

DENTAL HYGIENE, Associate in Applied Science Degree - 3716

Health Careers Department

CIP Code: 51.0602

The Dental Hygiene AAS 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. 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. Students may complete this program at the Harrisburg Campus through a combination of mixed modalities (e.g., on-campus/in-person instruction, hybrid, flex, remote instruction and/or distance education).

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 at <https://hacc.elluciancrmrecruit.com/apply/Account/Login>.

Please note that students interested in this program must begin in HACC's Allied Health AAS (#3700) degree. Then, students may apply for admission into this program, once they meet the requirements to apply. Students can discuss these admission requirements as part of their advising process.

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
- 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 healthcare
- 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 = 79.25)

General Education		Major Requirements		Other Required Courses	
COMM 101 Effective Speaking	3	DH 101 Dental Hygiene Theory & Clinical Exp I	5.75	BIOL 121 Anatomy & Physiology I	4
ENGL 101 English Composition I	3	DH 110 Dental Radiology I	3.5	BIOL 122 Anatomy & Physiology II	4
First-Year Seminar – (Preferred: AH 100)	1	DH 113 Clinical Experience II	2.5	NUTR 104 Nutrition	3
Humanities & Arts Core Elective	3	DH 116 Medical/Dental Emergencies & Theory	3.25	PSYC 101 General Psychology	3
Math or Science Core Elective - BIOL 221	4	DH 120 Dental Anatomy	2		14
Social/Behavioral Sciences Core Elective - SOCI 201	3	DH 150 Dental Materials	3.25		
Wellness Elective	1	DH 170 Techniques in Pain Control	2		
	18	DH 180 Head & Neck Anatomy & Histology	2		
		DH 190 Periodontics	3		
		DH 211 Dental Hygiene Theory III	2		
		DH 212 Clinical Experience III	5		
		DH 223 Dental Hygiene Theory IV	2		
		DH 224 Clinical Experience IV	5		
		DH 230 Oral Pathology	2		
		DH 235 Community Dental Health Education	2		
		DH 240 Pharmacology	2		

47.25

Note: Students must complete the following courses with a minimum grade of C to graduate: all BIOL and DH courses; ENGL 101; NUTR 104; COMM 101; PSYC 101; SOCI 201.

RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Summer I		Fall Semester I		Spring Semester I	
BIOL 121	4	BIOL 122	4	COMM 101	3
BIOL 221	4	DH 101	5.75	DH 113	2.5
ENGL 101	3	DH 110	3.5	DH 116	3.25
FYS Elective	1	DH 120	2	DH 150	3.25
		DH 180	2	DH 190	3
Summer II		Fall Semester II		Spring Semester II	
DH 170	2	DH 211	2	DH 223	2
DH 240	2	DH 212	5	DH 224	5
Humanities/Arts Core Elective	3	DH 230	2	DH 235	2
Wellness Elective	1	NUTR 104	3	PSYC 101	3
		SOCI 201	3		