

Shoreline Dental Hygiene Program at UW School of Dentistry

Washington state faces a critical shortage of dental hygienists. Dental hygiene positions are open an average of four months before they are filled, and for every hygienist seeking a position, there are three to four positions available. In a recent survey, there were over 550 openings in King and Snohomish counties alone.

As many of you know, the Shoreline Community College Dental Hygiene Program is now located at the University of Washington School of Dentistry. It continues to be a Shoreline program, but at a different location. Shoreline's highly regarded program needed to move to a different physical facility due to a campus construction project.



THE GIFT & A CHALLENGE MATCH

Delta Dental of Washington recently donated \$1 million to help cover the costs of renovations needed to accommodate the expansion of the Shoreline program at the UW. Shoreline Community College, the UW School of Dentistry, and the University of Washington are also contributing to the expansion.

In addition to the donation, Delta Dental has created a \$500,000 challenge grant. The Washington State Dental Association, Washington State Dental Hygienists' Association, Seattle-King County Dental Society, and other local dental societies are seeking to raise the matching funds. The campaign will continue until Dec. 31, 2021. When achieved, this match will raise an additional \$1 million to provide needed funds for the dental hygiene program at the UW.

Your contribution will make a difference in educating and graduating more dental hygienists in our state. Please give as generously as you can. To give online, visit giving.uw.edu/dentalhygiene. Checks made to the UW Foundation can be mailed to the UW School of Dentistry, Box 357137, Seattle, WA 98195-7137.

This new partnership strengthens what is already a high-quality learning experience for our dental hygiene students. The addition of working closely in a training environment with UW Dentistry students, faculty and patients will help our students become even better prepared for careers in this fast-growing industry.

*Dr. Cheryl Roberts, President
Shoreline Community College*

The integrated programs created a model for dental and dental hygiene education. Having dental hygiene students learn and practice in tandem with dental students mimics the way in which they work together in practice after graduation.

*Dr. Gary T. Chiodo, Professor and Dean
University of Washington School of Dentistry*

For questions, please contact Randy Newquist at UW Dentistry Advancement at randyn@uw.edu or 360.471.5648.