

Dental Programs



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Students in Greenville Technical College's dental programs leave well prepared for the workforce, thanks to a combination of classroom instruction, technology that supports what they are learning, and hands-on experiences. In a simulation lab, students practice hand instrumentation on dental tooth models and bench mounts. These models provide an excellent preclinical experience prior to treating patients in the college's dental clinic, a 33-chair facility serving 8,000 active patients. Graduates are also prepared to handle the unexpected, as they practice responses to patient emergency situations with human patient simulators in the college's Simulation Technologies and Training Center.

How do I get started?

To learn more about Greenville Technical College's Dental programs, please contact advising at (864) 250-8167 or check us out on the web at www.gvltec.edu/advising-contacts. Students who wish to enroll in a Health Sciences or Nursing program must attend a monthly Career Talk session. For upcoming dates, call (864) 250-8195, or go to <http://www.gvltec.edu/careertalk>.

Students must apply for the Dental Hygiene or Dental Assisting program in January through April after completing all Phase I courses. The Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs begin in August.

What you'll learn

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Head and Neck Anatomy
- Dental Radiography
- Nutrition
- Periodontology

Required courses will vary based on the specific program chosen. Please refer to the current Greenville Technical College catalog for a complete course listing.



Program Options

- Dental Hygiene Associate Degree
- Dental Assistant Diploma

Program Options

Dental Hygiene

Greenville Technical College's Dental Hygiene associate degree program prepares students to work in a dental office as part of a health care team meeting the oral health needs of patients. Hygienists are also often the primary source of dental health care and education. A career as a dental hygienist can be very rewarding, as it is one of the few positions in health care where teaching patients proper oral care can truly help prevent disease.

1 + 1 program

GTC's 1 + 1 Dental Hygiene program articulates with designated colleges in the Upstate and North Carolina. For the student, Phase I means the opportunity for students living outside the Upstate to stay close to home for the first half of the program, while only Phase II courses must be taken at Greenville Technical College. For the Phase I college, general education courses can be taught without a great deal of expense invested in equipment and faculty. For dental practices, this option means a pool of capable hygienists available across a broader geographic area, also increasing employment opportunities for the graduate.

Dental Assistant

The dental assistant is a vital member of the dental health care team and performs many duties including clinical assisting, laboratory tasks and office management. Dental assistants who have completed formal training receive higher salaries and these professionals enjoy many benefits, including a pleasant working environment, daytime hours and job stability. The Dental Assisting program at GTC leads to the certified dental assistant credential.

Credentialing Exams

Each state has specific regulations regarding the responsibilities of the dental hygienist, and duties vary from one dental office to another. Hygiene graduates are eligible to sit for the Dental Hygiene National Board exam and state licensure exams. In South Carolina, a dental hygienist must be a graduate of an accredited dental hygiene school and must pass the National Board Exam and a state certification exam. Dental Assisting students must pass all three parts of the Dental Assisting National Board while in the program.