
Dental Hygiene Program

The Dental Hygiene program is a cooperative degree program offered by Wiregrass Georgia Technical College and Valdosta State University. Students earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree from Valdosta State University. The program consists of a combination of academic core courses at VSU and clinical training provided at WGTC. Clinical Training begins annually fall semester. Because of the depth and scope of training, the program utilizes a competitive admission process for selection of students. The top 14 candidates are admitted to the program.

The Dental Hygiene program is a sequence of courses that prepares students for positions in the dental profession. Learning opportunities develop academic, technical, and professional knowledge and skills required for job acquisition, retention, and advancement. Registered dental hygienists work in a variety of professional settings. The public is most familiar with dental hygienists in the private dental office, where they perform numerous critical services designed to detect and prevent diseases of the mouth. These include oral prophylaxis; examining the head, neck, and oral areas for signs of disease; educating patients about oral hygiene; taking or developing radiographs; and applying fluoride or sealants. In this setting, registered dental hygienists play a vital role in protecting the oral health of the American public.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Wiregrass Dental Programs have developed the following philosophy for dental education:

The Wiregrass Georgia Technical College dental programs are committed to providing a comprehensive education and lifelong support to a diverse population of learners in a patient-centered, student-friendly learning environment that fosters both a team and self-directed approach to learning, critical thinking, self-assessment and community service.

Our philosophy is to empower our students in attaining their full potential as informed, ethical and competent oral health professionals with a career commitment to learning and service to enhance the health and well-being to their community.

GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- I. Provide current curriculum, adequate qualified faculty, instructional materials, and equipment which teach knowledge, skills, and attitudes appropriate to the dental professional performance on the job.
- II. Provide educational facilities which foster learning and provide safe, healthy environment available and accessible to all students who can benefit from the program.
- III. Provide academic instruction which supports effective learning within the program and which enhances professional performance on the job.
- IV. Provide employability skills which foster work attitudes and work habits that will enable graduates the program to perform as good employees.
- V. Nurture the desire for learning so that graduates will pursue their own continuing education as a lifelong endeavor.
- VI. Provide an educational atmosphere which promotes a positive self-image and a sense of personal well-being.
- VII. Provide education that fosters development of good safety habits
- VIII. Provide admissions, educational, and placement services without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, handicapping condition, academic disadvantage, or economic disadvantage.
- IX. Provide information to the public regarding the program that will facilitate recruitment, enrollment and graduation of students.
- X. Promote good public relations via contacts and regular communications with business, industry, and the public sector.
- XI. Promote faculty and student rapport

CODA ACCREDITATION AND COMPLAINTS POLICIES

The program in Dental Hygiene Education is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of “approval without reporting requirements”. The program is scheduled for a site visit and reaccreditation August 25, 2020.

The Commission is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dental and dental-related education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for treatment received by patients or individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff or students. CODA has provided the following Policies for Complaints and Third Party Comments. Please visit the following links for detailed information related to procedures for “Complaints” and “Third Party Comments”.

Contact Information for CODA is:

**Commission on Dental Accreditation
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 6061
312/440-4653**

Formal Complaint Process

Policy on Third Party Comments

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS DATA

The dental hygiene program measures program effectiveness by collecting the following data related to enrollment, exam pass rates, and program completion/graduation rates.

Dental Hygiene Graduates are eligible for licensure as a registered Dental Hygienist after successfully completing the CRDTS (Clinical) and NBDHE (Written) Exams.

FY Enroll	Grad FY	# Enroll	# Grad	% Grads
2013	2014	14	11	79
2014	2015	14	14	100
2015	2016	13	12	92
2016	2017	12	9	75
2017	2018	14	12	86

# Sit for NBDHE	# 1st time Pass NBDHE	% 1st time pass NBDHE	Overall Pass NBDHE after retest	% Pass NBDHE after retest
11	11	100	11	100
14	12	86	14	100
12	10	83	12	100
9	7	78	7	78
11	10	92	12	100

# SIT for CRDTS	# 1st time Pass CRDTS	% 1st Time Pass CRDTS	Total # Passed CRDTS after retest	% Overall Pass CRDTS After retest
11	10	64	10	91
14	10	71	14	100
12	10	83	12	100
9	8	89	8	89
11	10	91	11	100