



SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

This is a limited access program that admits 12 students in the fall of each year. Application packets will be available the 2nd week in January and the deadline to return completed applications will be the 2nd Friday in April.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Dental Hygiene Program is a limited enrollment program. Completion of all the required academic pre-requisite courses does *not* guarantee acceptance into the program.

In addition to the admission requirements of the College, the following are requirements for admission into the Dental Hygiene Program:

1. Satisfactory completion of any remedial course work needed to be eligible for college level courses.
2. Satisfactory completion of 6 pre-dental hygiene courses with a "C" or better prior to applying to the Dental Hygiene Program, but with an overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 or better. Laboratory science courses must be completed within five years prior to application.

The Pre-Dental Hygiene courses are:

- a. BSC 1085C – Human Anatomy and Physiology I
 - b. BSC 1086C – Human Anatomy and Physiology II
 - c. CHM 1020C – Introduction to General Chemistry
 - d. MCB 2010C – Microbiology
 - e. ENC 1101 – Freshman English I
 - f. MAC 1105 – College Algebra
3. Minimum of 40 completed hours of observation, volunteer service, or work experience as verified by a dentist or dental hygienist.
 4. A completed application for the Dental Hygiene Program (*A separate application is required for admission to the College. Please contact the Counseling Department.*)
 5. Proof of competency in basic computer skills.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Entrance to the program is competitive. The higher the grade point average, the better the chance of being selected for the program.

The following are specific criteria that will be used when selecting students for the Dental Hygiene Program. These criteria are as follows:

1. Applicants who have completed the 6 pre-dental hygiene courses with a grade "C" or better in each course, and who have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher.
2. Applicants who have been residents of Highlands, DeSoto, Hardee, or Polk County for one year immediately prior to the time of application. Documentation is required.
3. Verification from a licensed dentist or dental hygienist, substantiating completion of at least 40 hours of observation, volunteer service, or work experience.
4. In cases where all credentials are equal, a point system will determine the applicant's place. (*Please refer to the school catalog for specific point system information.*)

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Applicants meeting the minimum application requirements will be considered for admission into the program on a *first-come, first-served basis*.
2. In the event there are two or more applicants with an identical number of points, the following criteria will be used, in the given sequence, as a tiebreaker:
 - a. The candidate having a higher cumulative GPA for the six prerequisite courses.
 - b. If GPAs are identical, then the candidate completing any of the additional 12 hours of general education courses (SPC 2600 Oral Communications, PSY 2012 General Psychology, SYG 2000 General Sociology, and a 3-credit Humanities elective) will be considered.
 - c. If the same number of general education courses have been completed, then the candidate who has a higher cumulative GPA for the completed general education courses will be considered.
 - d. If the GPAs of completed general education courses are identical, then the candidate with more experience in a dental office or clinic will be considered.
 - e. If the experience in a dental office or clinic is identical, then the date of receiving the completed dental hygiene application will be used.
3. It is anticipated that notification of acceptance into, or rejection from the Fall semester class will occur in May.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Applicants are responsible for following the admissions procedures and for ensuring that their records are complete in the admissions office.

No application will be considered unless it is complete.

1. The following should be submitted to the College Admissions Office (Building B) prior to applying to the Dental Hygiene Program:
 - a. Completed College Application.
 - b. OFFICIAL high school or GED transcript.
 - c. OFFICIAL transcript from EACH college attended for credit courses.
2. The following should be submitted to the College Admissions Office (Building B) when applying to the Dental Hygiene Program:
 - a. Completed Dental Hygiene Program application by April 10, 2009.
 - b. Verification of at least 40 hours of observation, volunteer service, or work experience.
3. All applicants will be notified of their status by mail *after* ALL eligible applications have been reviewed.

UPON NOTIFICATION OF ADMISSION, STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN TO THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICE

1. Student Response Form
2. A statement of satisfactory physical health and a record of immunizations showing that student has received an MMR and Tb vaccinations or a Tb booster, and at least 1 dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine from a licensed physician or nurse practitioner, and a statement of satisfactory dental health from a licensed dentist. (*Form to be provided upon notification of admission*).
3. A Florida Department of Law Enforcement background check will be scheduled one week before classes begin.

NOTE: Failure to complete these requirements will result in loss of eligibility for admission to the Dental Hygiene Program.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. South Florida Community College reserves the right to deny admission to, any applicant who demonstrates the lack of required qualifications for the Dental Hygiene Program.
2. Applicants must reapply if they wish to be considered for a subsequent class. Each class is selected from the new applicant pool.
3. South Florida Community College provides equal access to education programs to all, regardless of gender, race, religion, age, national origin, marital status, or disability.
4. The College adheres to federal and state laws controlling equal access/equal opportunity.
- 5. Smoking is not permitted inside the Dental Education Center building.**
6. All applicants should understand that completion of all, or part, of the pre-dental hygiene courses **does not guarantee acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program.**
7. Students are expected to be punctual in attending every lecture, laboratory, clinical session, and off campus rotation.
8. Students with excessive absences will be dropped from the Dental Hygiene Program. Excessive absences are defined as being absent from 10% or more scheduled class contact hours with an average less than 75%, or being absent from 15% or more scheduled class contact hours regardless of the grade.

If applicants have life or health conditions that might hinder attendance, they may wish to consider another program or delay application until a strong commitment to attendance can be made.

9. **Criminal Background Check** - While a criminal history may not prevent entry into the Dental Hygiene Program, an official criminal history background check will be required of each student.

Some of the major providers of clinical experiences for students do not allow students with certain types of criminal history to participate in their facility. This fact may be cause for denial of entry into the Dental Hygiene Program because the student cannot successfully complete the community dental health portion of the Dental Hygiene Program.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

(For Admission, Progression, and Graduation in the Dental Hygiene Program)

Successful participation and completion of the Dental Hygiene Program requires that a candidate be able to meet the demands of the program. Dental hygiene students must be able to perform academically in a safe, reliable and efficient manner in classrooms, laboratory, and clinical situations. The student must demonstrate behaviors, skills, and abilities to be in compliance with legal and ethical standards, as set forth by the American Dental Hygienist' Association Code of Ethics and the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Throughout the program, students acquire the foundation of knowledge, attitude, skills and behaviors that are necessary to function as a dental hygienist. Those abilities that the dental hygienist must possess to practice safely are reflected in the standards that follow. Candidates for the degree must be able to meet these minimum standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, for successful completion of degree requirements.

CRITICAL THINKING

Demonstrates critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment and problem solving.

EXAMPLES:

- Applies critical thinking process to their work in the classroom and various clinical settings.
- Exercises sound judgment in class, laboratory, and clinic situations.
- Follows safety procedures established for each class, laboratory, and clinic.
- Demonstrates ability to self-evaluate.
- Demonstrates ability to identify problems and offer possible solutions.

INTERPERSONAL

Demonstrates the ability to relate to other people beyond giving and receiving instructions. Cooperates with others.

EXAMPLES:

- Demonstrates interest in classmates, staff, patients, and faculty.
- Demonstrates ability to cooperate with others and works as a team member.
- Demonstrates ability to maintain poise and flexibility in stressful or changing conditions.

- Demonstrates ability to establish rapport and working relationship with colleagues and patients.
- Recognizes and responds appropriately to individuals of all ages, genders, races, socioeconomic, religious, sexual preferences, and cultural backgrounds.

COMMUNICATION

Demonstrates the ability to communicate clearly with patients/clients, physicians, other health professionals, family members, significant others, caregivers, community or professional groups, and colleagues. Communication includes: speech, language, nonverbal, reading, writing and computer literacy.

EXAMPLES:

- Reports clearly and legibly through progress notes in patient's charts.
- Participates in group discussions to deliver and receive information and responds to questions from a variety of sources.
- Explains treatment, preventive procedures, and disease process to patient and/or caregiver.
- Communicates with patient and faculty regarding patient care and referrals.

MOTOR SKILLS

Demonstrates the ability to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general and emergency care, and treatment to patients/clients.

EXAMPLES:

- Moves around in classroom, laboratory, and clinical operatory.
- Moves to and from sterilization, reception room, business office, x-ray rooms, and clinical operatories.
- Provides for patient safety and well-being in positioning of the dental chair, the dental light, and the x-ray equipment.
- Exhibits sufficient manual dexterity to manipulate small and large equipment.
- Performs dental hygiene instrumentation with hand and ultrasonic instruments.
- Performs expanded duties.
- Performs CPR.

HEARING

Demonstrates functional use of hearing to monitor and assess health needs.

EXAMPLES:

- Demonstrates ability to obtain appropriate information from instructors and classmates in laboratory settings and examinations.

- Demonstrates ability to ascertain a patient experiencing a medical emergency.
- Demonstrates ability to obtain appropriate medical history and data collection directly from the patient or guardian.

VISUAL

Demonstrates visual acuity and perception sufficient for observation and assessment.

EXAMPLES:

- Demonstrates ability to observe lectures and laboratory demonstrations.
- Receives information from observation, assessment, and evaluation of oral tissues in regards to normal and abnormal conditions.
- Observes patient's response to care and assesses and evaluates level of oral hygiene.

TACTILE

Demonstrates tactile abilities sufficient to gather assessment information and provide intervention.

EXAMPLES:

- Demonstrates ability to detect calculus and evaluate debridement.
- Demonstrate ability to palpate soft tissue and detect patient's pulse.

SELF CARE

Maintains general good health and self care in order not to jeopardize the health and of self and individuals with whom one interacts in the academic and clinical setting.

EXAMPLES:

- Maintains personal hygiene.
- Demonstrates safety habits and work area neatness.
- Maintains a healthy lifestyle.

INTELLECTUAL ABILITIES

Demonstrates ability to read, write, speak, and understand English at a level consistent with successful course completion and development of a positive patient-student relationship.

EXAMPLES:

- Demonstrates ability to comprehend and follow verbal and written instruction.
- Demonstrates ability to perform simple and repetitive tasks.
- Can learn to reconcile conflicting information.

- Written communication: Demonstrates ability to use proper punctuation, grammar, and spelling; work is neat and legible.

COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

Demonstrate a positive attitude towards decision-making, policies, and operating methods, rules, etc.

EXAMPLES:

- Complete reading assignments and other activities outside of class.
- Demonstrates initiative, motivation and enthusiasm.
- Demonstrates ability to complete all work without evidence of cheating or plagiarism.
- Attends all assigned classes, laboratories, and clinics.
- Is consistently punctual to all classes, laboratories, and clinical assignments.

AFFECTIVE LEARNING SKILLS (behavioral & social attitudes)

Demonstrate appropriate affective behaviors and mental attitudes in order not to jeopardize the mental, emotional, physical, and behavioral safety of clients and other individuals with whom one interacts in the academic and clinical setting.

Acknowledges and respects individual values and opinions in order to foster harmonious working relationships with colleagues, peers, and patients/clients.

EXAMPLES:

- Demonstrates ability to sustain the mental and emotional rigors of a demanding educational program, which includes academic and clinical components that are presented within set-time constraints.
- Demonstrates willingness to accept challenges.
- Open to feedback.
- Listens actively.
- Follows guidelines and rules of the Program and the College.

If a student cannot demonstrate the skills and abilities identified above, it is the responsibility of the student to request an appropriate accommodation. The College will provide reasonable accommodation as long as it does not fundamentally alter the nature of the program offered, and does not impose any undue hardship such as those that cause a significant expense, difficulty, or are unduly disruptive to the educational process.

**VERIFICATION OF TIME SPENT OBSERVING OR WORKING
IN A DENTAL OFFICE OR CLINIC**
(This sheet may be copied, but *must* be returned with the application)

APPLICANT

	LAST NAME		FIRST NAME
MI			

I verify that the above named applicant has

- Observed** _____ **Years** _____ **Months** _____ **Days**
- Been Employed** _____ **Years** _____ **Months** _____ **Days**

(A minimum of 40 hours is required)

NAME OF DENTIST, DENTAL PRACTICE OR CLINIC

PRINT NAME OF VERIFYING DENTIST

SIGNATURE OF VERIFYING DENTIST

LICENSE NUMBER

STREET ADDRESS OF DENTIST OR DENTAL PRACTICE OR CLINIC

CITY

COUNTY (STATE IF *NOT* IN FLORIDA)

ZIP

Complete and return the application, health questionnaire, and verification of dental experience to

**South Florida Community College
Department of Dental Education
600 West College Drive, Avon Park, FL 33825**

Questions? 863-784-7290