

# 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, 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-8pm. 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

1. Graduates will obtain the requisite combination of knowledge and psychomotor skills to treat a variety of patients, including those with advanced periodontal disease.
2. Graduates will be prepared to take the national & regional board examinations required to obtain licensure as registered dental hygienists in the state of California.
3. Graduates will successfully provide dental hygiene process of care by acquiring and synthesizing evidence-based information; practicing patient-centered care; and by effectively applying critical thinking skills.
4. Graduates will practice culturally-sensitive care for ethnically diverse patient populations and children, adolescents, geriatrics & special needs patients.
5. Graduates will demonstrate creative and scholarly activity during their dental hygiene education and be prepared to continue life-long learning throughout their careers.

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## CURRICULUM CONTENT

The dental hygiene program curriculum consists of 111.5 credit hours and 2,215 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.

ENGL1310	English Composition I
MATH1320	College Algebra
BIOL1431	Microbiology with wet lab
PSYC1310	General Psychology
BIOL1411	Anatomy & Physiology I with wet lab
CHEM1411	General and Inorganic Chemistry with Wet Lab
SOCI1310	Introduction to Sociology
BIOL1421	Anatomy & Physiology II with wet lab
CHEM1421	Organic and Biochemistry with Wet Lab
COMM1310	Elements of Human Communication
DHCA1201	Pre-Clinic I
DH133	Dental Radiography
DHCA1203	Dental Anatomy / Tooth Morphology
DH110	Oral Embryology & Histology
DHCA1205	Pre-Clinic II
DH228	General and Maxillofacial Pathology
DHCA1208	Head and Neck Anatomy
DH104	Dental Materials
DH140	Dental Hygiene Process of Care
DH142	Dental Hygiene II
DH260	Cultural Diversity
DH111	Medical and Dental Emergencies
DH203	Periodontology
DH251	Dental Hygiene III
DH224	Dental Public Health
DH206	Pharmacology
DH262	Dental Hygiene IV
DH209	Nutrition
DH226	Dental Law and Ethics
DH271	Dental Hygiene V
DH207	Dental Hygiene Seminar
DH277	Board Review
DH130	Dental Office Management

If you have taken any of the listed General Education courses (one of the top ten listed on this page) and would like to determine if you can get transfer credit for them, you will need to do the following: 1) Complete and submit the enclosed Transfer Credit Request Form. 2) Obtain a copy of the course description(s) from the college catalog that was in force during the time you took the course(s). 3) Request an official copy of your transcripts from the institution(s) where you took the courses to be sent directly to the Dean of Admissions at the Concorde Campus that you are applying to.

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## **SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

The scope of practice of the dental hygienist varies somewhat with the state that he/she is practicing in. Routinely the dental hygienist assesses the patient's oral tissues and overall health determining the presence or absence of disease; develops a dental hygiene diagnosis based on clinical findings; formulates a treatment plan; performs the clinical procedures outlined in that plan; educates patients regarding oral hygiene and preventive oral care; and evaluates the outcomes of educational strategies and clinical procedures provided.

Clinical procedures provided by the dental hygienist include removal of plaque, calculus, and stains from the teeth; performance of 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.

## **EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS & JOB OUTLOOK**

The most recent United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor and Statistic Occupational Outlook Handbook<sup>1</sup> states that employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 19 percent from 2014 to 2024, 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.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm>

## **ADMISSIONS PROCESS**

The dental hygiene education curriculum is a scientifically-oriented 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.

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, portfolio contents must be complete. A checklist and organization guide for the admissions portfolio is included hereafter.

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# Dental Hygiene Admissions Process Timeline

Steps	Admissions Process
1	The interested candidate makes an appointment with an Admissions Representative. He/she receives a tour of the campus, 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.
2	The applicant takes the Online Readiness Assessment and the Wonderlic examination, which must be passed with a minimum score of 20.
3	Upon successful completion of the Wonderlic exam, the applicant is eligible to schedule an appointment to take the HESI A2 Exam
4	When the candidate is successful in passing the HESI A2 Exam with a minimum cumulative score of 70%, enrollment paperwork is initiated, and the applicant is put on the waitlist.
5	With the candidate's authorization, Concorde will arrange for a background check to be performed. Acceptable results must be obtained in order for the applicant to remain enrolled.
6	The applicant will then make an appointment with a Financial Aid representative to develop a tentative plan for financing his/her education.
7	At this time the applicant must request that official copies of High School/GED transcripts for proof of graduation be submitted directly to the Concorde admissions representative. Only official transcripts will be accepted for this purpose.
8	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. Transcripts must be sent in a sealed envelope directly to the Academic Dean of the campus where the applicant is applying.
9	Applicants must also collect unofficial transcripts of high school and college courses that qualify; and all other needed documentation for the items listed on Weighted Selection Point System Scoring Sheet.
10	Once transferability of his/her general education courses has been confirmed, the applicant will make an appointment with Financial Aid to finalize payment options/ loan packaging.
11	Applicants who have successfully completed steps 1-10 will be contacted for an interview with the Dental Hygiene Program Director. Applicants must bring their completed application portfolio to this interview (see Dental Hygiene Admissions Checklist).
12	After final scoring of all applicants, the Admissions Committee will choose the top 24 applicants. The next three 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.
13	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

*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.*

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# SAN DIEGO DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM WEIGHTED SELECTION POINT SYSTEM SCORING SHEET

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE/CREDENTIAL	POINTS	YES/NO	VERIFIED*	AWARDED
One or more years Dental Experience	2			
Graduate of a Dental Assistant Program	2			
Graduate of an alternate Allied Health Program	1			
CDA / RDA Licensure	3			

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT	POINTS	YES/NO	VERIFIED*	AWARDED
<b>High School Courses</b> (unofficial transcripts acceptable for scoring system documentation)				
Algebra	A=3/B=2			
Chemistry	A=3/B=2			
Other Science Course(s)	A=3/B=2			
<b>College Courses</b> (unofficial transcripts acceptable for scoring system – official transcripts are required for transfer credit)				
Anatomy & Physiology	A=4/B=3			
Chemistry	A=4/B=3			
Microbiology	A=4/B=3			
Other Science Course(s)	A=4/B=3			
<b>Degree Completion</b>				
Associate's degree	4			
Bachelor's degree	6			
Master's degree or above	8			
<b>Testing</b>				
HESI A <sup>2</sup> Exam (Minimum 70) Add # of points above minimum				

DH PROGRAM INTERVIEW (for DH department use only)	POINTS			AWARDED
Professional Dress & Grooming	1-2			
Enthusiasm & Positive Demeanor	1-2			
Appropriate Responses	1-2			
Communication Skills	1-2			
Self-Confident & Respectful	1-2			

\*Documentation must be attached to this sheet for any points to be awarded

Total Points Estimated: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_  
(for DH department use only)

### 1st Interview – Admissions

Interviewer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2nd Interview – Dental Hygiene Program Director

Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

No admissions points will be actually awarded until the DH PD has completed her interview, confirmed all documentation, and has signed this form.

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# DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

## SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What stimulated your interest in dental hygiene?
2. Why are you interested in Concorde Career College?
3. What do you think are the essential characteristics of a good dental hygienist? What about you demonstrates that you have these characteristics?
4. Does your high school/prior college record accurately reflect your best efforts and ability? Why or why not?
5. What is your understanding of the time commitment required for this program?
  - a. Hours of Attendance
  - b. Study Time Required
6. Tell me about a time in your life when you had to juggle several demanding things at the same time – how did you handle it?
7. What do you think are the most important attributes of a leader?
8. Describe your personal style.
9. If you were accepted into the program, what positive attributes would you contribute to the learning environment?
10. Give me an example of an ongoing, highly stressful situation at home, work, or school and tell me how you handled it.
11. What is your biggest weakness? What is your biggest strength?
12. Tell me about a service project that you have been involved with.
13. How do you handle having to say no to social gatherings with your friends or family?
14. Do you have a Plan A and a Plan B for how you will take care of living & personal expenses, family obligations, etc. while in the program? Please describe.
15. Dental hygiene education can be a very stressful experience. Will you add to the stress, or help lessen it for your fellow students? How?
16. If we had to choose between you and someone else, to be accepted into the program, why should we choose you?

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# Dental Hygiene Admissions Portfolio Checklist

Dental hygiene program application materials must be submitted as listed below

DO NOT put the application materials in a binder or folder

DO NOT put materials in page protectors

DO NOT submit any original documents – no documents will be returned to you

**Place the cover sheet (as described below) on top**

**Include other required items in the order listed & staple together**

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 thus far
2. Copy of report page of Wonderlic Score
3. Copy of report page (first page) of your HESI A2 Exam with individual area scores
4. Copy of your Online Readiness Assessment score
5. Unofficial copy of high school transcript (if you took Chemistry, Algebra or another applied Science course and achieved a B or better)
6. Unofficial copy of college transcripts (if you have taken Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry, Microbiology or another applied Science course(s) and achieved a B or better)
7. Copy of diploma or unofficial transcript(s) from any Allied Health Science Programs (including Concorde) that you have completed
8. Copy of diploma or unofficial transcript(s) for any college degree you have earned, i.e. Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, etc.
9. Copy of CDR/RDA license if applicable
10. Work Experience Verification Forms must be completed and mailed/email directly to your admissions representative. If the applicant hand carries this form, it must be inside a sealed letterhead envelope with the employer's signature across the back flap.
11. Signed Bloodborne Pathogen Statement
12. 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.**

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# Transfer Credit Request Form

Concorde Career College  
4393 Imperial Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92113



**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Admissions Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Program:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Anticipated Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## NAME OF INSTITUTION

## YEARS ATTENDED

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Transcript contain courses that are still in progress:**  YES  NO

**Bridge Student** (*Holds an active unrestricted PN license*):  YES  NO

**Date Graduated:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## COURSES REQUESTED TO BE TRANSFERRED

*(In the spaces below, list up to 10 courses to be considered for transfer)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

**This form is NOT valid if submitted directly by the applicant.**

**It can be submitted in one of the following ways:**

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.*

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# 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

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**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

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# 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.
6. Continuously perform self-assessment for lifelong learning and professional growth.
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.

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### 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.

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### *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.

*Reference: American Dental Education Association,  
Competencies for Entry into the Profession of Dental Hygiene,  
Journal of Dental Education, July 2004.*

# 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

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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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*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.*

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# Acknowledgement of Receipt of Dental Hygiene Application Packet

My signature below confirms that I have received a copy of the Concorde Career College Dental Hygiene Admissions Packet and recognize that it is my responsibility to read it and ask questions of my admissions representative regarding any information that I do not understand. I further attest that I recognize that I must follow the instructions herein to before I may be considered as an applicant to the dental hygiene program.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Name (printed):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Admissions Representative's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Admissions Representative's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*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.*

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