

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM APPLICATION

Filing Period: **December 15 – February 15**

Overview

The Diablo Valley College (DVC) Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and approved by the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC). The program will prepare you with the knowledge and skills to pass the required licensure examinations to become a Registered Dental Hygienist.

Scope of Practice

The DVC Dental Hygiene Program involves classroom and laboratory instruction and clinical experience, preparing you to perform procedures required of a dental hygienist. Skills include direct patient care, patient assessment, dental hygiene treatment planning, scaling, root planning, radiography, preventive measures, sealant placement, local anesthetic administration, nitrous oxide sedation, tooth whitening, and customized oral health education for individuals and groups. The California Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice (CA Bus & Prof Code § 1907-1915) is provided in the [Dental Hygiene Board of California Laws and Regulations Book](#).

Career Opportunities

A variety of occupations and career paths will be available to you as a Registered Dental Hygienist, including:

- Clinical dental hygienist
- Public health dental hygienist

With additional education:

- Registered dental hygienist in alternative practice
- Corporate sales representative
- Product researcher
- Dental hygiene educator
- Oral health administrator
- Dentist

Program Learning Outcomes and Graduation Competencies

Students completing this program will be able to:

- A. Synthesize knowledge from all branches of learning to provide preventive, educational, collaborative, and therapeutic dental hygiene care for individuals and groups in a variety of settings.
 1. Graduates must be competent in providing dental hygiene care for all patient populations including child, adolescent, adult, geriatric and special needs (medically compromised).
 2. Graduates must be competent in providing the dental hygiene process of care which includes assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation.
 3. Graduates must be competent in providing dental hygiene care for all types of classifications of periodontal disease including clients who exhibit moderate to severe periodontal disease.
 4. Graduates must demonstrate competence in assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating community-based oral health programs including health promotion and disease prevention activities.
 5. Graduates must be competent in providing appropriate support measures for medical emergencies that may be encountered in dental hygiene practice.
- B. Provide dental hygiene care applying the highest moral, ethical and legal principles including those outlined by the American Dental Hygienists' Association and the American Dental Association.
 6. Graduates must be competent in applying ethical reasoning, ethical decision-making, and professional responsibility as they pertain to the dental hygiene scope of practice.
 7. Graduates must be competent in applying legal and regulatory concepts to the provision and/or support of oral health care services.
- C. Function in the professional dental hygiene roles of the clinician, health promoter/educator and change agent.
 8. Graduates must be competent in interprofessional communication, collaboration and interaction with other members of the health care team to support comprehensive patient care.
- D. Develop and maintain professional competence founded in evidence-based decision-making and continued education while promoting personal and professional growth.
 9. Graduates must be competent in the application of self-assessment skills to prepare them for life-long learning.
 10. Graduates must be competent in the evaluation of current scientific literature.
 11. Graduates must be competent in problem solving strategies related to comprehensive client care and management of patients.
- E. Promote client and community satisfaction with the quality of the dental hygiene education and care process provided by the program.

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Policies for Admission

Admission to the DVC Dental Hygiene Program is based on the general admission policies for DVC (see the [DVC College Catalog](#)), guidelines consistent with state and federal law, and guidelines established by CODA and the DHBC. The program provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap in accordance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Prerequisite and Required Coursework

- Students must achieve a "C" grade or higher in each course to meet the program requirements.
- Prerequisite courses need to be taken only on a "for grade" basis.
- An overall GPA of 2.75 or higher in prerequisite coursework is required for program admission.
- Science courses must have been completed within the past seven years.
- Biology and Chemistry courses must include an in-person laboratory component.
- In-progress prerequisite coursework will not be accepted.
- Additional DVC GE requirements are needed for degree completion. Please see the [DVC College Catalog](#).

Science Prerequisites:

- BIOSCI 139-Human Anatomy
- BIOSCI 140-Human Physiology
- BIOSCI 119-Fundamentals of Microbiology or BIOSCI 146-Principles of Microbiology
- CHEM 108-Introductory Chemistry
- CHEM 109-Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry
 - An equivalent course must include Biochemistry
 - An integrated Inorganic, Organic, Biochemistry course will not satisfy this requirement
- NUTR 160-Nutrition Science and Applications

General Education Prerequisites:

- COMM C1000-Introduction to Public Speaking (formerly COMM120) or COMM 130-Small Group Communication
- ENGL C1000-Academic Reading and Writing (formerly ENGL 122)
 - Test scores of 3 or higher in AP English Language and Composition or AP English Literature and Composition will be accepted as equivalent
- SOCIO 120-Introduction to Sociology
- PSYCH C1000-Introduction to Psychology (formerly PSYCH 101) or PSYCH 122-Psychology in Modern Life
- MATH 135- College Algebra or STAT C1000-Introduction to Statistics (formerly MATH 142)
 - Any 3-unit or higher Math course that satisfies the CSUGE Area B4 or IGETC Area 2 requirement does not need course substitution
 - Test scores of 3 or higher in AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, or AP Calculus BC will be accepted as equivalent

International Coursework

Foreign college transcripts must be translated/evaluated by a foreign evaluation service that is a NACES member. A list of NACES-approved credential evaluators is available at www.naces.org. The evaluation must include a course-by-course report with semester unit equivalencies that distinguish between upper- and lower-division coursework and include letter grades. If foreign coursework is to be used to satisfy a Dental Hygiene prerequisite, catalog descriptions will be required to show course equivalencies. English coursework taken at a foreign college will not equate to ENGL C1000 (formerly ENGL 122).

Student Selection

Class space is limited to 20 students and will be determined by a lottery. Applicants will be notified by email of their provisional acceptance, non-acceptance, or rank on an alternate list by mid-April. If a provisionally accepted student declines their acceptance into the program, the position in the class will be awarded to an alternate. All provisionally accepted students will be required to attend an Orientation Course held in late April and early May. If a student does not attend all meetings or successfully pass the Orientation Course, the position in the class will be awarded to an alternate. The alternate list is only valid for the current application cycle.

Dental Hygiene Orientation and Program Entrance Requirements

Provisionally accepted students must enroll in and attend DENHY 101. Please check the DVC Spring Schedule for specific dates and times. Admission is contingent upon completion of this course with a grade of 75% or higher to formally be accepted into the Dental Hygiene program. If the student does not pass the orientation course, the position in the class will be awarded to an alternate.

Prior to the start of Summer courses, students who have successfully passed DENHY 101 will be required to show: (1) CPR/BLS certification for Health Care Providers; (2) current immunizations/titers following CDC guidelines for healthcare providers (Hepatitis B, Influenza, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, Meningococcal, and COVID-19 with booster); (3) proof of satisfactory tuberculosis (TB) screening; (4) current physical examination; (5) current vision exam; (6) passing background check; and (7) passing certified drug test. Reporting documents will be distributed with acceptance letters.

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Becoming a Registered Dental Hygienist in California

All states require dental hygienists to be licensed. Licensure requires successful completion of an associate or baccalaureate degree from an accredited dental hygiene program, passing the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam, and a regional clinical exam. Effective January 01, 2024, students who graduate from an accredited dental hygiene educational program approved by the DHBC within the preceding three years may waive the requirement of a regional clinical exam.

Applicants must also be of good moral character and be citizens of the United States or lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States with a social security number or individual tax identification number.

Certified Background Check and Drug Test

Live Scan fingerprinting is required and checked by the Department of Justice and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation prior to state licensure. Each applicant must report any criminal record consisting of convictions or pleas of nolo contendere even if the conviction was dismissed or expunged. Past criminal records are evaluated carefully by the State and may result in denial of licensure.

- Applicants who have committed a felony should contact the DHBC to determine their eligibility.
- Making a false statement on an application regarding a past conviction is cause for denial of licensure, regardless of the nature of the crime or how long ago it occurred.

Any student with concerns regarding past criminal record should seek further information and clarification from the [DHBC](#) before undertaking the dental hygiene curriculum. Before the start of Summer courses, students who have successfully passed DENHY 101 will be required to pass a background check and a certified drug test. The drug test identifies Amphetamines, Barbiturate, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, MDMA [Urine Testing], Methadone, Methaqualone, Opiates, Oxycodone, Phencyclidine, Propoxyphene. A positive result that cannot be justified by a physician's prescription may result in denial of acceptance to the program.

Program Cost Estimate

DVC Dental Hygiene Program's current cost estimate is between \$12,000-15,000 including tuition, subject to change. For financial assistance, contact the [DVC Financial Aid office](#).

DVC Dental Hygiene Curriculum

COURSE	SEMESTER	UNITS	COURSE	SEMESTER	UNITS
DENHY 101	Dental Hygiene Orientation	.5			
	1ST Year – SUMMER	2.0		2ND Year – SUMMER	1.5
DENHY127	Infection Control: Theory and Practice	2.0	DENHY 129	Contemporary Dental Materials for the Dental Hygienist	1.5
	1ST Year – FALL	15.5		2ND Year – FALL	12.0
DENHY 120	Soft Skills for Dental Hygiene	1.0	DENHY 133	Dental Hygiene Leadership	1.0
DENHY 121A	Principles of Dental Hygiene I	3.0	DENHY 136	Dental Hygiene Care for Clients with Special Needs	1.0
DENHY 121B	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	2.5	DENHY 219	General and Maxillofacial Pathology	2.0
DENHY 124	Dental Radiology	3.0	DENHY 225	Community Oral Health	1.0
DENHY 125	Head and Neck Anatomy, Histology & Embryology	4.0	DENHY 230A	Principles of Dental Hygiene III	3.0
DENHY 126	Dental Morphology	2.0	DENHY 230B	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	4.0
	1ST Year – SPRING	16.0			12.0
DENHY 122A	Principles of Dental Hygiene II	3.0	DENHY 223	Ethics, Jurisprudence, and Practice Management	2.5
DENHY 122B	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	3.0	DENHY 226	Community Oral Health Service Learning	2.0
DENHY 123	Oral Health Care Education	2.0	DENHY 231A	Principles of Dental Hygiene IV	2.0
DENHY 128	Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist	2.0	DENHY 231B	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	4.5
DENHY 131	Pain Management for the Dental Hygienist	2.0	DENHY 290	Transition to Dental Hygiene Professional	1.0
DENHY 134	Evidence-Based Dentistry	1.0			
DENHY 135	Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist	3.0			

The DVC dental hygiene curriculum requires two consecutive academic years including summers.

Total minimum required units - 60
All DENHY courses are CSU transferable.

Please See the [College Catalog](#) for additional GE Courses needed to complete the AS Degree



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Application Procedures

It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with the following:

- The application filing period is **December 15 through January 15**.
- Complete application and supporting documents must be submitted online EXCEPT for official transcripts which must be sent to DVC Admissions and Records.
- Read each component of the application carefully. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- **Use the Application Checklist at the end of the application to ensure the application is complete.**

Application Requirements

A complete application must include all of the following:

1. Completed Dental Hygiene Program online application form.
2. Completed Prerequisite Worksheet for Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene Degree.
 - Students must achieve a "C" grade or higher in each course to meet the program requirements.
 - Prerequisite courses need to be taken only on a "for grade" basis.
 - An overall GPA of 2.75 or higher in prerequisite coursework is required for program admission.
 - Science courses must have been completed within the past seven years.
 - Biology and Chemistry courses must include an in-person laboratory component.
 - In-progress coursework will not be accepted.
3. Completed Dental Office Observation forms dated within 24 months of the application filing period.
 - One form for prophylaxis or periodontal maintenance.
 - One form for non-surgical periodontal therapy (scaling and root planing).
4. In addition, **official** digital or hardcopy transcripts showing completion of all prerequisites must be **sent to DVC Admissions and Records**.
 - Official digital transcripts must be received directly from the granting institution or transcript vendor and sent to **transcripts@dvc.edu**.
 - Official hardcopy transcripts must be sealed by the granting institution, unopened, and sent to:

DVC Admissions and Records
321 Golf Club Rd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

- OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DVC ON OR PRIOR TO JANUARY 15.

Exception: Transcripts are not required for coursework completed at DVC, Contra Costa College, or Los Medanos College.

Previous Applicants

Applications are not carried over from one year to the next. If you wish to be considered as a candidate each year, you must submit a completed new application containing all materials as directed. **Application requirements may change from year to year**. Please refer to the DVC – [Dental Hygiene Program website](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding admission requirements.

Additional Information

No guarantee can be made that an applicant will be accepted into the dental hygiene program. Falsifying statements on the application, issues with the certified background check, or failing the drug test are cause for denial or dismissal from the program. If an applicant is not admitted into the dental hygiene program, DVC offers other programs that may be of interest. Please contact a DVC counselor for more information at (925) 969-2140.

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Dental Hygiene Program Application Form

Demographic Information

Date DVC Student ID Date of Birth

Last Name First Name Middle Name Other Name Used

Mailing Address City State Zip Code

Home Telephone Work Telephone Cell Telephone Email Address

Are you a citizen of the United States?

Are you lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States upon program completion and licensure?

Are you an international student on an F-1 Visa?

Have you attended DVC before?

Have you attended another Dental Hygiene program?

If "Yes", where and when did you attend, and what was the reason for leaving

Colleges Attended

Please list ALL colleges, including DVC, where prerequisites were taken **with the most current dates first**. Please provide the date sent, or confirmation numbers for transcripts sent to DVC Admissions and Records electronically or tracking (noting the carrier) for transcripts sent as hardcopy.

Name of College	City	State	Starting Year	Ending Year	Transcript Confirmation or Date Transcripts were sent
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Applicant Certification

Submission of this form certifies that I have personally read and completed the above application. I understand the application criteria and procedures for the Dental Hygiene Program. I accept complete responsibility for submitting all required official documents. All information provided is true and accurate.

Signature Date



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Prerequisite Worksheet for Associate of Science (AS) Degree in Dental Hygiene

Directions: Enter the course number, course title, college where the course was taken, the year the course was completed, the units earned, and the grade received. Course Substitution requests for general education courses must be submitted to Admissions and Records.

DVC Category/Course	College	Course Number	Course Name	Year Completed	Units	Grade
Prerequisites - Sciences (within 7 yrs)						
BIOSC 139 Anatomy	*	*	*	*	*	*
BIOSC 140 Physiology	*	*	*	*	*	*
BIOSC 119 or BIOSC 146 Microbiology	*	*	*	*	*	*
CHEM 108 or CHEM 120 or CHEM 121 Chemistry	*	*	*	*	*	*
CHEM 109 or CHEM 227 Organic/Biochemistry	*	*	*	*	*	*
NUTRI 160 Nutrition	*	*	*	*	*	*
Prerequisites – General Education						
ENGL C1000 (Formerly ENGL 122)	*	*	*	*	*	*
COMM C1000 (formerly COMM120) or COMM 130	*	*	*	*	*	*
MATH 135 or STAT C1000 (formerly MATH 142) or Cal-GETC Area 2	*	*	*	*	*	*
SOCIO 120	*	*	*	*	*	*
PSYC C1000 (formerly PSYCH 101) or PSYCH 122	*	*	*	*	*	*

Applicant Certification

Submission of this form certifies that I have personally read and completed the above worksheet. All information provided can be verified by transcripts. I accept complete responsibility for submitting all required official documents.

Signature _____

Date _____

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The Dental Office Observation

The Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene Program requires prospective dental hygiene students to observe two dental hygiene procedures to gain an understanding of dental and dental hygiene practices.

- One observations of a prophylaxis or periodontal maintenance appointment.
- One observations of a nonsurgical periodontal therapy (scaling and root planing) appointment.

Our goal is that applicants will be better informed regarding the daily activities of the clinical career path.

The applicant can observe 2 different hygienists in 2 separate offices or the same hygienist for both procedures. **Each** observation requires a minimum of 3 hours and a maximum of 8 hours. The observations must be completed and the forms signed by the dentist and dental hygienist regardless of the employment experience of the prospective applicant.

The forms must be submitted in PDF format.

1. The Dental Office Observation Form must be dated within 24 months of the application filing period.
2. Download and print the Observation Forms.

Prophylaxis and Periodontal Maintenance Form
Non-surgical Periodontal Therapy Form

3. Complete required observations.
4. Upload the completed observation forms with all necessary signatures, license numbers, and dental office business cards.

Prophylaxis or Periodontal Maintenance Observation (PDF format) *

Non-surgical Periodontal Therapy Observation (PDF format) *



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Dental Hygiene Program Applicant Checklist

Directions:

Please use the checkboxes below to ensure that you have included all components of the application and that the information provided is complete. Please do not contact the Dental Hygiene Program or the Director of Dental Programs to ask about the status of your application. All applications are processed and reviewed by Admissions and Records.

- Dental Hygiene Application
- Prerequisite Worksheet for AS in Dental Hygiene including applicant's signature
- Dental Office Observation Forms dated within 24 months of the application filing period, scanned and uploaded in PDF format.
- Official, sealed, and unopened hardcopy or electronic transcripts reflecting final grades from all colleges and universities where prerequisites were taken.

Electronic transcripts sent from the granting institution or transcript vendor email to transcripts@dvc.edu.

or

Hardcopy transcripts mailed to:
DVC Admissions and Records
321 Golf Club Rd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Exception: Transcripts are not required for coursework completed at DVC, Contra Costa or Los Medanos Colleges

Applicants will be notified through the email provided in the application of provisional acceptance, non-acceptance, or rank on an alternate list by mid-April. Please DO NOT contact the program before April 20 with inquiries about your acceptance status.

Misc. Comment (Optional)

Signature

Date

Signature

Date: