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## DENTAL HYGIENE – General Information

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Dental Hygiene is an Associate in Applied Science Degree program offered on the Grand Strand Campus of Horry-Georgetown Technical College. The program is five (5) semesters in length with classes and clinicals being held during the day and students are required to attend class year-round, including summer, once accepted into program.

A dental hygienist is the only other licensed professional in the dental office besides the dentist. 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. Additional education, such as a bachelors or master's 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.

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## DENTAL HYGIENE – College Admission Requirements

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To be admitted into the Dental Hygiene program a prospective student must complete the following College Admission requirements:

- Submit HGTC application.
- Pay the Admissions Application fee, if it applies.
- Submit official high school with graduation date or copy of GED.
- Submit official college transcripts of any other college(s) attended.
- Sign and Submit the Additional Admission/Placement Requirements Affidavit.

Please Note: Student should NOT complete the Background Check or Drug Screen process until after receiving notification of when to do so until being accepted into the program.

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## DENTAL HYGIENE – Program Admission Requirements

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Admission into the Dental Hygiene AAS program is based on weighted criteria. The 20 students with the highest number of points are accepted each year. The number of points needed for selection will vary each year. Acceptance depends on your points versus the points of the other applicants at the time therefore admissible points may change each review period. See the Associate Degree Dental Hygiene Program Admission Application for a complete breakdown of criteria and points.

To be considered for admissions into the Dental Hygiene Program a student must complete the following:

- Complete the five (5) prerequisite courses: ENG 101, MAT 101, BIO 210 (5-year time limit) & BIO 211 (5-year time limit) and CHM 105 or CHM 110 with a grade of C or higher and within the departmental required time limits **OR** Complete the five (5) prerequisite courses: ENG 101, MAT 101, BIO 210 (5-year time limit) & BIO 211 (5-year time limit), BIO 225 and CHM 105 or CHM 110 with a grade of C or higher and within the departmental required time limits as well as the remaining four (4) corequisite courses; PSY 201, SOC 101, SPC 205, and a Humanities.
- Complete Required TEAS Placement Test and minimum required scores achieved (see criteria below)
- Achieve a 2.75 GPA or higher on all prerequisite/core courses completed.
- Review the Dental Hygiene information in this guide and click the blue link on the last page to submit name and information.
- Complete 15 hours of clinical observation observing a practicing dental hygienist in a private dental office. Observation can occur in a general or specialty dental office. Forms must be completed by the supervising dentist and dental hygienist verifying observations. Forms must be sent to the Office of Admissions upon completion of observation hours.
- Submit completed program admission application to the Admissions Office on any campus by the application deadline of **May 15**.

Students have the following options for increasing their points for Program Admission:

- Apply for and obtain residency status.  
Go to <http://www.hgtc.edu/admissions/residency.html> for residency application. Obtain a South Carolina driver's license and car registration. Read application and instructions carefully.
- Apply with the best grades possible. Always check with financial aid before retaking any course.

## WEIGHTED VALUES FOR SELECTION PROCESS

OPTION A				OPTION B		
Completion of BIO 210, BIO 211, CHM 105, ENG 101, and MAT 101 with a minimum grade of "C" (BIO time limits apply) with a GPA of at least 2.75 and minimum TEAS score of 62.			<b>O R</b>	Completion of BIO 210, BIO 211, BIO 225, CHM 105, ENG 101, and MAT 101, and core courses PSY 101, SOC 101, SPC 205, and a Humanities with a minimum grade of "C" (BIO time limits apply) with a GPA of at least 2.75 and minimum TEAS score of 58.7		
Composite TEAS Score	Points Possible	Earned Points		Composite TEAS Score	Points Possible	Earned Points
95.1-100	18			95.1-100	18	
90.1-95.0	17			90.1-95.0	17	
85.1-90.0	16			85.1-90.0	16	
80.1-85.0	15			80.1-85.0	15	
75.1-80.0	14			75.1-80.0	14	
70.1-75.0	13			70.1-75.0	13	
65.5-70.0	12			65.5-70.0	12	
65.0-65.4	11			65.0-65.4	11	
62.0-64.9	10			62.0-64.9	10	
58.7-61.9	0			58.7-61.9	5	
Academic Performance on Prerequisite Courses: BIO 210, BIO 211, CHM 105, ENG 101, MAT 101	A=5 pts. B= 3 pts. C= 1pt. Max 25 pts.			Academic Performance on Prerequisite Courses: BIO 210, BIO 211, CHM 105, ENG 101, MAT 101	A=5 pts. B= 3 pts. C= 1pt. Max 25 pts.	
GPA for completion of 5 prereq courses from above	Points Possible	Earned Points		GPA for completion of 5 prereq courses and 4 coreq courses from above	Points Possible	Earned Points

3.88-4.00 GPA	20			3.88-4.00 GPA	20	
3.76-3.87 GPA	18			3.76-3.87 GPA	18	
3.63-3.75 GPA	16			3.63-3.75 GPA	16	
3.51-3.62 GPA	14			3.51-3.62 GPA	14	
3.38-3.5 GPA	12			3.38-3.5 GPA	12	
3.26-3.37 GPA	10			3.26-3.37 GPA	10	
3.13-3.25 GPA	8			3.13-3.25 GPA	8	
3.01-3.12 GPA	6			3.01-3.12 GPA	6	
2.88-3.00 GPA	4			2.88-3.00 GPA	4	
2.75-2.87 GPA	2			2.75-2.87 GPA	2	
Completed at least 8 credit hours of the required Dental hygiene prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or higher and GPA of 2.5 or better from HGTC or Coastal Carolina University (CCU)					2	
Graduate of HGTC's EDDA Program or currently enrolled in HGTC's EDDA program with a 2.50 or higher GPA					2	
Previous College Performance for highest degree:						
Master's Degree					2	
Bachelor's Degree					1	
Horry or Georgetown County Resident (as established by the College)					1	
Option A Total Points 70 possible points				Option B Total Points 70 possible points		

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## DENTAL HYGIENE – Requirements After Acceptance to Program

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Once the College has notified you have been accepted into the program the following items must be completed in a timely manner. Failure to complete these requirements within the designated time frame will prohibit your progression into the program. These are out of pocket expenses not covered by financial aid.

- Submit \$250.00 deposit to reserve your seat.
- Submit Certified Background Check and Drug Screening. Cost varies. The return of an unfavorable CBS and/or UDS may result in a student being removed from the desired program. Clinical sites/facilities determine applicant's eligibility to participate in clinical studies based on their policies.  
**NOTE:** If you complete the background check before being instructed to do so you will have to redo the process with an additional cost incurred.
- The cost of the Certified Background Check and Drug Screening is required for two semesters while in the program (Semester 1 and Semester 4).
- Complete a Health Physical and submit proof of required immunizations. Cost varies.
- Show proof of current Health Care Providers CPR.
- Supplies and fees: Students are responsible for items above and beyond tuition, such as uniforms, clinical supplies, etc. (To see a complete list of program costs on the program web page under Student Resources. These figures are approximations and additional expenses may be incurred.)

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## DENTAL HYGIENE – Licensure to Practice

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

### National Board Dental Hygiene Exam

- 350 question multiple-choice exam
- Covers all courses from general sciences (A&P and Micro)
- Fully computerized
- Given at the Pearson Professional Testing Centers located in Charleston, Columbia or Wilmington, NC
- Must pass with a 75% or higher
- Every dental hygiene student in the country takes this exam
- This exam will be taken during your last semester or right after graduation

### Clinical Regional or State Licensing Exam

- This exam is offered at HGTC through CDCA.
- Every candidate must secure a patient that meets the state requirements.
- The candidate will clean the patient's teeth and be graded by the dental examiners.
- Must make a 75% or higher to pass.

- The exam is usually scheduled the end of May each year.

After successfully passing the National Board and the Clinical Licensing exams, the graduate will then apply for Regional or State licensure.

- This license fee is currently \$150.
- A dental hygiene license also requires a valid social security number.

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."*

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## DENTAL HYGIENE – Healthcare Worker Risks

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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 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.)

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.

After you have read the above information and program requirements, you must click this [LINK](#) and enter your name, email address, student ID or birthdate and program in order to complete this admission's requirement.

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## PROGRAM CONTACT

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For questions contact Michelle Meeker at 843-839-1091 or michelle.meeker@hgtc.edu.

Horry-Georgetown Technical College reserves the right to change program admission requirements at any time. You will be required to adhere to any changes made at the time you submit your application