

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Dental Hygiene

Germanna Community College and Northern Virginia Community College jointly offer the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene through a distance learning partnership. Students may complete general education courses at Germanna. Dental hygiene courses are offered through NVCC utilizing distance learning technology. This program is an expansion of the Northern Virginia Community College Dental Hygiene Program located in Springfield, Virginia. The program consists of a combination of traditional and distance learning modalities. The curriculum is designed to prepare selected students to serve in a dynamic and growing health profession as valuable members of the Dental Health team. The program is also designed to accommodate those students who wish to transfer to a four-year college or university to complete the baccalaureate degree in a health-related field.

Graduates of this Dental Hygiene Program will receive an Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene from Northern Virginia Community College. After successful completion of the program and national and regional dental hygiene board examinations, the student will be eligible for licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist (R.D.H.). The goals of the Northern Virginia Community College/ Germanna Community College Dental Hygiene Program are:

1. To attract and graduate students who demonstrate optimum competency in ethics, values, skills and knowledge as deemed valuable by the dental hygiene profession.
2. To increase the efficiency of healthcare delivery by promoting the utilization of the dental hygienist as an integral part of the healthcare environment with an emphasis on disease prevention.
3. To improve the quality of life of others through evidence-based preventive, therapeutic, and educational services.
4. To offer a dental hygiene curriculum of the highest quality emphasizing professional development and life-long learning.
5. To facilitate student's active participation in professional organization and community outreach programs.

The ultimate goal of the Dental Hygiene Program is to prepare well-informed graduates capable of providing quality care as licensed members of the dental health team. All program activities and efforts are planned to achieve this goal.

Purpose: The curriculum is designed to prepare selected students to serve in a dynamic and growing health profession as valuable members of the Dental Health team. At the successful completion of the program, the student will be eligible to take the national board and regional board examinations in Dental Hygiene leading to licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist (R.D.H.).

Transfer Information: Although transfer is not the primary purpose of an A.A.S. program, NVCC has articulation agreements that facilitate the transfer of this and other career-oriented programs to selected senior institutions. Students interested in transfer should contact a counselor or their faculty advisor early in their program. Students must comply with all general admission requirements for Allied Health Programs. (See admission requirements below).

Special Accreditation Status: The curriculum has been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and by the U.S. Department of Education.

Essential Dental Hygiene Functions: To successfully complete the clinical component of the Program, the student must be able to perform all of the essential functions of a dental hygienist:

1. Communicate satisfactorily with clients, physicians, peers, family members, and the health care team.
2. See and hear adequately to note slight changes in the client's conditions.
3. Hear adequately to perceive and interpret various equipment signals.
4. Demonstrate adequate eye/hand coordination for dexterity in manipulation of hand instruments and other equipment used in clinical practice.
5. Manage the care of a client in a sudden emergency, including one-man CPR when necessary.
6. Possess the visual acuity to correctly read handwritten orders, medication records, chart contents, and provide safety for clients.

Despite the foregoing, a qualified person with a disability who can perform these essential functions with reasonable accommodation will be considered for admission along with other qualified applicants.

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Occupational Objectives: Dental hygienists can work as clinicians, educators, researchers, administrators, managers, preventive program developers, consumer advocates, sales and marketing managers, editors, and consultants. Clinical dental hygienists may work in a variety of health care settings such as private dental offices, schools, public health clinics, hospitals, managed care organizations, correctional institutions, or nursing homes.

General Admission Requirements:

Applicant selection into the Dental Hygiene Program is selective and competitive. Students are admitted annually at the Germanna site. For more information on the application process, students should visit the department website at www.germanna.edu/dnh and click on the prospective student's link or call the department office at (540) 423-9823 or (540) 423-9833. "Unless otherwise specified, applicants must meet all of the following requirements to be admitted to Dental Hygiene Program:

1. Be admitted to Northern Virginia Community College and Germanna Community College.
2. Be 18 years of age or older, or have approval of the Assistant Dean.
3. Have earned satisfactory scores on specified placement tests. Students must qualify for MTH 04, Algebra II.
4. Have completed one unit of high school-level algebra or equivalent. See "Admission Requirements" under EACH program for particular math course prerequisites.
5. Have completed at least one unit of high school-level science or equivalent. See "Admission Requirements" under EACH program for particular math course prerequisites.
6. Have achieved a "C" average or better in the above course requirements. Deficiencies may be corrected by taking NVCC courses before entering an Allied Health or Nursing program of study.
7. Provide evidence of good physical and mental health, as substantiated by a completed Pre-Admission Health History and Physical for Allied Health and Nursing form (NVCC 125-7) signed by a licensed physician or nurse practitioner; this must be submitted prior to entering program courses. Applicants must be free of any physical and/or mental condition which might adversely affect their acceptance or performance in the program. Students with pre-existing physical and/or mental conditions which might adversely affect their acceptance or performance in the program who do not self-disclose this information are subject to dismissal from the program and will not be allowed admission in any other Allied Health or Nursing program.
8. Students with criminal convictions who do not self-disclose this information are subject to dismissal from the program and will not be allowed admission in any other Allied Health or Nursing program. A criminal background check and drug screen may be required for admission to programs as clinical affiliates include this requirement in affiliation agreements.
9. Have achieved a 2.50 GPA or better in all required general education courses taken preceding admission to an Allied Health or Nursing program, unless waived by the division dean upon the recommendation of the assistant dean.
10. Hold current CPR certification prior to entering clinical courses, unless formally waived by the assistant dean. See specific program for level of CPR required.
11. Have completed a program information session and/or interview with the assistant dean as required.

Additional Admission Requirements:

1. Students must pass NAS 161-162, Health Science I-II, 8 credits, with a grade of B or better prior to being admitted to the program, ENG 111, College Composition, and SDV 101, Orientation to Health Care with a "C" or better.
2. Students may be required to repeat courses or to complete evaluative testing for credits earned more than ten years ago.

Special Program Requirements: The Commonwealth of Virginia Board of Dentistry reserves the right to deny licensure to any candidate who has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude or the use of drugs or alcohol to the extent that such use renders him/her unsafe to practice dental hygiene. Any applicant who has been found guilty of a misdemeanor or felony must consult with the Dental Hygiene Assistant Dean prior to admission.

Responsibilities of Dental Hygiene Students

The following are responsibilities of students in all Allied Health and Nursing programs:

1. To prepare students for the high ethical standards of the health professions, the College expects absolute academic integrity both in the classroom and in clinical practice. Therefore, cheating, attempting to cheat, plagiarizing, lying, stealing academic work which includes secured tests or related materials, submitting papers purchased or written by others, or failing to report an occurrence of academic dishonesty or any violation of this honor code may subject the student to the College's disciplinary procedures as defined in the NVCC Student Handbook.

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2. Students in Allied Health and Nursing programs incur a variety of expenses in addition to college tuition and fees. These include, but are not limited to, the cost of uniforms, accessories, and travel to clinical assignments. Students are also responsible for state licensure and national accreditation application and testing fees.
3. A strict dress code is required in the clinical setting. Students may be dismissed if they fail to comply with this dress code.
4. The College reserves the right to require students to obtain and maintain at their own expense liability/malpractice insurance with a carrier authorized to transact such business in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Whether or not insurance appropriate to the program is required, students are encouraged to carry such insurance on their own.
5. Students are required to complete learning experiences at local hospitals and/or other community-based agencies. Students may be required to attend both day and/or evening clinical assignments.
6. Students must provide their own transportation to clinical assignments. Strict attendance is required at clinical sites.
7. Students may utilize the resources of the assigned clinical affiliate for emergency medical treatment for injuries or illness that may occur during the time period when students are assigned to the health care facility. The student is responsible for any expenses incurred for this treatment.
8. Students must comply with all clinical contract protocols including immunization requirements, drug screening and background checks.
9. Students must keep their CPR certifications current each year they are enrolled in an Allied Health or Nursing Program.
10. While enrolled in clinical courses, students may not replace or take the responsibility of "qualified" staff in affiliated facilities. However, after demonstrating proficiency, students may be permitted to perform specified procedures under careful supervision. Allied Health and Nursing students may be employed in clinical facilities outside regular education hours provided that such work does not interfere with academic responsibilities. The work must be non-compulsory and subject to employee regulations. Any exception to this policy must have the approval of the Allied Health or Nursing Division Dean.
11. Students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior consistent with standards associated with health care practitioners.

Continuation Requirements for Dental Hygiene Students

The following continuation requirements govern students in all Allied Health and Nursing programs:

1. Each course in the program major must be completed with a grade of "C" or better before taking the next course in the sequence and to satisfy graduation requirements, unless waived by the division dean upon the recommendation of the assistant dean.
2. All courses in the major must be taken in the sequence prescribed in the NVCC Catalog, unless otherwise approved by the assistant dean.
3. To pass a course students must successfully complete both the didactic (classroom) and the clinical/lab requirements.
4. Program faculty and clinical affiliates reserve the right to recommend, through appropriate channels, withdrawal of any student who exhibits unsafe performance or non-adherence to prescribed clinical affiliate policies and procedures.
5. Satisfactory physical and mental health must be maintained for continuance in the program. Applicants must be free of any physical and/or mental condition that might adversely affect their acceptance or performances in the program. The College reserves the right to require medical examinations to verify continuing compliance. Students with pre-existing physical and/or mental conditions which might adversely affect performance in the program who do not self-disclose this information are subject to dismissal from the program and will not be allowed admission in any other Allied Health or Nursing program.
6. Students with criminal convictions who do not self-disclose this information are subject to dismissal from the program and will not be allowed admission in any other Allied Health or Nursing program.

Program Re-Enrollment Requirements for Dental Hygiene Students

Any student who has voluntarily withdrawn or who has been withdrawn due to unsatisfactory academic or clinical performance may apply for re-admission the following academic year. Acceptance will be based upon space availability, successful fulfillment of any contingencies agreed to in writing at the time of withdrawal, and assistant dean approval. An interview and medical examination may be required.

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SUGGESTED SCHEDULING:

FIRST YEAR

First Semester

DNH 111 Oral Anatomy	2
DNH 115 Head and Neck Anatomy/Histology	3
DNH 130 Oral Radiology for the Dental Hygienist	2
DNH 141 Dental Hygiene I	5
Total Credits	12

Second Semester

DNH 120 Management of Emergencies	2
DNH 142 Dental Hygiene II	5
DNH 145 General and Oral Pathology	2
DNH 146 Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist	2
DNH Pharmacology	2
Total Credits	13

Summer

DNH 143 Dental Hygiene III	4
DNH 214 Practical Materials for Dental Hygiene	2
Total Credits	6

SECOND YEAR

First Semester

DNH 150 Nutrition	2
DNH 226 Public Health Dental Hygiene I	2
DNH 235 Management of Pain and Anxiety in the Dental Office	2
DNH 244 Dental Hygiene IV	5
PED 116 ¹ Lifetime Fitness & Wellness	1
PSY 201 ² Introduction to Psychology I	3
Total Credits	15

Second Semester

CST 229 Intercultural Communication ³	3
DNH 227 Public Health Dental Hygiene II	2
DNH 230 Office Practice & Ethics	1
DNH 245 Dental Hygiene V	5
PED/RPK Elective	1
HIS 101 History of Western Civilization I	
OR HIS 111 History of World Civ. I	
OR HIS 261 Topics in Cultural Ethnicity	3
Total Credits	15

Total credits for the A.A.S. Degree in Dental Hygiene = 61 (72 with 8 credit NAS, 3 credit ENG, and 1 credit SDV prerequisites).

To graduate from a degree program, students entering NVCC Fall 1999 or later must demonstrate computer competency skills as described in the Degree Requirements section of the Instructional Programs of this catalog. Students in this program may take HIT 130 – Intro to Healthcare Information Systems or take the NVCC computer competency test. Students graduating from this program must participate in general education outcomes assessment. A superior level of performance on these assessments will be recognized by an award and will be noted on a student's transcript." (Northern Virginia Community College Catalog 2009-2010)

¹ The PED requirement may be met by one of the following options: PED 116, 2 cr.; PED 220, 2 cr.; PED 116, 1 cr. plus a PED activities course, 1 cr.; or PED 116, 1 cr. Plus RPK 205, 216, or 225. PED 116 is offered as both a 1-credit and a 2-credit courses

² PSY 200 is offered by Germanna Community College, which may be accepted as a transfer credit in place of PSY 201.

³ CST 299 is offered by Germanna Community College, which may be accepted as a transfer credit in place of SPD 229.

Students graduating from this program will be required to participate in a general education outcomes assessment during their last semester.