Cabrillo College Announces Realignment of Dental Hygiene Program
Program to Admit Students Every Two Years Effective Fall 2015

APTOS, CA – Cabrillo College today announced a realignment of its Dental Hygiene program. Effective in fall semester 2015, the College will admit Dental Hygiene students every two years, as opposed to annually. The next admission date for Dental Hygiene students will be fall 2016. Reduced enrollment demand at Cabrillo College and the high cost of the Dental Hygiene program have prompted the need for this change. It is important to note that the Dental Hygiene program will continue as an accredited, high quality program.

“Over the past several months, reduced enrollment demand has forced us to thoughtfully re-evaluate programs with low numbers of full-time equivalent students and a comparatively high cost of operation, and to determine how we can continue to keep those programs sustainable for the long term,” said Kathie Welch, Cabrillo College Vice President of Instruction. “Reducing the program to an every-other-year admissions cycle enables us to continue to educate 22 Dental Hygiene students per cohort and maintain the program, while we explore more sustainable and cost-effective solutions.”

The Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Dental Hygiene at Cabrillo College is a two-year, nationally accredited program that historically has begun each fall semester and combines classroom lecture with on-campus dental hygiene clinical application and off-campus clinical lab experience at affiliated dental clinics.
“We are disappointed about the need to reduce admission cycles for Cabrillo’s Dental Hygiene program, but at the same time, are grateful that the program will continue,” said Ian Haslam, Dean of Cabrillo’s Health, Athletics, Wellness and Kinesiology division. “The recent legislation that allows community colleges statewide to offer four-year degrees could present a promising opportunity for the Dental Hygiene program in the future.”

Cabrillo’s Dental Hygiene program will continue to be accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA) and will continue to prepare graduates for the Dental Hygiene National Boards as well as the California State Board examinations. Many Cabrillo Dental Hygiene program graduates work in dental offices locally.

Cabrillo’s Dental Hygiene program also offers community members and students teeth cleaning services and examinations, which provide Cabrillo’s Dental Hygiene Students the opportunity to receive practical experience. Though appointment availabilities may decrease in the short term, Cabrillo’s Dental Hygiene program will continue to offer this service.

About Cabrillo College
Cabrillo College is a leading California community college serving Santa Cruz County with locations in Aptos, Scotts Valley and Watsonville. It is ranked #1 in transfers to UC Santa Cruz. Founded in 1959, the college offers over 100 academic and career technical education programs that serve multiple educational goals such as A.A. and A.S. degrees, certificates of achievement, skills certificates, transfer to 4-year institutions or for lifelong learning and personal enrichment. Cabrillo College is a dynamic, diverse and responsive educational community dedicated to helping all students achieve their academic, career and personal development goals.

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