Dental hygienists perform preventive procedures. Graduates must pass national and state dental hygiene board exams to become registered dental hygienists.

Students require two years to complete the program and receive an associate in science degree. The dental hygiene curriculum includes five consecutive semesters of courses and requires a time commitment of at least 35 hours per week.

Dental hygienists are vital members of the dental team focusing on preventing and treating oral disease to protect teeth and gums while also protecting patients’ total health.

Dental hygienists perform preventive procedures that include:

- Oral healthcare assessments that involve taking radiographs, dental charting, oral cancer screening, taking and recording blood pressure.
- Dental prophylaxis and polishing procedures, fluoride, sealant application.
- Oral hygiene education with guidance for good nutrition and tobacco cessation.
Find your fast track to employment.
If you’re looking for a short-term training program to gain high-tech skills and immediate employment, consider HCC’s workforce training certificate in dental assisting.

Dental Assisting
1230 clock hours (one-year program)
Dental assistants work with dentists during a variety of procedures. Learn to take and process X-rays, fabricate temporary crowns, take impressions for models, place sealants, polish teeth, and instruct patients on oral home care. Students will be prepared to take the Dental Assisting National Board Examination upon successful completion of HCC’s program. Passing the examination earns the student Certified Dental Assisting (CDA) designation.

The demand for dental assistants in the area is very high. Career options include full- and part-time positions. Employment is available in private dental offices in these specialties: general practice, orthodontics, periodontics, pediatric, oral surgery and endodontics. Other potential employers include dental clinics in correctional facilities, military bases, public health facilities, nursing homes and sales.
Admissions

Health sciences careers are in demand, with great salaries and opportunities to make a difference. Planning is the key to academic success. First, apply online at hccfl.edu/registernow.

As program prerequisites are completed, submit a separate health sciences application through hccfl.edu/healthsciences and carefully note the application deadline. Additional application fees may be required.

For in-depth information, visit hccfl.edu/healthsciences and click on the Health Sciences Handbook.

In compliance with U.S. Department of Education regulations, HCC provides information to assist students in making an informed decision about their education.

Visit hccfl.edu/gainfulemployment for program data.

Accreditation

Dental Assisting

Dental assisting graduates will be Expanded Function Dental Assistants (EFDA) for Florida, and they are also prepared to take the Dental Assisting National Board to become a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) in the United States.

The program in dental assisting is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted accreditation status of approval without reporting. The commission is a specialized addressing body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312.440.4653 or at 211 East Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611-2678. The commission’s web address is www.ada.org/100.aspx.

Dental Hygiene

The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted accreditation status of approval without reporting. The commission is a specialized addressing body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312.440.4653 or at 211 East Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611-2678. The commission’s web address is www.ada.org/100.aspx.

HCC Live Information Center

HCC Live is a resource for questions about admissions, registration, financial aid, advising and other college resources. Please call 1.877.736.2575 or 813.253.7000, 9 a.m.–6 p.m., seven days a week, or visit the HCC Live information portal at hccfl.edu for answers to frequently asked questions.