The purpose of the 10 hours of clinical shadowing is to provide students with a better understanding of the responsibilities of the dental hygienist in addition to seeing the dental team in action. This shadowing form must be completed and submitted to the dental hygiene office by March 15 (clinical application deadline).

Student Name: ____________________________________________  HACC ID: ______________________

Name of Dental Practice: ____________________________________________________________________

Date(s) of Observation: __________________________  Hours of Observation Completed: _____________

Student, please check off all areas/procedures you were able to observe. Emphasis should be on dental hygiene procedures.

_____ Front desk procedures to include office policies  _____ Scaling and root planing
_____ Medical history review and vital signs  _____ Polishing
_____ Extra and intra oral examinations  _____ Sealants
_____ Periodontal exam  _____ Administration of anesthesia
_____ Dental charting  _____ Fluoride treatment/varnish application
_____ Dental health education  _____ Sterilization procedures and infection control
_____ Exposure and processing of radiographs  _____ Restorative procedures (if time provides)

and/or digital radiography

Signature of dentist or dental hygienist: _________________________________________________________

Printed name: ________________________________________  Contact Phone Number: __________________

Additional instructions for students:

• When contacting a dental office to request observation/shadowing time, explain to the staff member that you are interested in pursuing a career in dental hygiene and are fulfilling requirements for a HACC course. Please be flexible with your own schedule and considerate of the office’s willingness to accommodate you for this assignment. During the introductory phone call, please ask the following questions:
  o What is the appropriate attire to wear while shadowing? If the staff member doesn’t provide guidance, please dress professionally: meaning neat and clean; but no jeans, shorts or revealing clothes; dress slacks and a simple shirt are appropriate. Often, a lab coat or disposable gown will be provided.
  o Will I be able to shadow the dental hygienist? Although you will learn a great deal by shadowing the dentist, the purpose of this assignment is to learn the day-to-day tasks and responsibilities of the dental hygienist. If they office doesn’t employ a dental hygienist, please choose another.

• Be polite and aware that some patients may be uncomfortable with a student observing their dental procedure.

• Remember to maintain patient confidentiality as this is an important part of being a health professional.

• Be sure to keep a copy of this form for your records.

Dental Hygiene Program, HACC, One HACC Drive, Harrisburg, PA, 17110, 717-780-2490