

Skill Development and Successful Progression through the Program

Educational Format for Development of Dental Hygiene Clinical Skills

- Practice is essential to the development of competence in performing dental hygiene skills.
- Students learn and practice basic instrumentation skills on manikins and progress to clinic partners.
- These skills are initially learned in situations and under circumstances that replicate those that the student will encounter in the delivery of actual patient care.

- **Students as Partners**

Throughout the two-year dental hygiene curriculum, students are required to be “patients” to a student partner. *Student partners practice dental hygiene procedures and pain control methods on each other* ; the dental hygiene faculty has the responsibility for assessing and evaluating students’ performance of dental hygiene skills and knowledge as they progress through the program.

Patient Recruitment

Students have specific patient cases that are required throughout the curriculum. The Harper College Dental Hygiene program provides students some patients through the clinical recall system and advertisements mechanisms. However, it is the student’s responsibility, **not** the program, to recruit enough patients to fulfill clinical requirement.