

AREA: Dental Hygiene

DEGREE: Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene (VWCC)

LENGTH: Five semesters program

PURPOSE: The curriculum is designed to prepare students as primary preventive oral health professionals licensed to practice dental hygiene. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be eligible to take national, regional, and state board examinations leading to licensure as a registered dental hygienist (RDH).

Note: Individuals who have a felony or misdemeanor conviction may not be allowed to take the licensing exam. This decision is made by the Virginia Board of Dentistry. For questions regarding this issue, call Virginia Board of Dentistry 804-367-4538.

Accreditation status: The program has been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

Occupational objectives: A dental hygienist may practice in any of the following settings:

- Dental offices and dental clinics
- Federal, state, and local health departments
- Hospitals and nursing homes/home health organizations
- School districts or departments of education
- Educational programs for dental, dental hygiene, and dental assisting students
- Correctional facilities
- Private and public facilities for pediatric, geriatric, and other individuals/groups with special needs
- Health maintenance organization/managed care organizations.

Admission Requirements: Applicants must meet the general admission requirements for admission to both VWCC and LFCC. For application materials and additional program information, please see our Health Technology web site at:
<http://www.viriniawestern.edu/ht/dental>.

Applicants to the Dental Hygiene program must have completed the following:

1. One unit each of high school or college biology and chemistry;
2. Completion of BIO 141-142, Anatomy and Physiology with a grade of “C” or better by the end of the spring 2012 semester;
3. Algebra II or college equivalent. Students who have not completed Algebra I or Algebra II in high school

with a grade of “C” or better will be required to take the placement test. Those who do not place above Algebra I (MTH 3) and into Algebra II (MTH 4) or higher on placement test will be required to take developmental courses.

4. A grade of “C” or better is necessary in required high school/college units of math and science.

Prerequisites must be completed prior to summer 2012.

The applicant’s high school or college (if applicable) cumulative grade point average (GPA) must be at least 2.5 and is based on at least 12 credit hours of college in a 12-month timeframe. The GPA is determined at the end of fall semester prior to admission. Priority consideration will be given to applicants with a cumulative high school and/or college grade point average of 3.0 or above.

All qualified applicants must take the HOBET test.

Admission Procedures: The Dental Hygiene program is open to qualified male or female applicants. Admission to the VWCC-LFCC joint venture distance program site in Middletown is offered to qualified applicants on a biennial basis during even-numbered years. Deadline for submitting complete application materials is February 15 for the upcoming academic year. If the number of qualified applicants falls below the maximum enrollment, the application deadline may be extended. Applicants should be aware that meeting the curriculum admission standards does not guarantee program admission. Applicants will be notified in writing of the action taken by the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee in May. To qualify for consideration by the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee, the applicant must submit a complete application which includes the following:

- Application to VWCC and, if applicable, the Joint Venture College;
- Dental Hygiene Program Application;
- Official transcripts of high school and all colleges attended. (Transcripts from VWCC and other Virginia community colleges are not required);
- Official record showing completion of GED, SAT/ACT scores (if applicable as noted above);
- Two letters of recommendation and two forms of evaluation from employers/former teachers using the format provided by VWCC. See the website at:
<http://www.viriniawestern.edu/ht/dental>.

It is required that applicants submit official high school transcripts, GED with scores, and all official college transcripts in one envelope to the VWCC Health Technology Information Office along with the VWCC application. Applicants are encouraged to apply early and see the VWCC Web site for information, evaluation, and advising regarding the program. Qualified applicants must complete the HOBET (Health Occupation Basic Entrance Test) at their own expense, which is nonrefundable, and be

interviewed by the Dental Hygiene faculty.

It is strongly recommended that applicants with no dental assisting experience observe a dental hygienist for a minimum of one full workday to obtain a realistic view of the profession prior to application.

In addition to normal student expenses (tuition, books, etc.) the Dental Hygiene Program requires an expenditure of over \$4,900 during the two-year program for uniforms, instruments, and special supplies. More than \$3,500 will be needed at the beginning of the first semester.

VWCC-LFCC Policy on infectious disease status:

Applicants who believe they are at risk of contracting an infectious disease should seek testing and counseling prior to making application to the dental hygiene program. Students engaged in patient care activities are encouraged to know their HIV and HBV status. Applicants who are HIV or HBV positive may wish to reconsider their career goals. They must consider:

1. The possibility they may become disabled during their dental education or early in their career;
2. The infectious hazards that certain aspects of dental practice may pose;
3. The possibility of barriers to training in certain invasive clinical activities that may be imposed while in dental hygiene school because of possible hazards to patients;
4. The cost of dental education given personal health and career uncertainties.

CURRICULAR ADMISSIONS STANDARDS

Applicants to the Dental Hygiene Program must have completed the following:

Four units of high school English

One unit each of high school or college biology and chemistry

Algebra II or college equivalent

**A grade of C or better is necessary in required high school/college units of math and science.*

The applicant's high school or college (if applicable) cumulative GPA must be at least 2.5 and is based on 12 credit hours of college credit in a 12-month timeframe. The GPA is determined at the end of the fall semester. Priority consideration will be given to applicants with a cumulative high school and/or college GPA of 3.0 or above. Applicants who are currently enrolled in high school must submit SAT or ACT scores. Priority consideration will be given to applicants with a combined (total) score of 900 on the SAT or a composite score of 18 or above on the ACT. Applicants who graduated from high school more than five years prior to date of application who have not attempted any college work will not be

required to submit SAT/ACT scores. All applicants must take the health occupations basic entrance test (HOBET).

ESSENTIAL DENTAL HYGIENE FUNCTIONS

To successfully complete the clinical component of the program, the student must be able to perform all of the essential functions of a dental hygienist:

1. Communicate satisfactorily with clients, physicians, peers, family members and the health care team
2. See and hear adequately to note slight changes in the client's condition
3. Hear adequately to perceive and interpret various equipment signals
4. Demonstrate adequate eye/hand coordination for dexterity in manipulation of hand instruments and other equipment used in clinical practice
5. Use hands for fine manipulation
6. Manage the care of a client in a sudden emergency, including one-man CPR when necessary
7. Possess the visual acuity to correctly read handwritten orders, medication records, chart contents and provide safety for clients
8. Read, comprehend and apply knowledge from complex science and dental science texts

Despite the foregoing, a qualified person with a disability who can perform these essential functions with reasonable accommodation will be considered for admission along with other qualified applicants.

CLINICAL ENVIRONMENT: The applicants should realize that student dental hygienists are, by nature of the profession, exposed regularly to highly stressful and demanding situations, and organizational and time pressures in a variety of client care settings. In addition, student and practicing dental hygienists are routinely exposed to blood and body fluids.

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT: The academic environment is focused heavily on the sciences. Extensive reading is required in all classes, and courses are science based and academically challenging. Ability to apply knowledge and concepts across courses and the curriculum is necessary to master material. The ability to read and understand complex/scientific material is crucial to success, as is the ability to analyze written matter and express yourself coherently in written form. Applicants with weaknesses in reading, vocabulary, written expression and conceptualization are strongly urged to strengthen these areas prior to seeking admission. It is recommended that a medical terminology course be taken prior to admission.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM:

1. Admission is contingent upon a satisfactory medical examination indicating good general health. The medical examination must include evidence of a PPD skin test (or chest x-ray, and serology for the Hepatitis B surface antigen and antibody). The Heptavax vaccine is required. All documentation must be submitted to the head of the Dental Hygiene Program no later than August 1 in order for the student to continue in the program.
2. Current certification in health care provider cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is required for both years of the program. No substitutions are accepted. Students are responsible for providing their own malpractice insurance coverage during the two years of the program. Insurance is available for purchase after admission to the program. This policy is nonrefundable. All documentation must be submitted to the head of the Dental Hygiene Program no later than August 1 in order for the student to continue in the program.
3. All students admitted to the Dental Hygiene Program must attend dental hygiene orientation, register for all classes and pay their tuition prior to August 1. All students are required to purchase the instrument and supply kit, pay a lab usage fee and are expected to order uniforms at orientation. If a student withdraws from the program, the kit is nonrefundable.
4. Students admitted to the program with academic contingencies in biology, chemistry or algebra must provide documentation of satisfactory completion of the contingency prior to the beginning of fall classes. Failure to meet a stated contingency will result in admission being rescinded.
5. All students admitted to the program without prior experience in the dental field (chair-side dental assisting) are required to observe dental and dental hygiene procedures in the dental office of their choice. The observation experience must be completed by August 1. Assistance in locating practitioners willing to provide observation experience may be provided by the Dental Hygiene Program upon admission.
6. Students in the program are responsible for transportation to and from agencies utilized for clinical and community health rotation experiences.
7. Acceptance into the Program is contingent upon a satisfactory annual criminal background check and annual negative drug screening test. Satisfactory completion of this is required for license eligibility. Costs of the tests are the responsibility of the student.

POLICY FOR ACADEMIC RETENTION:

Continuation in the program: Satisfactory progress is demonstrated by achieving a grade of “C” or better in required dental hygiene and natural science courses. Students must satisfactorily complete NAS 185/BIO 150 with a grade of C or above before progressing to the second year of the program. Students must complete required dental hygiene courses in sequence. Should a student receive a grade of “D” in any dental hygiene didactic course or didactic component of a clinical or laboratory course, or the laboratory component of a preclinical or didactic course, the student will be dropped from the program and must reapply for admission. Should a student receive a grade of “D” in the clinical component of DNH 142, 190, 244 or 245 due to failure to meet minimum clinical requirements for the semester, the student may progress to the next semester of the program with faculty approval and will have additional patient requirements for graduation added. Two consecutive “D” grades in these clinical courses may result in the student being dropped from the program.

READMISSION: Readmission to the program will be based upon academic performance and adherence to the program policies regarding attendance and professionalism and will be contingent upon available laboratory/clinical space. Readmission is not guaranteed. Students who have been dropped must submit a written application for readmission to the program head no later than January 1 for the following fall semester, no later than April 1 for the following spring semester and no later than August 1 for the following summer session. The program head will present the readmission request to the faculty for consideration. Students applying for readmission will be notified of their admission status in writing.

Students readmitted to the program are eligible to repeat a course only once, and a dental hygiene course must be repeated during the semester in which it is offered. The student may not continue with other required dental hygiene courses until the course is repeated. Students earning a grade of “F” in any dental hygiene course will be dropped from the program and are ineligible for readmission unless there are extenuating circumstances (serious illness or death of an immediate family member).

**CURRICULUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS
GENERAL EDUCATION CORE COURSES**

BIO 141-142*	Human Anatomy & Physiology I-II	8
ENG 111*	College Composition I	3
NAS 185*	Microbiology	4
PSY 230	Developmental Psychology	3
SDV 100 or 101	College Success Skills	1
E ³	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3

DENTAL HYGIENE COURSES

DNH 111	Oral Anatomy	2
DNH 115	Histology/Head & Neck Anatomy	3
DNH 120	Management of Emergencies	2

DNH 130	Oral Radiography for Dental Hygienist	2
DNH 141-142*	Dental Hygiene I-II	10
DNH 145*	General and Oral Pathology	2
DNH 146	Periodontics for the Dental Hygiene	2
DNH 1501	Nutrition	2
DHN 190*	Coordinated Practice	3
DNH 2142	Practical Materials for Dental Hygienist	2
DNH 216	Pharmacology	2
DNH 226-227 ²	Public Health Dental Hygiene I-II	3
DNH 230	Office Practice and Ethics	1
DNH 235*	Manage of Dental Pain & Anxiety	2
DNH 244-245*	Dental Hygiene IV-V	10
Total Minimum Credits for Degree		70

¹Health and wellness are emphasized throughout the dental hygiene program, but specifically in DNH 150 Nutrition.

²Includes instruction in fundamental mathematical skills.

³Humanities/Fine Arts elective must be chosen from the "Approved List of Humanities Transfer Courses." If planning on transfer, contact the four-year institution for requirements.

*This course has a prerequisite. Prerequisites for all courses are listed in the course description section of the catalog.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

FIRST YEAR

FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
DNH 111	DNH 142	DNH 150
DNH 115	DNH 145	DNH 190
DNH 120	DNH 146	ENG 111
DNH 141	NAS 185	
SDV 100 or SDV 101		

SECOND YEAR

FALL	SPRING
DNH 214	DNH 227
DNH 226	DNH 230
DNH 235	DNH 245
DNH 244	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective
PSY 230	

NOTE: BIO 141 and BIO 142 must be completed by the spring semester prior to program entry. Support courses (non-DNH courses) may be taken prior to entry. BIO 141, BIO 142, and NAS 185 must be repeated if they were completed more than five years prior to the date of admission into the program.

Course#	Title	Credits
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First Semester

BIO 141	Human Anatomy and Physiology I ¹	4
DNH 111	Oral Anatomy	2
DNH 115	Histology/Head and Neck Anatomy	3
DNH 120	Management of Emergencies	2
DNH 141	Dental Hygiene I	5
SDV 108	College Success Skills (or SDV 100)	1
Total		17

Second Semester

BIO 142	Human Anatomy and Physiology II ²	4
DNH 216	Pharmacology	2

DNH 142	Dental Hygiene II	5
DNH 145	General and Oral Pathology	2
DNH 146	Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist	2
ENG 111	College Composition	3
Total		18

Third Semester

BIO 150	Microbiology	4
DNH 130	Oral Radiography for the Dental Hygienist	2
DNH 190	Coordinated Practice	3
DNH 150	Nutrition ³	2
Total		11

Fourth Semester

DNH 214	Practical Materials for Dental Hygiene ⁴	2
DNH 226	Public Health Dental Hygiene I	2
DHN 235	Management of Pain and Anxiety Control in the Dental Office	2
DNH 244	Dental Hygiene IV	5
PSY 230	Developmental Psychology ⁵	3
Total		14

Fifth Semester

DNH 227	Public Health Dental Hygiene II	1
DNH 230	Office Practice and Ethics	1
DNH 245	Dental Hygiene V	5
	Humanities/fine arts elective ⁶	3
Total		10

Program Total **70**

¹NAS 161 – Health Science I may be substituted for BIO 141.

²NAS 162 – Health Science II may be substituted for BIO 142.

³Health and Wellness are emphasized throughout the dental hygiene program but specifically in DNH 150 nutrition.

⁴Includes instruction in fundamental mathematical skills.

⁵PSY 231 and PSY 232 may be substituted for PSY 230.

⁶Humanities/Fine Arts elective must be chosen from the "Approved List of Humanities Transfer Courses" starting on page 50.

*Support courses (non-DNH courses) may be taken prior to entry

Note: BIO 141, BIO 142, and NAS 185 must be repeated if they were completed more than five years prior to the date of admission into the program.