

# DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM INFORMATION



# WHAT CAN I DO AS A DENTAL HYGIENIST?

The dental hygienist is a licensed primary health care professional, oral health educator and clinician who, as co-therapist with the dentist, provides preventive, educational and therapeutic services supporting total health for the control of oral diseases and the promotion of oral health. Dental hygiene positions are available in general and specialty dental practices, community health centers, and hospitals, as well as federal programs, the armed services and dental product promotion.

The curriculum, which includes both general education and professional dental hygiene courses, is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. Graduates are eligible to sit for the Dental Hygiene National Board Exam and individual clinical board examinations for licensure.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average annual salary for Dental Hygienist in the U.S. is \$71,100 as of 2022 (this varies greatly depending on the state and setting)

# GENERAL PROGRAM FACTS

- The Dental Hygiene Program admits 30 students each Fall Semester
- Most Lecture, Labs, and clinics are face to face on the Thornley campus with some off-campus rotation sites.
- There are a couple of online and hybrid dental hygiene courses during the program.
- Face to Face Lecture courses are taught during daytime hours. The clinics are during the day with one or two starting at 3:00pm and ending at 7:00pm
- Prepares student for taking the Dental Hygiene National Board, Clinical Board, and individual state board examinations for licensure
- Dental Hygiene is a licensed Health Care Profession
- Student are required to be a member of the South Carolina Student Dental Hygiene Association and the American Dental Hygiene Association. During the program, ten (10) community service hours are required to maintain active status

# WHAT DOES A POTENTIAL STUDENT NEED TO KNOW?

## (PART 1 OF 5)

- Applicants will be admitted to this program on a first-qualified, first-admitted basis. Applicants are considered to be qualified for admission to the next available class when they meet all college and program requirements. Classes in the program begin Fall Semester.
- Managing work, school and personal life can be challenging due to program demands. There are course assignments that are completed outside of class time such as projects and activities.
- Excellent critical thinking skills are necessary to be successful in the program.
- Students enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Program will follow a 5-semester curriculum with general education and program courses being taught at the Thornley Campus.
- Must achieve a minimum 2.5 GPA in the four required science courses at the time of admission and date of entry into the program.
- The four science courses must have been completed within 5 years of the admission date.
- All courses must be a “C” or better with a cumulative GPA 2.5 in order to be successful in the program
- Estimated total cost of program is \$21,400.00

# WHAT DOES A POTENTIAL STUDENT NEED TO KNOW?

## (PART 2 OF 5)

- Student may be exposed to blood and body fluids as well as communicable diseases. Upon admission into the Dental Hygiene Program, all students are required to abide by the Center of Disease Control's (CDC) Standard Precautions in order to decrease disease transmission of disease.
- Standard Precautions is treating all body substances; body fluid and blood of all clients as potentially infectious. Practicing Standard Precautions will ensure protections against COVID-19, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), the cause of AIDS, HBV (Hepatitis B Virus), the primary cause of viral hepatitis, and all other blood borne infectious agents. Strict adherence to these guidelines will be required of all students. Due to the environment in a health care setting, it is suggested the student receives the COVID-19 vaccination.

### **Health Information**

- COVID-19 vaccines as well as other vaccines/immunizations/titers may be required for some health sciences programs in order to attend clinicals. Should immunizations and titers be required by the Health Sciences program and the student refuses to obtain the vaccines/immunizations/titers, this may impact the student's ability to be assigned to certain clinical rotations, which may in turn impact the student's ability to continue in the program.

# WHAT DOES A POTENTIAL STUDENT NEED TO KNOW? (PART 3 OF 5)

- A criminal background check and drug screening is required for all Dental Hygiene students. This process is completed after orientation and before classes begin. Results of the background check and/or drug screen, could affect a student's ability to complete clinical rotation, and/or their ability to become licensed.
- Student must have:
  - Proof of Major Medical Insurance
  - CPR- Adult/Child Health Care Provider/AED
  - Immunizations/titers (HBV, Varicella, TB Test, Immunization Record/Titer Results)
  - Flu Vaccine
  - Dental Exam Record
  - Health Examination
- Students are required to pay a uniform fee for scrubs. Scrubs are kept at the college and laundered by students.

# WHAT DOES A POTENTIAL STUDENT NEED TO KNOW?

## (PART 4 OF 5)

- Reliable transportation is required to and from clinical rotation sites and campus classes. Lack of transportation will not be justifiable reason for missing class or clinic.
- During the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> semesters, students will be going to clinical rotations to include, but not limited to: the Charleston Air Force Base, East Cooper Community Outreach, Medical University of South Carolina, and Our Lady of Mercy on Johns Island. Students will be responsible for transportation to any clinical sites.
- Students are required to attend professional meetings and must have transportation to and from the meetings.
- Once student has received their acceptance letter, they must attend the mandatory orientation that is scheduled in July.

# WHAT DOES A POTENTIAL STUDENT NEED TO KNOW? (PART 5 OF 5)

## Dental Hygiene Program Goals:

- **Goal 1: Critical Thinking-** Dental Hygiene graduates will be able to provide the dental hygiene process of care (assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation, documentation) by utilizing critical thinking, problem solving, and evidence-based decision making for all patients.
- **Goal 2: Quality and Safety:** Dental Hygiene graduates will adhere to state and federal laws, recommendations, and regulations in providing quality dental hygiene care using safe and effective dental hygiene practice.
- **Goal 3: Communication-** Dental Hygiene graduates will be able to communicate effectively with and deliver culturally competent, inter-professional dental care to individuals and groups from diverse populations.
- **Goal 4: Professionalism-** Dental Hygiene graduates will be able to apply ethical, legal and regulatory concepts in all endeavors.
- **Goal 5: Life-Long Learning-** Dental Hygiene graduates will continually perform self-assessment to maintain professional standards and encourage life-long learning.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION A POTENTIAL STUDENT NEEDS TO KNOW

- During each semester there are additional costs that financial aid may not pay. The student will be responsible for any cost that financial aid does not cover.
- A due date is set during each semester when fees are due. Students are required to meet the due dates to be eligible to continue in the program. Due dates and the amount owed are given to students well in advance so the students are prepared to pay if financial aid does not cover the cost.
- Fall- 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Additional Cost:
  - Instrument Kit- estimated cost \$625.00
  - Clinic Supplies- estimated cost \$320.00
  - Uniform/shoes- estimated cost \$175.00
  - Professional Organization Due- cost \$85.00
  - Medical Physical/Immunizations- estimated cost \$300.00
  - CPR Certification- estimated cost \$65.00
  - Background Check and Drug Testing- estimated cost \$138.00
  - Textbooks \$750

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION A POTENTIAL STUDENT NEEDS TO KNOW

- Spring- 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Additional Cost
  - Instrument Kit- estimated cost \$665.00
  - Clinic Supplies Kit- estimated cost \$175.00
  - Film Badge Fee- estimated cost **\$100.00**
  - Loupes (eyewear) –estimated cost \$1500.00
  - Student Meeting Fee- estimated cost- \$150.00
  - Online Grading system - \$35
  - Textbooks \$250
  
- Summer- 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester Additional Cost
  - Lab Fees- \$25.00
  - Textbooks \$150
  
- Fall- 4<sup>th</sup> Semester Additional Cost
  - Professional Organization Fees- \$80.00
  - State Symposium (mandatory meeting)- \$150.00
  - National Board Review (mandatory)- estimated cost \$400.00
  - National Board Review Travel Expenses- estimated cost \$400.00
  - Laser Certification estimated cost \$275
  - Textbooks \$200

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION A POTENTIAL STUDENT NEEDS TO KNOW

- Spring- 5<sup>th</sup> Semester Additional Cost
  - Student meeting- \$150.00
  - National Board Application- \$550.00
  - Clinical Licensure Exam- estimated cost \$1200.00
  - State Board Application Fee- \$150.00
  - Board Related Expenses- estimated cost \$175.00
  - Dental Hygiene Pin- estimated cost \$100.00
  - Textbooks \$75

# GENERAL ADMISSION PROCEDURES FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

- Prior to first day of class, students will need to provide the dental hygiene program director with a completed, current Health Sciences-Student Health Record.
- Applicants who meet college and program requirements will be considered qualified and will be admitted on a first-qualified, first-admitted basis. Qualified applicants will be sent a letter indicating the year and semester that they have been admitted. If an opening occurs in an earlier semester, students who are not enrolled in another Health Sciences program may be offered the opportunity to move to an earlier acceptance date.

# ATTENDANCE/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

- Attendance and Promptness is extremely important; it is a goal of this program to prepare the student for the responsibilities of the profession. Therefore, there is an attendance policy for the Dental Hygiene Program that is strictly adhered to.
- Students will be expected to exhibit professional behavior at all times. A handbook for the Dental Hygiene Program will be given to the students on the first day of class. It is the students responsibility to read and be aware of what is expected of them during the program.
- Professional development and clinical evaluations will be used to assess your progress. These evaluations are directly tied to success in the Dental Hygiene courses.

# WHAT NEXT STEPS DO I NEED TO TAKE TO BE ADMITTED TO THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM?

- Applicants will be admitted to this program on a first-qualified, first-admitted basis. Applicants are considered to be qualified for admission to the next available class when they meet all college and program requirements.
- Program Admission Requirements:
  - A. Applicants should ensure that documentation of each of the following admission requirements is on file in the Admissions office as soon as it is completed.
  - B. Achieve qualifying scores on the college's placement test, SAT or ACT. Contact an academic advisor and complete all courses indicated by placement test scores
  - C. Complete a Health Science application for the program

NOTE: When the number of applicants qualifying at the same time exceeds the number of spaces available in the program, admission will be prioritized according to the date and time that the Health Sciences application was received in the Admissions office.

# WHAT NEXT STEPS DO I NEED TO TAKE TO BE ADMITTED TO THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM?

D. Submit proof of a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of observation of a licensed dental hygienist working in a dental practice. The applicant is responsible for arranging the observation time.

E. Achieve a minimum 2.5 GPA in the four required prerequisite science courses (BIO 210, BIO 211, BIO 225, CHM 105). In addition, students must not be on academic or disciplinary suspension at the time of admission and date of entry into the program. The four science courses must have been completed within 5 years of the admission date.

F. Other required general education courses that may be completed prior to admission to the Dental Hygiene program or may be completed concurrently with the Dental Hygiene curriculum: PSY 201, SOC 101, ELE HUM, MAT 120 or MAT 110, SPC 205 or SPC 209, ENG 101

**G. Successfully complete the on-line information quiz with a score of 100.**

H. Submit statement of completion form to admissions via Etrieve when finished with all requirements.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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