrollment in their health science program because of the inability to meet essential curriculum requirements.

**III. Clinical Background Check Procedure****A. Initial Screening**

1. All students must complete a criminal background check through the college-approved vendor upon admission into the health science program and prior to clinical placement per deadlines sent by the Clinical Admissions Office. Students should not complete this step until instructed to do so by the Clinical Admissions Office.

2. Criminal background checks are automatically sent to the Clinical Admissions Office and reviewed upon receipt.

**B. Positive Background Check Process**

1. If a background check indicates any positive finding:

- The report is sent to the Dean and Chair of the Department along with the Student Rectification Form for completion.
- The Dean and Chair will clear the student for clinical/internship if there is only 1 minor traffic offense such as a parking ticket or speeding (not reckless driving).
- All other offenses will result in clinical affiliate review, see numbers 2-4 below.

2. The student is notified in writing that review is required before clinical placement eligibility can be determined.

3. The Clinical Admissions Office will:

- Require the student to submit any court related documentation about the charges, a letter of explanation, two-character references and a resume to the Clinical Admissions Office.
- Send the criminal background check report, plus all documentation mentioned above to the clinical affiliates for review.

4. Clinical affiliates will evaluate the offense(s) and determine whether the student may be accepted for clinical placement.

#### C. Determination & Notification

1. When clinical affiliate responses are received:

- The Clinical Admissions Office documents each affiliate response.
- A placement decision is made based on affiliate acceptance or denial.

2. If one or more clinical affiliates approve placement:

- The student may continue in the program and be scheduled for clinical rotations accordingly.

3. If no clinical affiliate is willing to accept the student:

- The student will be notified that they are unable to meet clinical requirements.
- The student is not eligible to enroll in/progress in the program because of the inability to meet essential curriculum requirements.

4. Students have the right to:

- Reapply to the program in the future if background charges are expunged.

### **IV. Urine Drug Screen Procedure**

#### A. Initial Screening

1. All students must complete a urine drug screen prior to clinical placement per deadlines sent by the Clinical Admissions Office. Students should not complete this step until instructed to do so by the Clinical Admissions Office.

2. Urine drug screens are automatically sent to the Clinical Admissions Office and reviewed upon receipt.

#### B. Urine Drug Screen Process

1. If a negative urine drug screening is returned by the vendor, the student will be considered to have satisfied the eligibility requirement for progression in the program and clinical placement.

2. If a urine drug screen indicates any positive finding:

- The report is sent to the Dean and Chair of the Department along with the Student Rectification Form for completion.
- The student will be required to meet with the Dean and the Chair to discuss the positive findings. The student's progression in the program and clinical placement may be negatively impacted based on the results.

3. Students have the right to:

- Reapply to the program in the future.

### **V. Confidentiality and Student Acknowledgement**

1. All criminal background information and urine drug screening is confidential and will only be shared with authorized personnel and/or clinical affiliates for placement decision purposes. Documentation is maintained in secure files per institutional record-keeping policies.

2. All students must sign a Criminal Background Check and Urine Drug Screen Acknowledgement Form upon program application confirming:

- Understanding of this policy
- Awareness that clinical affiliates make final placement decisions
- Recognition that inability to obtain placement will prevent program enrollment/progression due to the inability to meet essential curriculum requirements.

### Essential Functions for Dental Hygiene/Dental Assisting Practice

These essential functions/technical standards describe the tasks and functions necessary to demonstrate proficiency as a Dental Hygienist/Dental Assistant (RDH/EDDA).

| Functional Ability                                 | Standard                                                                                                                                                               | Examples of Required Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gross motor skills, fine motor skills and mobility | Gross and fine motor abilities are sufficient to provide safe and effective dental care. Ability to maneuver in small clinical spaces with precision and coordination. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move efficiently within operatory, sterilization, and radiology areas</li> <li>• Position self and patient appropriately for treatment</li> <li>• Maintain ergonomic posture while performing procedures</li> <li>• Use hand instruments, ultrasonic scalers, and dental equipment with precision</li> <li>• Transfer instruments without compromising sterility or safety</li> </ul> |
| Physical endurance and strength                    | Physical stamina sufficient to remain on task for extended clinical sessions involving standing, sitting, bending, and repetitive motions.                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain clinical performance for extended appointments (2–8+ hours)</li> <li>• Sit or stand for prolonged periods during procedures</li> <li>• Lift/move dental equipment and supplies (up to ~25–50 lbs.)</li> <li>• Perform repetitive hand and wrist movements (scaling, polishing, assisting)</li> </ul>                                                                         |
| Hearing                                            | Auditory ability is sufficient to monitor patient needs and clinical equipment.                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hear patient responses, distress, or discomfort</li> <li>• Recognize equipment sounds (suction, handpieces, alarms)</li> <li>• Respond to verbal instructions from dentists, instructors, and team members</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Visual                                             | Visual acuity sufficient for accurate assessment and treatment, including close detail and color differentiation.                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect calculus, biofilm, inflammation, and oral abnormalities</li> <li>• Read charts, radiographs, and instrument markings</li> <li>• Distinguish subtle color changes in tissues and materials</li> <li>• Interpret radiographic findings</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                |

|                       |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Smell                 | Ability to detect odors that may indicate clinical concerns. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize odors associated with infection or disease</li> <li>• Detect chemical or material changes (e.g., disinfectants, dental materials)</li> </ul> |
| Emotional/ Behavioral | Emotional stability and professional behavior                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain composure in stressful or emergency situations</li> </ul>                                                                                     |

|                                                                 |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                 | necessary for safe patient care and teamwork.                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate accountability for actions and clinical decisions</li> <li>• Adapt to diverse patient populations and needs</li> <li>• Apply critical thinking and problem-solving in clinical care</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                           |
| Professional attitudes, communication, and interpersonal skills | Effective communication and professional demeanor with patients, faculty, and healthcare team. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish rapport with patients and team members</li> <li>• Provide clear patient education and instructions</li> <li>• Communicate effectively and independently in written and verbal formats</li> <li>• Maintain professionalism, confidentiality, and ethical standards</li> <li>• Follow directions and adhere to clinical protocols</li> </ul> |
| Numerical Abilities                                             | Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and apply clinical information.                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record accurate charting and periodontal measurements</li> <li>• Calculate medication dosages and anesthetic amounts</li> <li>• Interpret patient health histories and vital signs</li> <li>• Apply knowledge to develop patient care plans</li> </ul>                                                                                               |
| Safety                                                          | Ability to adhere to infection control and safety standards.                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistently use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): gloves, masks, eyewear, gowns</li> <li>• Follow OSHA, CDC, and clinical safety protocols</li> <li>• Maintain aseptic technique</li> <li>• Safely handle sharps and hazardous materials</li> </ul>                                                                                              |

- I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Essential Functions for the Dental Hygiene/Dental Assisting Program provided by Horry-Georgetown Technical College
- I acknowledge that if I am unable to demonstrate any of the technical standards and essential functions, it is my responsibility to contact the Office of Disability Services immediately upon submission of program application at (843) 349-5249 and initiate the process for requesting reasonable accommodation, if needed. I understand that I must independently demonstrate competency in clinical settings.
- I acknowledge that demonstrating proficiency in these technical standards is essential to success in clinical/affiliate sites and that I must independently demonstrate proficiency in clinical/affiliate sites to complete my certificate, diploma, or degree.

## **References**

- Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Programs and Dental Hygiene Programs
- Dental Assisting National Board (DANB). Certification Competency Requirements
- American Dental Association (ADA). Dental Hygienist Career Overview
- American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA). Standards for Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice
- American Dental Education Association (ADEA). Roles of the Dental Hygienist
- American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA). Professional Roles and Code of Ethics

## **Acknowledgement of Review of Dental Sciences Program Manual**

By signing this form, I certify that I have read the Dental Sciences Program Manual, outlining required policies and procedures. I also certify that I understand the manual content and consequences in place for non-compliance with program policies.

---

Student Name (printed)

---

Student Name (Signature)

---

Date

## **Acknowledgement of Review of Dental Sciences Manual Revision**

By signing this form, I certify that I have read the Dental Sciences Program Revision(s) added to the current program manual. I also certify that I understand the manual content and consequences in place for non-compliance with program policies.

Policy Revision(s): \_\_\_\_\_

New Policy: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date