Mission

To graduate knowledgeable, skilled, professional, and service-oriented entry-level dental hygienists to provide quality patient-centered care that meets the needs of employers and promotes the health of the community.

Vision

In alignment with the mission of Calhoun Community College, the dental hygiene program is committed to student success. The goal of faculty is to prepare students with the theoretical knowledge and technical competencies necessary to demonstrate proficiency as an entry-level dental hygienist. Graduates will provide safe, effective, ethical, and compassionate care, promote the profession, and be dedicated to lifelong learning.

Philosophy

- The program believes its mission and vision are fulfilled by an educational plan which presents instruction in a logical sequence, provides ample opportunity for knowledge acquisition, the development of psychomotor skills, and critical-thinking and reflective self-evaluation.
- The program believes that a contemporary dental hygiene education is evidence based, alert to health care trends, and incorporates innovation and current technologies.
- The program believes students are best served through a variety of instructional strategies that recognize the diverse needs of learners.
- The program believes learning is more likely to occur in an environment in which students feel respected, accepted, and supported as this setting enhances success and fosters lifelong learning.
- The program believes in curriculum that emphasizes the humanistic aspects of patient care and professional behaviors that facilitate positive therapeutic relationships with patients and other healthcare providers including respect and sensitivity for ethnic, cultural, and spiritual differences.
- The program believes that community service and faculty role modeling promote a spirit that will advance the art and science of dental hygiene and the dental hygiene profession.
Program Goals

• To promote the recruitment and retention of dental hygiene students by maintaining an academic environment of excellence.
• To create a sense of community among faculty, students, and staff by modeling effective communication, collaboration, and teamwork.
• To ensure observance of the legal requirements and ethical behaviors necessary for the practice of dental hygiene.
• To develop learning experiences that support the development of critical thinking including reasoning, judgement, problem solving and reflective evaluation to be utilized in the promotion of health and disease prevention.
• To maintain a learning environment which is sensitive and respectful to the social, physical, mental and spiritual well-being of diverse individuals.
• To expose students to current dental technologies and provide adaptive skills for advances in hygiene practice and technology.
• To prepare graduates for success on the NBDHE and regional clinical examination.
• To equip graduates with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to meet the dental hygiene needs of individuals entrusted to their care.
• To instill a sense of responsibility to stay informed of current research topics and participate inprofessional development activities.
• To prepare service-focused professionals who use their knowledge and skills to promote dental health in the community.

Program Competencies

Professionalism and Ethics
• Apply a professional code of ethics, while observing appropriate legal and regulatory guidelines, in the provision of oral health services.
• Communicate effectively with individuals and groups across diverse populations while delivering culturally competent care.

Patient Care
• Utilize critical thinking, problem solving, and evidence-based decision making while applying the dental hygiene process of care.
• Follow procedures that ensure the health and safety of the patient as well as the dental hygienist in the delivery of dental hygiene care.
• Incorporate strategies that can be used to promote patient compliance with disease prevention and/or health maintenance instruction.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
• Provide community oral health education in a variety of settings.
• Demonstrate the knowledge necessary to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate community-based oral health programs.
• Evaluate individual and population risk factors for oral disease.

Professional Growth and Development
• Display self-assessment skills and the willingness to seek guidance as needed.
• Evaluate scientific literature as a means to pursue lifelong learning.
• Embrace the need for personal and professional growth through participation in professional activities and associations.