

HAMPDEN- SYDNEY COLLEGE

Tiger Tracks

Career options for
Hampden-Sydney students
interested in dentistry
and related fields

*“I drive
almost an hour
and a half
to see my dentist
because I want a
Hampden-Sydney guy
to care for my teeth.”*

SPENCER CONOVER '10

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING
WITH A DEGREE FROM
HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

WWW.HSC.EDU

PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN Dentistry

MINDSET

- Dentistry combines science and art. Many dentists are also businessmen who must manage their business and employees, interface with the public, and conduct marketing to grow their business.
- Successful dentists combine exemplary work habits and time management, high performance in the classroom, and the ability to inspire trust in others to serve patients with skill and a comforting personality.

COURSES

- Students interested in applying to dental school are generally required to take one year of Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Physics, each of which must include a lab component. Individual schools will require or strongly encourage additional coursework in specific segments of Biology and Chemistry, in addition to some mathematics.
- These requirements give Hampden-Sydney students the freedom to pursue majors in non-science fields, if they are so inclined.
- Consider courses and hobbies which encourage you to think in three dimensions and practice high manual dexterity.

PROGRAMS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- The Pre-Health Society encourages students to begin developing knowledge of pertinent issues and ethical quandaries in the medical-dental industry while also building a professional network through exposure to practitioners on trips and through speaking engagements.
- Private-practice dentists often allow you to shadow them as they work. Dental school admissions officers are looking for proof that you enjoy general dentistry. So, keep track of whom you have worked with and how many hours you shadowed them.
- Dental-related service trips, like Hampden-Sydney's Beyond the Hill program or faith-based mission trips, allow students to help provide emergent dental services.
- Become a pre-dental member of American Student Dental Association (www.asdanet.org). Read their publications to get a pulse of current issues and life in dental school as well as try to attend an ASDA event as a pre-dental member.
- The Hampden-Sydney Volunteer Fire Department, in coordination with Prince Edward County, offers an opportunity to receive training as an emergency medical technician.
- Centra Southside Community Hospital in nearby Farmville regularly seeks volunteers from Hampden-Sydney College to shadow doctors as they treat patients.
- The Wellness Center hires student workers and provides them direct exposure to a family medical practice while simultaneously engaging them in the confidential patient-doctor relationship.

GRADUATE STUDY

- Dental School is a four-year curriculum which combines classwork, laboratory work, and patient treatment. Dental schools seek well-rounded students who have excelled in the classroom while demonstrating broad intellectual curiosity and a genuine interest in helping others. The majority of dental schools award the DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) degree; however, some award a DMD (Doctor of Dental Medicine) degree. The education and degrees are the same.
- Dual-Degree Programs – Some dentists who plan on staying within academia as clinician and/or researcher may choose to pursue a DDS/PhD (DMD/PhD) track, if available.
- Admission to dental school is based on college transcripts, extracurricular activities, and the DAT score (the Dental Admissions Test, similar to the MCAT), and an interview. Dental education gives graduates experience in all fields of dentistry. Submit your application early (May-July) in order to increase your chances of acceptance.

PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

- Following dental school, many graduates enter private practice or choose to complete a residency in general dentistry. Other graduates may undergo further training in one of the nine recognized specialties: dental public health, endodontics, oral pathology, oral radiology, oral surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, or prosthodontics.
- While the majority of dentists and dental specialists are in private practice, there are many opportunities in the military, academic (research and clinical), and public health sectors.
- Dentistry is a rapidly changing field; the science is advancing, the public is better informed of treatment options, and the business of dentistry faces significant changes from evolving legislation. Because of the evolving nature of dentistry, Hampden-Sydney continues to believe that a liberal arts education—which trains men to think critically, solve creatively, and articulate persuasively—will be the best training for aspiring dental professionals.

HAMPDEN- SYDNEY COLLEGE

Forming good
men and
good citizens
since 1776



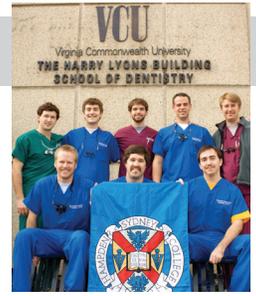
LARRY CAPLIN '86
Director of organizations which furnish dental services to the needy

After graduating from Hampden-Sydney, Larry attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He then founded Dentrust Dental and CF Charities. While still leading Dentrust Dental, Larry also founded the Oral Health Impact Project (OHIP), which provides dental health care services to children at the greatest risk for dental disease. His work with OHIP has been featured on National Public Radio and honored by the Philadelphia City Council.

CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENTS

VCU School of Dentistry

Our eight alumni in dentistry school at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2010 grew mustaches to raise money for oral cancer research at the VCU Massey Cancer Center during the month of November. Front row: Kristoffer Norbo '09, Andy Coalter '02, and Brandon Newcomb '10. Back row: Gardner Meek '07, Christopher Collie '10, James William Bolton III '07, John "Jay" Owen, IV '07, and Barrett W. R. Peters '02.



GARDNER MEEK '07
General Dentist, Elkin, North Carolina

A biology major and a brother of Phi Gamma Delta social fraternity, Gardner served as Chairman of the Honor Court, president of the Pre-Health Society, and a resident advisor. He plans to practice general dentistry in his hometown of Elkin, North Carolina.

BARRETT W. R. PETERS '02

Pediatric Dentist, Charlottesville, VA

Barrett majored in biology, served on the Honor Court, and was a member of Kappa Sigma. After working on Capitol Hill, he worked for an architectural-engineering firm and then for a medical device company. In dental school he served as student body president. In residency he completed a post-doctoral master's degree and was selected as a Harris Fellow by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. He owns a private practice and remains active within organized dentistry.



AARON MARKS '98
General Dentist, Mechanicsville, Virginia

A *magna cum laude* graduate in biology and Spanish, Aaron was a resident advisor, served on the College Activities Committee, and was awarded the Algernon Sydney Sullivan medallion. Following graduation from dental school, he joined Marks Family Dentistry with his father and brother. He credits his experiences at Hampden-Sydney as much as his dental school education for helping him in his role as a small business owner and dentist. He maintains an active role as a leader and volunteer in both dentistry and his community.

BRENT RUSNAK '98

General Dentist, Richmond, Virginia

Brent was a biology major, a four-year All-Conference football player, and two-time All-American. During his last two years on campus he also played on the basketball team which won two ODAC titles. After attending dental school, Dr. Rusnak worked as an associate for two years but now has his own practice in Richmond and volunteers at free dental clinics across the state. When he is not working, he spends time with his wife Amy and their two children.



BILL DABNEY '76
Orthodontist, Richmond, Virginia

Bill was a brother of Theta Chi fraternity and a four-year starter on the rugby team. While working two jobs off-campus, he graduated *magna cum laude* with a double major in mathematics and biology. After attending dental school at the Medical College of Virginia (now known as VCU School of Dentistry) and an orthodontic residency, Bill began practicing full-time. He has been a faculty member at Orametix Corporation, teaching the use of robot-assisted orthodontics and CAD-CAM technology in orthodontic treatment planning. An expert in orthodontic technology including 3-D radiography, Bill also presents at conferences throughout the US and Europe.