

Allied Health Technology

Dental Hygiene

www.dtcc.edu • Delaware Technical & Community College

As a Dental Hygienist, you'll serve two major functions. You'll provide direct patient care to improve oral hygiene, and you'll educate patients and groups about dental health. You may decide to specialize in education, research, administration, dental product sales, or in a single clinical area. Dental Hygiene practice provides a variety of avenues for employment and educational advancement while also being an integral part of the health care team.

What You'll Learn...

- Comprehensive patient care and how to manage patients
- Organizational and communication skills
- Assessing patients' oral health needs
- The subject matter covered on dental hygiene licensure examinations
- Additional knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to your success on the job

What You'll Earn...

- An excellent salary
- 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
- Career growth potential through further certification and education

Why You'll Succeed...

- A career where your skills are in demand-- Employment opportunities for skilled dental hygienists have consistently exceeded supply
- Employees with degrees tend to be more eligible for promotion*
- Associate degree holders generally earn more than high school graduates*
- College credit may be awarded for relevant work experience
- Many credits from an Associate Degree may be applied toward a Bachelor Degree

**Statistics from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census*

Dental Hygiene

Delaware Tech operates on a semester system with new terms beginning in late August and mid-January, plus summer terms 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 term. Some students may need refresher courses at the basic or pre-tech level; others may receive transfer credit for prior educational experiences or credit for work experience. Dental Hygiene Technology is available to students meeting the minimum admission criteria through a competitive selection process. Technology courses are open only to those students who have been selected to enter the technology. These courses are sequential and are offered only one time per year.

Required Technical Courses

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

Clinical Dental Hygiene I, II, III, IV, & 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.

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

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 hygienist's role in the prevention/treatment of periodontal diseases and dental caries.

The Compromised Dental Patient focuses on the needs and

treatment of the mentally, physically, and medically compromised patient.

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

Dental Anatomy/Head & Neck Anatomy studies the 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.

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

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.

Oral Radiography is 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.

Related Courses

Composition

Oral Communication

Anatomy & Physiology I & II

Introductory Microbiology

General Chemistry

Biomedical Statistics

Medical Terminology

Intro to Computers & Applications

General Psychology

Sociology I

Getting Started

1. Attend an information session to learn about various technologies and conditions for admission into each program. Call (302) 857-1020 for information session schedule.
2. Obtain an application by calling (302)857-1020. Complete and return to Terry Campus with a \$10 application fee.
3. Take the College Placement Test (CPT) *unless college-level math, English, and reading courses have been completed with a "C" grade or better.* The CPT will determine appropriate placement and is scheduled by the Admissions Office.
4. Request that high school and/or college transcripts be sent to the Admissions Office.
5. Meet with a Delaware Tech counselor to discuss CPT results.
6. Meet with your advisor to plan schedule.
7. Apply and register early for the best selection of courses.

Standards of Excellence

- ❖ Graduates of this program are recognized as highly competent dental health care practitioners and are sought after for employment