Career Opportunities

Most registered Dental Hygienists work as integral members of the dental team in private dental offices, but many provide preventive and educational services in hospitals, military installations and schools. Graduates of the Dental Hygiene Program must complete the written National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and a clinical examination conducted by a state or regional board to become licensed to practice.

Program Description

The Dental Hygiene Program at the College of Southern Nevada is located at the Charleston Campus in the Health Sciences Center (HSC), at the intersection of Torrey Pines and West Charleston. The HSC features a contemporary dental hygiene clinic equipped with the latest in radiology facilities, dental units, computer patient tracking, hands-off washing stations, and disinfection and sterilization capabilities. Classrooms offer state-of-the-art visual equipment and laboratory facilities. Faculty members are highly qualified dental and dental hygiene professionals with diverse backgrounds rich in clinical and academic experience.

Essential observational, movement, communication and behavioral requirements for Dental Hygienists.

The Dental Hygiene student must be able to:

- Employ dental magnification loupes to discriminate among fine structural and color (i.e., red versus pink) differences in intraoral tissues, including oral pathologies (i.e., blue versus black, brown, or red).
- Move freely and safely within a dental operatory and laboratory setting.
- Reach laboratory benches and shelves.
- Travel to various clinical sites for observations and clinical experiences.
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work often requiring prolonged sitting over several hours.
- Maneuver portable dental, radiology, and nitrous oxide equipment to safely utilize equipment when working on patients.
- Control precision dental, and dental hygiene instruments, to safely remove calcified deposits from teeth, or add therapeutic antimicrobials to oral tissues.
- Use a computer keyboard to calculate, record, and transmit clinical information.
- Read and comprehend technical and professional materials.
- Follow verbal and written instructions in order to correctly and independently perform clinical procedures on patients.
- Effectively, confidentially, and sensitively converse with patients regarding medical and oral conditions.
- Communicate with faculty members, fellow students, staff, and other healthcare professionals verbally and in written and typed format.
- Independently prepare papers, clinical notes, and take written, computer, and clinical practical examinations.
- Be able to manage the use of time and be able to systemize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constraints.
- Possess the emotional health necessary to effectively employ critical thinking and problem solving skills and exercise appropriate judgment.
- Be able to provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of task-related uncertainty.
- Be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical changes.
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to patients, self, and nearby individuals.

Note: Specialized dental stools have a maximum weight capacity of 300 lbs. Candidates who exceed this capacity will be responsible for providing their own dental stool that meets the standards for clinical performance.

Program Goals

The Dental Hygiene Program positively impacts the delivery of dental hygiene services by fulfilling the following goals:

- Maintain an educational program that meets current dental hygiene practice and education standards with an adequate number of graduates to respond to the state’s manpower needs.
- Provide comprehensive evidence-based dental hygiene process of care for diverse clients of all ages while recognizing the client as an individual with particular needs.
- Seek collaborative partnerships within the community to provide enrichment and clinical experiences for all level of learners.
- Foster learners with critical thinking skills and research methodology to promote life-long learning.

Accepted Students

Students accepted into the program will be required to show proof of CPR certification, health insurance, immunization against Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, and proof of a negative TB skin test prior to the first scheduled practicum/clinical experience. A physical examination must also be completed. Students may also be required to submit to an official background check. Medical insurance may be purchased through CSN Student Government.

Approximate Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Cost Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition:</td>
<td>$61,699.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Fee</td>
<td>$9.00 - $6.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books:</td>
<td>$180.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Fees:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniforms/Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPR Certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental Exam</td>
<td>$50.00 - $125.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunizations</td>
<td>$0.00 - $800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Document Manager/Drug Screen/Certified</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Background Check</td>
<td>$20.00 - $100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Certification &amp; Examinations</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Licensure:</td>
<td>$1900.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada Licensing Application</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Licensing Fees</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Admission Spatial/Dexterity Testing Fee</td>
<td>$25.00 - $55.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEAS Testing Fee</td>
<td>$80.00 - $100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-resident Fee</td>
<td>$3,595.00 per semester</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Tuition:

61 credits x $102.75 per credit hr (Lower Division) + 62 credits x $168.25 per credit hr (Upper Division) = $16,699.25

Medical Document Manager/Drug Screen/Certified Background Check:

$80.00 - $100.00 per credit hour.

Note: Applies only if you are presently uninsured.

College Application Fee:

$20.00 per credit hour.

One time, non-refundable fee charged to new students only.

Limited Entry Application Fee:

$50.00 per credit hour.

SADHA Professional Association Fee:

$300.00 per credit hour.

Typhon Student Tracking Program:

$95.00 per credit hour.

National Certification & Examinations:

$1,900.00 per credit hour.

Licensure:

$400.00 - $500.00 per credit hour.

Regional Examination:

$95.00 per credit hour.

Nevada Licensing Application:

$650.00 per credit hour.

Licensing Fees:

$500.00 per credit hour.

Pre-Admission Spatial/Dexterity Testing Fee:

$25.00 - $55.00 per credit hour.

TEAS Testing Fee:

$80.00 - $100.00 per credit hour.

Non-resident Fee:

$3,595.00 per semester

Tuition:

61 credits x $102.75 per credit hr (Lower Division) + 62 credits x $168.25 per credit hr (Upper Division) = $16,699.25

Medical Document Manager/Drug Screen/Certified Background Check:

$140.00 per credit hour.

Royal State Certified Background Check:

$140.00 per credit hour.

Medical Document Manager/Drug Screen/Certified Background Check:

$140.00 per credit hour.

This is in addition to the tuition and technology fee and is assessed to nonresident students enrolling in 7 or more credit hours.

The College of Southern Nevada’s Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and was granted the status of "approval without reporting".