Dental Hygiene

APPLICATION PACKET & ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Students interested in the DH program are encouraged to call their admissions representative with any questions regarding their application prior to its submission.

This packet is updated annually and students are asked to request the most recent update and Catalog.
DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION
Registered dental hygienists are licensed professional oral clinicians and educators, who provide dental health education, prevent and treat oral disease, promote and encourage the preventive aspects of dental care, and assume responsibility for patient care in the dental office. They provide a variety of services to the patient including comprehensive examination of the oral cavity, radiographs, prophylaxis, non-surgical periodontal therapy, fluoride treatments, patient education, and preventive services to the patient.

In order to become licensed to practice, dental hygienists are required to pass written and clinical board examinations. Dental hygienists are integral members of the dental team who aid their patients in achieving optimum oral health. In addition to working in private dental practices, dental hygienists may also work as educators, administrators, researchers, dental product representatives, or consultants.

The Concorde dental hygiene program is a 90-week course of study consisting of nine, 10-week terms. Classes are held Monday through Friday, and occasionally on Saturdays. Depending on the term, course hours may run from 7am-9pm. Graduating students will receive an Associate of Science degree.

PROGRAM MISSION
The mission of the Concorde Dental Hygiene program is to provide a supportive learning environment where the student may acquire the theoretical knowledge, technical skills and professional attributes necessary to qualify for licensure and entry level employment as a registered dental hygienist. In addition, the program strives to instill in the student the importance of personal growth, professional commitment, community involvement, and continued research.

PROGRAM GOALS
• Our students will serve their community ethically and competently as registered dental hygienists.
• Our students will understand that treating those in our community involves respecting the individual regardless of race, color, national origin, socio-economic level and medical and/or dental condition.
• Our students will understand the importance of research and will involve themselves accordingly.
• Our students will seek involvement in community projects.
• Our students will have a well-developed appreciation for the importance of personal growth and professional commitment.
CURRICULUM CONTENT
The dental hygiene program curriculum consists of 105.50 credit hours and 2,275 clock hours which are distributed over nine, ten-week terms. Some general education courses are available online only. A course list is included below. Course descriptions are available in the campus catalog. Course transferability to institutions that have articulation agreements with Concorde is based on the acceptance criteria of the receiving institution.

BIOL1411  Anatomy & Physiology I with Wet Lab
BIOL1421  Anatomy & Physiology II with Wet Lab
BIOL1431  Microbiology with Wet Lab
CHEM1411  General & Inorganic Chemistry with Wet Lab
CHEM1421  Organic & Biochemistry with Wet Lab
COMM1310*  Elements of Human Communications
ENGL1310*  English Composition I
MATH1320*  College Algebra
PSYC1310*  General Psychology
SOCI1310*  Introduction to Sociology
DH104  Dental Materials
DHCA1203  Dental Anatomy/Tooth Morphology
DH110  Oral Embryology & Histology
DHCA1101  Medical & Dental Emergencies
DH130  Dental Office Management
DHCA1411  Pre-Clinic I
DHCA1405  Pre-Clinic II
DHCA1401  Dental Radiography
DH140  Dental Hygiene Process of Care
DHCA2502  Dental Hygiene II
DH203  Periodontology
DHCA2301  Pharmacology
DH207  Dental Hygiene Seminar
DH209  Nutrition
DH224  Dental Public Health
DH226  Dental Law/Ethics
DHCA1307  General & Maxillofacial Pathology
DHCA2503  Dental Hygiene III
DH260  Cultural Diversity
DHCA2604  Dental Hygiene IV
DHCA2505  Dental Hygiene V
DH277  Board Review
DHCA1208  Head & Neck Anatomy

In order to receive transfer credit for any of the General Education courses in the list above fill out the Transfer Credit Request Form and submit along with other documents stated on the form.

*These courses will be offered online unless informed otherwise.
SCAPE OF PRACTICE
Each state has its own laws in regards to functions that may be performed by a registered dental hygienists (RDH). The practice of dental hygienist includes assessment of the patient’s extra- and intra-oral soft tissues and overall health, development, planning and implementation of a dental hygiene care plan. Scope of dental hygienist’s practice also includes preventative oral care, oral health education, counseling, and health screenings.

Clinical procedures provided by the dental hygienist include oral cancer screening, removal of plaque, calculus, and stains from the teeth, performance of root-planing, non-surgical periodontal therapy, exposure and processing of dental x-rays, application of cavity-preventive agents, such as fluorides and pit and fissure sealants and administration of antimicrobial agents. In California, dental hygienists are also licensed to administer local anesthetics, nitrous oxide, and perform gingival curettage under direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS & JOB OUTLOOK
The most recent United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor and Statistic Occupational Outlook Handbook1 states that employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 20 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Most dental hygiene job opportunities are in private dental practice settings; however, there are also opportunities to practice in community health settings, nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, schools, faculty practice clinics, state and federal government facilities.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS
The dental hygiene education curriculum is a postsecondary program which is rigorous and intensive. For this reason, admission to the dental hygiene program is competitive. Special admissions criteria and procedures are used to ensure that students who have the potential to successfully complete the program are chosen for admission. An itemized list of the admissions process is included in this packet.

Entrance requirements include documentation of high school graduation or successful passage of the GED, attaining a minimum score of 20 on the Wonderlic assessment, and a minimum cumulative score of 70 on the HESI A2 Examination. The further selection of applicants is based on the criteria listed in the Dental Hygiene Weighted Selection Point System, which is provided in this application packet. Acceptable criminal background check is a requirement.

Candidates who have met the entrance requirements will qualify for initial enrollment and be placed on a waitlist to be considered for one of the twenty-four seats in the program. Applicants must then create an admissions portfolio which includes all required documentation for the Dental Hygiene Weighted Selection Point System. In order to qualify for an interview with the Program Director and at least another member of the Admission Committee, portfolio contents must be complete. A checklist and organization guide for the admissions portfolio is included hereafter.

1https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm
# Dental Hygiene Admissions Process Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Admissions Process</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The interested candidate meets with an Admissions Representative to tour the campus, receive a copy of the Dental Hygiene Application Packet, and an overview of the waitlist procedure. The Weighted Selection Point System Scoring Sheet is reviewed and discussed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The applicant takes the Online Readiness Assessment and the Wonderlic examination which must be passed with a minimum score of 20 to be eligible to take the HESI A2 Exam.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Upon candidate’s successful passing of the HESI A2 Exam with a minimum score of 70, enrollment paperwork is initiated, and the applicant is put on the waitlist.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>With the candidate’s authorization, Concorde will arrange for a criminal background check to be performed. Acceptable results must be obtained in order for the applicant to remain enrolled.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>The applicant will meet with a Financial Aid representative next to develop a tentative plan for financing his/her education.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The applicant must request official copies of High School/GED transcripts for proof of graduation to be submitted directly to the Concorde admissions representative. Only official transcripts will be accepted for this purpose.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Applicants who want to have college courses evaluated for transfer to Concorde must request official transcripts and a copy of the course description of the course(s) from the catalog year that they were taken in.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Applicants must also collect all needed documentation for the items listed on Weighted Selection Point System Scoring Sheet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Once transferability of general education courses has been confirmed, the applicant will make an appointment with Financial Aid to finalize payment options/loan packaging.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Applicants who have successfully completed steps 1-9 will be contacted for an interview with the Dental Hygiene Program Director &amp; another member of the Admissions Committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>After final scoring of all applicants, the Admissions Committee will choose the top 24 applicants. The next two qualified applicants in the ranking will be designated as alternates. All applicants will be notified of their standing a minimum of two weeks prior to their start date.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Successful applicants must confirm with the Director of Admissions that they will accept their seat in the program. At this time they will be informed about the date and time of the mandatory program orientation meeting.</td>
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*It is the candidate’s responsibility to insure that all steps of the application process and collection and submission of required documentation are completed in a timely fashion in order to be considered for acceptance into the dental hygiene program.*
### GARDEN GROVE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
### WEIGHTED SELECTION POINT SYSTEM SCORING SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant Name:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE/ CREDENTIAL</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>VERIFIED</th>
<th>AWARDED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One or more years Dental Experience</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate of a healthcare program</td>
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<td>CDA / RDA license</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>VERIFIED</th>
<th>AWARDED</th>
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<tr>
<td>High School Courses (Points awarded for A &amp; B grades)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algebra or higher level math</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Related Sciences</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>College Courses (Points awarded for A &amp; B grades)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td>College Algebra or higher level math</td>
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<td>Other Related Sciences</td>
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<th>Degree Completion</th>
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<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
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<td>Bachelor’s degree in health-related or science field</td>
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<td>Master’s degree or above</td>
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<tr>
<th>TESTING</th>
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<tr>
<td>HESI (# of points above 70 minimum required score)</td>
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<th>INTERVIEW</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Attire &amp; Demeanor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective Communication Skill</td>
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<td>Appropriate Responses</td>
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<td>Respectful &amp; Courteous</td>
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1st Interview – Director of Dental Hygiene

Interviewer Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Interviewer Signature: ___________________________

2nd Interview

Interviewer Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Interviewer Signature: ___________________________

Total Points Earned: ____________________________________
DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Applicant Name: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________
Program Start Date: ____________________________

1. Why did you choose to apply specifically to Concorde Career College’s dental hygiene program?

2. Tell us what you think a hygienist does?

3. What are essential characteristics of a good dental hygienist?

4. How did you get interested in the field? How long have you been considering the Dental Hygiene program? What or who influenced you to choose this career?

5. Does your high school/prior college record accurately reflect your best efforts and ability? Why or why not?

6. What is your understanding of the time commitment to this program? Hours of attendance? Study time required?

7. Will you need to work while in school? Have you developed a plan to handle your daily personal and school responsibilities? Do you have a Plan B?

8. Give us an example of what you consider to be a challenge in your life. If you are accepted into the program, tell us what your greatest challenge will be in completing it.

9. Describe a highly stressful situation at home, work, or school requiring you to solve a problem. How did you handle it?

10. Tell us about a service project that you have been involved in?

11. Choose a word that best describes you and define it.

12. What is your biggest strength? What is your biggest weakness?

13. If we had to choose between you and someone else, to be accepted into the program, why should we choose you?

***** Even though we have clinic patients, you are required to recruit your own personal patients in order to complete the program*****
Dental Hygiene Admissions Portfolio Checklist

Dental hygiene application materials must be submitted in the order listed at least one week before the interview date. Documents & application materials will not be returned to you.

1. Cover sheet with the following information printed on it
   • Your full name (include previous names that you have used with other schools/employers)
   • Address
   • Phone
   • Email address
   • Name of your admissions representative
   • List the names of any post-high school educational institutions that you have attended
   • List any college degrees you have obtained
2. Copy of your Online Readiness Assessment score
3. Copy of your Wonderlic Score
4. Copy of your HESI A2 Exam with individual area scores
5. Copy of CDR/RDA license if applicable
6. Completed Work Experience Verification Form(s)
7. Unopened sealed Official high school transcript
8. Unopened sealed Official college transcripts
9. Completed Transfer Credit Request Form if applicable
10. Copy of Catalog with the name, number, & description of course for transfer credit
11. Copy of diploma from any Allied Health Science Programs completed
12. Copy of diploma for any college degree earned, Associate’s, Bachelor’s, Master’s, etc.
13. Signed Bloodborne Pathogen Statement
14. Signed Receipt of Dental Hygiene Application Packet

Please do not include any items that are not listed above. Doing so will delay the review of your application.
## Transfer Credit Request Form

### Student Name:

### Admissions Representative:

### Student Email:

### Program: ___________________________ Anticipated Start Date: ___________________________

### NAME OF INSTITUTION | YEARS ATTENDED

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### COURSES REQUESTED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR TRANSFER CREDIT

(Student must have earned an A or B in these GE course within no more than 5 years from the start of the Dental Hygiene Program. A copy of the catalog with the course description during the time course was taken and an official transcript are required to be submitted for Transfer Credit consideration.)

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<td>10.</td>
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DENTAL OFFICE EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION FORM

One of the criteria considered for acceptance into the dental hygiene program at Concorde Career College is dental office work experience. If you have had dental office work experience, you must have your employer complete this form in order to receive credit for it on the Dental Hygiene Weighted Selection Point System Scoring Sheet.

Dental Hygiene Program Applicant’s Name: ____________________________________________________________

DENTAL OFFICE INFORMATION

Date: ___________________________________________________________________________________________

Business Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________________________________________________________________________

The above listed applicant was employed in this dental office from _______ to __________

Month/Year          Month/Year

His/her primary duties included: ______________________________________________________________________

Printed Name of DDS/Office Manager: _________________________________________________________________

Signature of DDS/Office Manager: _____________________________________________________________________

Employer Comments: _______________________________________________________________________________

1. The office may complete the form, scan it, and email it to the admissions representative.
2. The office may complete the form and mail it to the admissions representative.
3. The office may complete the form, put it in a sealed envelope with the signer’s name written along the back flap, and the student may hand deliver it to the admissions representative.

This form may be duplicated for use by multiple offices as needed.

Concorde Career College
Admissions Representative Name
12951 Euclid St, Suite 101
Garden Grove, CA 92840

This Admissions Packet contains policies and procedures specific to the Dental Hygiene program and is to be used in conjunction with the current catalog. In case of a conflict in the information, the catalog has precedence.
Dental Hygiene Essential Skills and Abilities

All students in the Dental Hygiene Program must be able to perform these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations.

Visual Requirements
- Normal or corrected visual acuity sufficient for observation of oral conditions and for patient assessment
- High level of hand-eye coordination necessary for extremely fine motor control
- Ability to visually differentiate the color spectrum for tissue conditions and changes
- Ability to discern subtle changes in radiographic density
- Ability to clearly see the patient’s teeth from a 20-inch distance

Auditory Requirements
- Correctable hearing in at least one ear and ability to develop reasonable skills of percussion and auscultation

Motor Skills
- Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care
- Possession of adequate sensory perception in hands and fingers in order to detect and remove tooth deposits
- Full manual dexterity including the functioning of both arms, both wrists, both hands and all fingers
- Tactile ability sufficient for the use of small instruments with control sufficient for instrumentation
- Ability to manipulate clinical and laboratory instruments and syringes with sufficient fine motor control to operate in a safe manner to avoid patient injury

Physical Strength and Endurance
- Motor skills sufficient to render clinical dental hygiene treatment
- Physical strength to move themselves (by walker, cane or crutches if necessary) to a position enabling them to provide dental care
- Physical strength to assist a patient in transferring themselves to and from a dental chair
- Physical strength needed to perform CPR for an extended period of time
- Ability to remain continuously on task for several hours while sitting, standing or moving

Communication Skills
- Abilities sufficient for effective interaction with others in spoken and written English
- Ability to accurately transfer gathered data into a patient record
- Ability to read and understand technical and professional materials
- Ability to demonstrate sensitivity, confidentiality and respect when speaking with patients, peers, faculty and staff
Intellectual, Conceptual and Cognitive Skills

- Ability to distinguish normal from abnormal
- Ability to comprehend, reason, integrate, analyze, evaluate and problem solve
- Ability to demonstrate critical thinking skills
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships

Professional Attitude and Demeanor

- Ability to present professional appearance
- Ability to implement measures to maintain own physical and mental health
- Emotional and mental health necessary to effectively apply knowledge and exercise appropriate judgment
- Ability to demonstrate flexibility and adaptability
- Ability to practice honest and ethical behavior and accountability
- Ability to self-evaluate
- Ability to demonstrate respect for individuals of diverse ethnic backgrounds, religion and/or sexual orientation
DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM COMPETENCIES
Concorde Career College

The following will describe the abilities and attributes of a Dental Hygienist entering the profession. These statements are guidelines and have been used as a major factor in establishing the mission of the program, the goals of the program and the curriculum adopted by the program. These competencies ultimately influence our educational process at Concorde and are utilized as we develop, review, and assess our curriculum. Specific learning objectives within each course reflect the supporting behaviors and skills and coupled with course goals and assignments should provide the specific learning experiences by which our students develop and demonstrate the competencies.

I. Core Competencies (CC)
1. Apply a professional code of ethics in all endeavors.
2. Adhere to state and federal laws, recommendations and regulations in the provision of dental hygiene care.
3. Provide dental hygiene care to promote patient/client health and wellness using critical thinking and problem solving in the provision of evidence-based practice.
4. Use evidence based decision making to evaluate and incorporate emerging treatment modalities.
5. Assume responsibility for dental hygiene actions and care based on accepted scientific theories and research as well as the accepted standard of care.
7. Promote the profession through service activities and affiliations with professional organizations.
8. Provide quality assurance mechanisms for health services.
9. Communicate effectively with individuals and groups from diverse populations both verbally and in writing.
10. Provide accurate, consistent, and complete documentation for assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation of dental hygiene services.
11. Provide care to all clients using an individualized approach that is humane, empathetic, and caring.

II. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP)
1. Promote the values of oral and general health and wellness to the public and organizations within and outside the profession.
2. Respect the goals, values, beliefs, and preferences of the patient while promoting optimal oral and general health.
3. Refer patients who may have a physiological, psychological, and/or social problem for comprehensive patient evaluation.
4. Identify individual and population risk factors and develop strategies that promote health related quality of life.
5. Evaluate factors that can be used to promote patient adherence to disease prevention and health maintenance strategies.
6. Evaluate and utilize methods to ensure the health and safety of the patient and the Dental Hygienist in the delivery of dental hygiene.
III. Community Involvement: (CI)
1. Assess the oral health needs of the community and the quality and availability of resources and services.
2. Provide screening, referral, and educational services that allow clients to access the resources of the healthcare system.
3. Provide community oral health services in a variety of settings.
4. Facilitate client access to oral health services by influencing individuals and/or organizations for the provision of oral healthcare.
5. Evaluate reimbursement mechanisms and their impact on the patient’s access to oral healthcare.
6. Evaluate the outcomes of community based programs and plan for future activities.

IV. Patient Care (PC)

Assessment
1. Systematically collect, analyze, and record data on the general, oral, and psychosocial health status of a variety of patients using methods consistent with medico-legal principles. This competency includes:
   - Select, obtain, and interpret, diagnostic information recognizing its advantages and limitations.
   - Recognize predisposing and etiologic risk factors that require intervention to prevent disease.
   - Obtain, review, and update a complete medical, family, social, and dental history.
   - Recognize health conditions and medications that impact overall patient care.
   - Identify patients at risk for a medical emergency and manage the patient in a manner that prevents an emergency.
   - Perform a comprehensive examination using clinical, radiographic, periodontal, dental charting, and other data collection procedures to assess the patient’s needs.

Diagnosis
2. Use critical decision making skills to reach conclusions about the patient’s dental hygiene needs based on all available assessment data. This competency includes:
   - Determine a dental hygiene diagnosis.
   - Identify patient/client needs and significant findings that impact the delivery of dental hygiene services.
   - Obtain consultations as indicated.

Planning
3. Collaborate with the patient, and other health professionals, to formulate a comprehensive dental hygiene plan that is patient-centered and based on current scientific evidence. This competency includes:
   - Prioritize the care plan based on the health status and the actual and potential problems of the individual to facilitate optimal oral health.
   - Establish a planned sequence of care (educational, clinical, and evaluation) based on the dental hygiene diagnosis; identified oral conditions; potential problems; etiologic and risk factors and available treatment modalities.
   - Establish a collaborative relationship with the patient in the planned care to include etiology, prognosis, and treatment alternatives.
   - Make referrals to other healthcare professionals.
   - Obtain the patient’s informed consent based on thorough case presentation.
Implementation
4. Provide specialized treatment that includes preventive and therapeutic services designed to achieve and maintain oral health. Assist in achieving oral health goals formulated in collaboration with the patient. This competency includes:
   • Perform dental hygiene interventions to eliminate and/or control local etiologic factors to prevent and control caries, periodontal disease, and other oral conditions.
   • Control pain and anxiety during treatment through the use of accepted clinical and behavioral techniques.
   • Provide life support measures to manage medical emergencies in the patient care environment.

Evaluation
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented clinical, preventive, and educational services and modify as needed. This competency includes:
   • Determine the outcomes of dental hygiene interventions using indices, instruments, examination techniques, and patient self-report.
   • Evaluate the patient’s satisfaction with the oral healthcare received and the oral health status achieved.
   • Provide subsequent treatment or referrals based on evaluation findings.
   • Develop and maintain a health maintenance program.

V. Professional Growth and Development (PGD)
1. Identify career options within healthcare, industry, education and research and evaluate the feasibility of pursuing dental hygiene opportunities.
2. Develop practice management and marketing strategies to be used in the delivery of oral healthcare.
3. Access professional and social networks to pursue professional goals.

Bloodborne Pathogen Statement and Policy

The dental hygiene clinic should be a safe place to provide and receive dental care. Recent information supports the conclusion that there is no significant risk of contracting bloodborne diseases through the provision of dental treatment when appropriate infection control procedures are followed.

The American Dental Association (ADA) believes that it has the responsibility to articulate a clear position on issues related to bloodborne pathogens and diseases and to formulate policy based on current and generally accepted scientific knowledge and accepted moral, ethical and legal imperatives. Concorde Career College supports the ADA's position on bloodborne pathogens and disease.

A key element of infection control is the concept of universal precautions as a means to reduce the risk of bloodborne pathogen transmission (e.g., the Human Immunodeficiency Virus [HIV], Hepatitis B Virus [HBV] and others) in healthcare settings. The principle behind precaution centers on the premise that medical history and exam cannot identify all patients infected with bloodborne pathogens. All patients, therefore, must be regarded as potentially infectious. Standard precautions require that infection control procedures (e.g., HBV vaccination, routine hand washing, use of protective barriers and care in the use and disposal of needles and other sharp instruments) are used for every patient.

The dental hygiene clinic adheres to current infection control recommendations as set forth by the ADA and the CDC.

Patients infected with bloodborne pathogens can be safely treated in the dental setting. Current evidence indicates that there is no significant risk of contracting bloodborne diseases through the provision of dental treatment when precautions are followed. The practice of standard precautions is an effective means of reducing blood contacts that can result in bloodborne pathogen transmission.

Concorde Career College requires students who may be at reasonable risk for infection to take advantage of the Hepatitis B vaccine, and other vaccines, to protect themselves and patients from infectious organisms. With regard to our dental hygiene students and dental assistant students, the American Dental Association supports having all allied dental education programs encourage the vaccination of students, faculty and staff against infectious organisms.

Students, faculty and staff should be alert to signs and symptoms of bloodborne disease that may be identified during the provision of dental care. Patients with medical histories or conditions possibly indicative of infection should be referred to their physicians for diagnostic procedures, counseling and medical follow-up.

Concorde believes that all patients infected with a bloodborne pathogen(s) should disclose their bloodborne pathogen status as part of their medical history; our students need to know every patient’s medical history in order to make appropriate treatment decisions that are in the best interests of the patient. Concorde supports the ADA’s decision that individuals infected with a bloodborne pathogen(s) should be treated with compassion and dignity and should have access to dental treatment. Treatment considerations should be based on current and generally accepted scientific knowledge. A dental hygiene student should not refuse to provide treatment, which is within the student’s realm of competence solely because the patient is infected with a bloodborne pathogen.

The ADA supports the right and responsibility of each dental professional to exercise his or her best professional judgment, based on current and generally accepted scientific knowledge and the ethics of the profession, in all situations.
regarding when and how to treat and whether to refer each patient. Concorde also supports the ADA in this professional judgment decision.

At Concorde we are familiar and compliant with current CDC post exposure protocols for the management of occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens and have established policies to ensure appropriate and efficient management of exposure incidents.

Dental professionals are ethically obligated to safeguard the confidentiality of patient records and to maintain those records in a manner consistent with the protection of the welfare of the patient. This does not prevent sharing information about the patient’s bloodborne pathogen status and medical condition with the patient’s other healthcare providers when allowed by state or federal law.

Practitioners infected with bloodborne pathogens can safely provide dental care, and bloodborne pathogen infection alone does not justify the limiting of professional duties or automatically mandate disclosure provided proper infection control procedures are implemented. Infected dental healthcare workers must practice in compliance with CDC or equivalent infection-control recommendations, as required by law.

Current evidence indicates that there is no significant risk of contracting bloodborne diseases through dental treatment when standard precautions and recommended infection control procedures are routinely followed. Practicing standard precautions is an effective means of reducing blood contacts that can result in bloodborne pathogen transmission, minimizing even further the already low risk of disease transmission in the dental environment.

All dental hygiene students are strongly urged to undergo personal evaluation and assess their need to determine their bloodborne pathogen status. Those students who believe they are at risk for bloodborne pathogen infection should regularly monitor their status. All healthcare workers testing positive for a bloodborne pathogen must practice only in strict compliance with the current infection-control recommendations of the CDC for infected providers as required by law. The high ethical standards of the dental hygiene profession establish the welfare of the patient as the hygienist’s primary ethical obligation. The healthcare provider must limit the activities of practice to those areas that do not endanger patients or other healthcare providers.

All dental hygiene students regardless of their bloodborne pathogen status have an ethical obligation to immediately inform any patient they suspect may have been exposed to blood or other potentially infectious material in the dental hygiene clinic. Students must be aware of the need for post exposure evaluation and refer the patient to a qualified healthcare practitioner who can provide post exposure services. The ethical obligation in the event of an exposure incident extends to providing information concerning the student’s own bloodborne pathogen status to the evaluating healthcare practitioner and submitting to testing that will assist in the evaluation of the patient.

It is required that the student documents the actions they have taken in response to a patient’s exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material. Care should be taken not to include in the patient record confidential medical information about the student or faculty member, to avoid unauthorized disclosure of this information with the patient record. Dental education programs should incorporate these infection control programs in curriculum content and clinical activities. Concorde supports and complies with this recommendation.

This material is adapted from the ADA Bloodborne Pathogens Statement, CDC guidelines, and OSHA policy.
Acknowledgement of Receipt of Bloodborne Pathogen Statement and Policy

My signature below confirms that I have received a copy of the Concorde Career College Bloodborne Pathogen Statement and Policy and understand that it is my responsibility to read this document and ask questions of the dental hygiene department regarding any policy or other information that I do not understand. I further, agree that if I am accepted into the dental hygiene program, I agree to abide by this policy.

Date: ________________________________________________

Applicant's Name (printed): _________________________________

Applicant's Signature: ____________________________________
Acknowledgement of Receipt of Dental Hygiene Application Packet

I have received a copy of Concorde Career College’s Dental Hygiene Application Packet. I understand that it is my responsibility to read and ask questions of my Admission Representative regarding any information that I do not understand. By signing this form, I acknowledge that I received the application and agree to ask questions to clarify that which I do not understand.

Date: 

Applicant’s Name (printed): 

Applicant’s Signature: 

Admissions Representative’s Name: 

Admissions Representative’s Signature: 

This Admissions Packet contains policies and procedures specific to the Dental Hygiene program and is to be used in conjunction with the current catalog. In case of a conflict in the information, the catalog has precedence.