

DENTAL HYGIENE, Associate in Science Degree - 3416

Health & Public Service Department

The Dental Hygiene AS program educates students, as members of the dental health team, to provide preventive dental services and oral health education to clients. The dental hygienist is qualified by education and licensure to provide patient assessment, including but not limited to, review of health history, recording of vital signs, head, neck, and radiographic examination, oral cancer screening, and dental and periodontal charting. Treatment planning, patient education, the administration of local anesthesia, the removal of deposits and stains from the teeth, and the application of chemotherapeutic agents and placement of dental sealants are also integral parts of dental hygiene education. The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CoDA). The Commission is a specialized body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The clinical program is only available at the Harrisburg Campus. However, pre-requisite courses to the clinical program may be taken at all of HACC's campuses, as well as through Virtual Learning. Pennsylvania Dental Law #216 states that the State Board of Dentistry may refuse to license a person whom has been convicted of a crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or a felony. The complete program is available at the Harrisburg Campus.

Selective Program: Entry into this program is not guaranteed with admission to the College; this is a selective and competitive admission program; specific admissions criteria must be met. Please go to the Health Careers website (www.hacc.edu/healthcareers), or contact us by email at start@hacc.edu for specific program entry requirements. **Students must be aware that even though the program begins in Fall, they begin classes for this major during the Summer terms.**

Career Opportunities

Graduates are prepared for employment as dental hygienists to provide preventive dental services and oral health education in private offices and public health clinics.

Competency Profile

This curriculum is designed to prepare students to:

- Utilize the dental hygiene process of care (assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation) in the provision of comprehensive treatment to all clients without discrimination
- Demonstrate accountability in dental hygiene practice
- Apply the roles of dental hygiene to various practice settings - demonstrating competence, ethical behaviors, and professionalism
- Participate as an integral member of the dental health team providing expertise in the area of preventive health care
- Perform to the level of competency specified by the faculty, the state board of dental examiners, employers, and those oral health services legally approved for a dental hygienist in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and other states and territories
- Value a commitment to professional organizations and life-long learning

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (TOTAL CREDITS = 80)

General Education		Major Requirements		Other Required Courses	
ENGL 101 English Composition I	3	DH 110 Dental Radiology I	3	BIOL 122 Anatomy & Physiology II	4
ENGL 102 English Composition II	3	DH 111 Dental Radiology II	1	NUTR 104 Nutrition	3
COMM 101 Effective Speaking	3	DH 113 Clinical Experience II	2	PSYC 101 General Psychology	3
Humanities & Arts Elective	3	DH 116 Medical/Dental Emergencies & Theory	3		10
Mathematics Elective - MATH 111	3	DH 120 Dental Anatomy	2		
Math or Science Elective - BIOL 221	4	DH 150 Dental Materials	3		
Science w/ a Laboratory Elective - BIOL 121	4	DH 170 Techniques in Pain Control	2		
Social/Behavioral Sciences - SOCI 201	3	DH 180 Head & Neck Anatomy & Histology	3		
First-Year Seminar - DH 101	6	DH 190 Periodontics	3		
Wellness	1	DH 211 Dental Hygiene Theory III	3		
	33	DH 212 Clinical Experience III	2		
		DH 223 Dental Hygiene Theory IV	2		
		DH 224 Clinical Experience IV	2		
		DH 230 Oral Pathology	2		
		DH 235 Community Dental Health Education	2		
		DH 240 Pharmacology	2		
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Note: A grade of C or higher is required for all BIOL and DH courses; ENGL 101 and 102; NUTR 104; COMM 101; PSYC 101; SOCI 201.

RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Part time students can complete this program by taking one or more courses each semester.

Summer I		Fall Semester I		Spring Semester I	
BIOL 121	4	BIOL 122	4	COMM 101	3
BIOL 221	4	DH 101	6	DH 111	1
ENGL 101	3	DH 110	3	DH 113	2
		DH 120	2	DH 116	3
		DH 180	3	DH 150	3
				DH 190	3
Summer II		Fall Semester II		Spring Semester II	
DH 170	2	DH 211	3	DH 223	2
DH 240	2	DH 212	2	DH 224	2
MATH 111	3	DH 230	2	DH 235	2
Wellness	1	NUTR 104	3	ENGL 102	3
		SOCI 201	3	Humanities/Arts Elective	3
				PSYC 101	3