

Allied Health Dental Hygiene

A registered dental hygienist is an integral part of the dental health care team and provides direct patient care to improve oral health, as well as educates individual patients and groups about dental health. The program at Delaware Technical & Community College is accredited by the American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation, 211 East Chicago Ave., IL 60611. The phone number is (312) 440-2500, or www.ada.org.

The program prepares students to be eligible for national, regional and state licensure examinations. After graduation, the dental hygienist can be employed in a variety of settings, including private practice, education, research, administration, sales or public health. Dental hygiene also offers many opportunities for educational advancement.

You'll Learn

- Comprehensive patient care
- Organizational and communication skills
- To assess patients' oral health needs
- The subject matter covered on dental hygiene licensure examinations
- To develop additional skills and abilities essential to your success on the job

You'll Earn

- An excellent salary usually starting at \$35,000 per year or higher
- The opportunity for a flexible work schedule part- or full-time
- A choice of work environments including private dental offices, hospitals, public health clinics, schools and health care facilities
- The potential for career advancement by furthering your education
- Important status on the dental health team

You'll Succeed

- More than half of all new jobs require education beyond high school.
- Employees with degrees have better chances for promotions.
- Associate degree holders generally earn 30 percent more than high school graduates (according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau).
- Many credits from an associate degree can be applied toward a bachelor's degree.

Get in, Get smart, Get going. . .

Delaware Tech operates on a semester system with new sessions in late August and mid-January, plus summer sessions beginning at the end of May and in mid-June. Non-technology courses may be taken on a part-time or full-time basis during any semester or the summer session. Some students may need refresher courses at the basic or pre-tech level; others may receive transfer credit for prior educational experiences. Counselors and advisors are available to help you schedule your courses.

Allied Health technology programs have a selective admission process, separate from College admission (below), which includes academic criteria of an algebra, biology and chemistry course at 2.5 or greater (high school or college) within the past five years and a GPA of 2.5 or greater. The prerequisite course noted below is a requirement for this specific program. Technology courses are sequential, offered only one time per year and are only open to students who have been admitted into the technology program.

People interested in entering Dental Hygiene must attend an Allied Health Information Session prior to initiating the process for admission into the technology. Information regarding these sessions may be obtained by calling (302) 283-3100. Visit the Allied Health Web site at www.dtcc.edu/wilmington/ah.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITE

General Chemistry (CHM 110) within the last five years.

TECHNICAL COURSES

Dental Hygiene Fundamentals I and II introduce students to clinical hygiene and help develop new skills for dental hygiene treatment.

Clinical Dental Hygiene I, II, III, IV and V develop clinical experience by incorporating all past and current knowledge and techniques learned in related dental hygiene courses into the treatment of all types of patients.

Practice Management assists the student seeking a professional career in dental hygiene with emphasis on resume writing, interview skills, legal implications, professional organizations, alternative practice settings and dental office management.

Oral Pathology studies the etiology, clinical signs and symptoms and treatment of pathological conditions related to the oral cavity with emphasis on the interaction between oral pathology and systemic pathology.

Periodontology/Cariology studies two diseases which affect a patient's oral health with emphasis on the dental hygienist's role in the prevention and treatment of periodontal diseases and dental caries.

Pharmacology for Dental Hygiene supplies students with a basic understanding of pharmacologic principles and therapeutic applications to health care.

The Compromised Dental Patient focuses on the needs and treatment of the mentally, physically and medically compromised patient.

Advanced Clinical Techniques provide training in additional clinical techniques, building on skills introduced in radiography, periodontology, and previous clinical courses.

Oral Histology & Embryology studies oral mucosa, the periodontium, dental tissues, the tongue and salivary glands.

Dental/Head & Neck Anatomy studies the gross anatomy of the dentition and other structures in the head and neck region.

Nutrition for Dental Care covers the fundamental principles and practices in nutritional care to maintain health and prevent illness.

Oral Radiography provides an introduction to the principles, theories and techniques of dental oral radiography.

Community Dental Health focuses on health care problems and systems within the community setting.

Community Dental Health Field Work provides experiences with community projects related to information covered in Community Dental Health.

Operative & Specialty Dentistry is a lecture and laboratory series dealing with the concepts of operative dentistry including chemical and physical properties of materials, and procedures in specialty areas of the dental practice.

SUPPORT COURSES

Composition

Anatomy & Physiology I, II

Biomedical Statistics

General Psychology

Intro to Computers & Applications

Oral Communications

Introductory Microbiology

Medical Terminology

Sociology I

TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE

1. Obtain an admission application by calling (302) 283-3100. Admission applications are also available online at www.dtcc.edu/prospective. Complete and return the application to the Wilmington Campus with a \$10 fee.
2. Request that your high school and/or college transcripts be sent to the Wilmington Admissions Office.
3. Arrange to take the Computerized Placement Test (CPT) *unless you have already completed college-level Math and English courses with a "C" grade or better*. The CPT is administered by the Admissions Office (302) 571-5343 and is used to determine appropriate course placement.
4. Meet with a Delaware Tech Wilmington campus counselor to discuss your CPT results and select your course schedule.
5. Remember to apply and register early for the best selection of courses.