DENTAL HYGIENE

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pcc.edu/programs/dental-hygiene

CAREER AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Dental hygienists are preventive oral health professionals who have graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program in an institution of higher education and are licensed in dental hygiene to provide educational, clinical, research, administrative and therapeutic services supporting total health through the promotion of optimum oral health.

Dental hygienists provide clinical services in a variety of settings such as private dental practices, community health settings, nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, schools, faculty practice clinics, state and federal government facilities, and Indian reservations. In addition to clinical practice, there are career opportunities in education, research, sales and marketing, public health, administration, and government. Dental hygienists may choose to combine positions in different workplace settings and career paths for professional variety. Working in education and clinical practice is one example. Flexible working hours can be a feature of this profession, with opportunities for part time or full time employment.

What does a dental hygienist do?

- Assess the patient's oral tissues and overall health.
- Screen the patient for any oral diseases or other abnormalities.
- Identify if the patient is at risk for disease.
- Formulate evidence-based, patient-centered treatment care plans.
- Perform the clinical procedures outlined in the treatment care plan.
- Educate patients regarding oral hygiene and preventive oral care.
- Evaluate the outcomes of educational strategies and clinical procedures provided.

The general responsibilities of dental hygienists include…

- Removing deposits such as plaque, calculus and stains from the teeth.
- Exposing and processing dental radiographs.
- Applying cavity-preventive agents, such as fluorides and pit and fissure sealants.
- Administering antimicrobial agents.
- Providing clinical and laboratory diagnostic tests for interpretation by other health professionals.
- In some states (including Oregon), dental hygienists…
  - Administer local anesthetics and nitrous oxide.
  - Place filling materials, temporary fillings, and periodontal dressings.
  - Remove sutures.
  - Perform root-debridement as a part of periodontal therapy.
  - Polish restorations.

The Dental Hygiene program offers a two-year curriculum that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The program of study prepares students for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) and regional licensure examinations.

Students enrolled in the Dental Hygiene program perform exposure prone procedures and are required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment during all laboratory and clinical activities that produce airborne particulate matter, or expose students to patients during dental procedures. An exposure prone procedure is one in which there is an increased opportunity for the exchange of blood borne pathogens between the patient and the dental health care provider due to the nature of the procedure being performed.

Safety policies, protocols, and procedures are taught and followed according to OSHA regulations and CDC standards to provide a safe learning and patient care environment. The program policies on Blood borne Pathogens and Infectious Disease are available to applicants upon request. Upon acceptance to the program, students receive extensive training in this area.

Applicants who have an infectious disease or who are carriers of an infectious disease should seek counsel from their physician and the program director prior to application. The college follows CDC suggested work restrictions for health-care personnel infected with or exposed to major infectious diseases in health care settings, from the CDC's Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings–2003, available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5217a1.htm Table 1, attached to and incorporated by this reference to this policy.

All PCC students enrolled in a health care or child care program, including dental hygiene, with requirements for practical experience of field training have to pass a Criminal History Check (CHC) and drug screen as a condition of their acceptance into a medical or other facility for training.

Students who do not pass the CHC and drug screen may not be eligible to complete training at affiliated clinical rotations sites, to sit for licensing or certification exams, obtain state licensure, or be hired for some professional positions. If you believe that your history may interfere with your ability to complete the program of study or to obtaining licensure, or certification in your chosen field, you should contact the appropriate state board or program director.

Computer skills: Students must have acquired basic computer skills including but not limited to: word processing, use of spreadsheets, electronic presentations, internet navigation, email management, and use of software programs or applications. It is recommended that this preparation be completed prior to entry in the program. The Dental Hygiene program requires one course in each of the following areas: nutrition, communications, sociology and psychology.

Applications are accepted each year from January 1 to April 15. Twenty students and twelve alternates are selected each year based upon specific admissions criteria.

Health Admissions Office

Sylvania Campus, Building CC, Room 208
Portland Community College
P.O. Box 19000
Portland, Oregon 97280-0990

For additional help call 971-722-4795 or check the website: www.pcc.edu/dh.

DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES OFFERED

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

Dental Hygiene

Academic Prerequisites

- Completion of the following courses or their equivalents with a letter grade of "C" or higher are required to be considered for application to the Dental Hygiene Program:
  a. WR 121Z or higher
  b. MTH 65 or higher
  c. BI 231 and BI 232 sequence with lab. Students planning to transfer dental hygiene course work to a university

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baccalaureate degree should take BI 231, BI 232, BI 233 and CH 104, CH 105, CH 106

d. BI 234 with lab (completed within the last seven years)
e. CH 102 or higher. These courses are required for entry into the program and may be used to fulfill the AAS General Education requirement.
f. FN 225
g. One Psychology course (a comprehensive list of Associate of Applied Science (AAS) approved courses can be found by viewing the general education list).
h. One Sociology course (a comprehensive list of Associate of Applied Science (AAS) approved courses can be found by viewing the general education list).
i. One Communication course (a comprehensive list of Associate of Applied Science (AAS) approved courses can be found by viewing the general education list).

- All prerequisite courses must be complete by the end of winter term prior to the application deadline. Courses planned for spring term will not be considered. Pass/No Pass grade is not acceptable in the prerequisite courses.
- The Dental Hygiene Program is a limited entry program with restricted enrollment.
  - The admissions process is competitive and based on a point system. Applicants with the highest point totals will be accepted. Completing admission requirements and applying to the programs does not guarantee admission. For our current point evaluation sheet please visit www.pcc.edu/dh. Candidates will be notified of their admissions status by the beginning of June.

Academic Requirements

- None

Non-Academic Prerequisites

- All students are required to be immunized against Hepatitis B as well as evidence of immunity to measles. Tetanus immunization and current tuberculin skin test (TST). Test must be within previous twelve months. Positive TST will require evidence of normal chest x-ray (supply upon acceptance).

Non-Academic Requirements

- None

DENTAL HYGIENE AAS DEGREE

Minimum 106 credits. Students must also meet Associate Degree Comprehensive Requirements and Associate of Applied Science Requirements. Students must complete a total of four courses of General Education. Some courses specified within the program may be used as General Education. In addition to required courses in the program of study, students must satisfy MTH 58/65 competency. Students should consult with program advisors for course planning.

Dental Hygiene Degree Courses

Code	Title	Credits
DH 101	Dental Hygiene Theory I	4
DH 102	Dental Hygiene Theory II	2
DH 103	Dental Hygiene Theory III	2
DH 104	Dental Hygiene Practice I	3
DH 105	Dental Hygiene Practice II	3
DH 105S	Dental Hygiene Seminar II	1
DH 106	Dental Hygiene Practice III	3
DH 106S	Dental Hygiene Seminar III	1
DH 109	Dental Radiography I	2
DH 109L	Dental Radiography Lab I	1
DH 110	Cariology	2
DH 121	Oral Health Education and Promotion	1
DH 125	Dental Embryology, Histology, and Anatomy	3
DH 127	Prevention and Management of Medical Emergencies	3
DH 129	Oral Pathology	3
DH 201	Dental Hygiene Theory IV	2
DH 202	Dental Hygiene Theory V	2
DH 204S	Dental Hygiene Seminar IV	1
DH 204B	Dental Hygiene Practice IV	5
DH 205	Dental Hygiene Practice V	5
DH 205S	Dental Hygiene Seminar V	1
DH 206	Dental Hygiene Practice VI	5
DH 206S	Dental Hygiene Seminar VI	1
DH 208	Community Oral Health I	1
DH 210	Dental Radiology II	1
DH 210L	Dental Radiography Lab II	1
DH 220	Pain Management	2.5
DH 220L	Pain Management Lab	1.5
DH 228	Head and Neck Anatomy	2
DH 230	Dental Materials I	2
DH 230L	Dental Materials Lab I	1
DH 233	Dental Materials II	1
DH 233L	Dental Materials Lab II	1
DH 236	Dental Hygiene Ethics and Law	1
DH 240	Dental Hygiene Restorative Theory I	2
DH 241	Dental Hygiene Restorative Practice I	3
DH 242	Dental Hygiene Restorative Theory II	1
DH 243	Dental Hygiene Restorative Practice II	2
DH 244	Dental Hygiene Restorative Practice III	2
DH 246	Pharmacology	3
DH 250	Research Methods and Issues in Oral Health	1
DH 252	Community Oral Health II	1
DH 253	Community Oral Health III	1
DH 260	Periodontology I	2.5
DH 261	Periodontology II	2.5
DH 262		2
General Education: 4 course		
Total Credits		106