

DENTAL HYGIENE, Associate in Science Degree - 3416

Health Careers Department

CIP Code: 51.0602

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. 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 75% of this program at the Harrisburg Campus through on-campus/in-person instruction. The remaining coursework must be completed through various modalities (e.g., hybrid, synchronous remote instruction and asynchronous instruction).

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 term.**

Please note that students interested in this program must begin in the Pre-Health Professions AS 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 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 = 77)

General Education	Major Requirements	Other Required Courses	
ENGL 101 English Composition I	DH 110 Dental Radiology I	BIOL 122 Anatomy & Physiology II	4
ENGL 102 English Composition II	DH 113 Clinical Experience II	NUTR 104 Nutrition	3
COMM 101 Effective Speaking	DH 116 Medical/Dental Emergencies & Theory	PSYC 101 General Psychology	3
Humanities & Arts Core Elective	DH 120 Dental Anatomy		10
Mathematics Core Elective - MATH 103	DH 150 Dental Materials		
Math or Science Core Elective - BIOL 221	DH 170 Techniques in Pain Control		
Science w/ a Laboratory Core Elective - BIOL 121	DH 180 Head & Neck Anatomy & Histology		
Social/Behavioral Sciences Core Elective - SOCI 201	DH 190 Periodontics		3
First-Year Seminar - DH 101	DH 211 Dental Hygiene Theory III		2
Wellness Elective	DH 212 Clinical Experience III		2
	DH 223 Dental Hygiene Theory IV		2
	DH 224 Clinical Experience IV		2
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DH 230 Oral Pathology	2
DH 235 Community Dental Health Education	2
DH 240 Pharmacology	<u>2</u>
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Note: Students must complete the following courses with a minimum grade of C to graduate: 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 113	2
ENGL 101	3	DH 110	3	DH 116	3
		DH 120	2	DH 150	3
		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	2	DH 224	2
MATH 103	3	DH 230	2	DH 235	2
Wellness Elective	1	NUTR 104	3	ENGL 102	3
		SOCI 201	3	Humanities/Arts Core Elective	3
				PSYC 101	3