

## Dental Hygiene, AAS

### School of Health Professions

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#### Program Description

The Dental Hygiene AAS program offers the academic preparation and clinical training needed for a variety of dental hygiene careers. While most dental hygienists practice in private dental offices, others provide services in dental specialty practices, hospital and industrial clinics, correctional institutions, government health agencies, insurance companies and military services. With additional education through degree completion programs, dental hygienists also work in school systems, dental and dental hygiene education programs, dental sales and research. The program includes clinical experience in the college campus facility. Patients will come to campus for prophylactic dental care; however, students may need to secure patients to meet clinical requirements.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. The Commission is a specialized accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at 312-440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

#### Special Admission and Selection Criteria

Admission to the Dental Hygiene program is highly competitive and enrollment is limited. Specific criteria for admission and selection are listed below.

- Applicants must be graduates of an accredited secondary school program or hold a GED equivalency certificate prior to selection.
- High school preparation should include one year each of biology, chemistry and algebra. If these courses were not taken in high school, BIO 107, CHM 107 and MTH 052 must be completed prior to testing for the dental hygiene program.
- Students must attend a placement assessment and educational planning session and complete any developmental courses that may be required based on the placement assessment.
- Applicants must complete the following courses with a grade of "C" or better prior to beginning the program: BIO 171, CHM 225, SOC 155, and PSY 160.
- Applicants who have completed 15 or more college-level credits towards a GPA at WCCC must attain a minimum 2.5 GPA:
  - Students with less than 15 college-level credits at WCCC will be evaluated based on:
    - a minimum 2.5 GPA overall if the applicant has completed 15 or more college-level credits at other post-secondary institutions OR
    - a minimum 3.0 High School GPA OR

- a minimum 165 on the GED (minimum 15 on HiSET subtests)
- If GPA is less than 2.5, one or more of these courses may be repeated to meet the requirements before testing.
- Transfer courses are not calculated into the GPA
- Preference may be given to applicants who exceed the minimums.
- Qualified applicants must take the Dental Hygiene admission examination. Applicants will be notified of testing dates.
- If there are more qualified applicants than available seats, the Dental Hygiene program will use a selective admission process based on GPA and the Dental Hygiene admission examination score.
- Applicants selected for admission must submit satisfactory results from pre-entrance physical, dental, hearing and eye examinations obtained at the candidate's expense. Specific information regarding the examination will be provided to students upon acceptance.

#### Application Process for Health Profession Programs

- Complete and submit an Application for Admission to Westmoreland County Community College.
- Complete and submit an application for the specific Health Profession Program (Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Expanded Functions Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Nursing\*, Phlebotomy/Specimen Processing\*, Surgical Technology or Radiology).
- Submit all required documents to the Admissions Office by the deadline.
- Submit official transcript from all secondary schools attended, graduate equivalency degree (GED) programs and any other formal educational program beyond high school.

*For Fall Start:*

Application Deadline – January 12 prior to Fall start  
Acceptance Notification – Mid-March

#### Final Admission Criteria

Students accepted into the School of Health Professions including Nursing, Dental Programs, Radiology, Sonography, Medical Assisting, Phlebotomy, Surgical Technology and Specimen Processing are required to have a health clearance, criminal background check, child abuse history and drug screening at the student's expense.

The Program Director of each Health Profession Program gives the accepted student directions for setting up a password-secure Castle Branch Account.

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Castle Branch is the background screening and compliance tracking company, which provides Westmoreland County Community College Health Profession Programs with student background screening services.

Castle Branch background screening and compliance management includes:

- Background Checks (FBI Fingerprint Check, Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse Clearances)
- Urine Drug Screen
- Immunization and Record Tracking
- Houses Tuberculosis screening results
- CPR Training Documentation
- Liability Insurance (if applicable for program)
- Houses the results of the Required Health Physical

Final admission is conditional pending:

- Receipt of Urine Drug Screen to determine if there are any substances that will prevent the applicant from participating in clinical experiences or bar entry into Health Profession Programs.
- Receipt and evaluation of Criminal Background Check to determine if there is any conviction that may bar the applicant from entering the Health Profession Programs.
- Receipt of proof of vaccinations including, but not limited to, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, HepB, Flu, and COVID-19 that are necessary to participate in clinical experiences.

Receipt of Child Abuse History to determine if there is any conviction that may bar the applicant from entering the Health Profession Programs.

### **Essential Cognitive, Physical and Behavioral Functions**

The Westmoreland County Community College Health Profession Programs including Nursing, Dental Programs, Radiology, Sonography, Medical Assisting, Surgical Technology, Phlebotomy and Specimen Processing require that students meet certain functional abilities essential to each program. A detailed list is available in each program's handbook.

Please be aware that based on ongoing changes occurring in the dental profession, it may be necessary to modify courses listed in this catalog to meet changing practice competencies.

### **Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Provide dental hygiene care for the child, adolescent, adult, geriatric and medically compromised patient with an awareness of cultural diversity within the community.
- Provide the dental hygiene process of care that includes assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation utilizing critical thinking and information management skills.
- Provide dental hygiene care for all types of classifications of periodontal disease, including patients who exhibit moderate to severe periodontal disease.
- Operate all dental equipment safely, effectively and efficiently.
- Expose, process and evaluate all types of oral radiography.
- Apply computation skills to provide safe exposure to oral radiation.
- Develop interpersonal and communication skills to effectively interact with diverse population groups.
- Develop competency in assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating community based oral health programs, including health promotion and disease prevention activities with awareness of local community needs.
- Provide appropriate life-support measures for medical emergencies that may be encountered in dental hygiene practice.
- Apply ethical, legal and regulatory concepts to the provision and/or support of oral health care services.
- Manage self to adapt to the changing demands of the oral health care profession.
- Accept personal responsibility to prepare for professional development through lifelong learning.
- Utilize computer literacy to assess current scientific literature.
- Be competent in the evaluation of current scientific literature.

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Sugg. Term	Seq. #	Course ID	Course Title	Cr.	Term Offered	Prereq(s)	Options Available
1st Summer	1	PDV 101	First Year Seminar	1	F, Sp, Su		
	1	BIO 171	Anatomy and Physiology I	4	F, Sp, Su	CHM 155, 107, 225 or HS Chemistry and ENG 095 or Placement	
	2	CHM 225	Chemistry for the Health Sciences	4	F, Sp, Su	CHM 107 or CHM 155	
	3	SOC 155	Principles of Sociology	3	F, Sp, Su		
	4	PSY 160	General Psychology	3	F, Sp, Su		
1st Fall	5	DAH 101	Introduction to Dentistry	3	F		
	6	DAH 102	Dental Materials	2	F		
	7	DAH 104	Head, Neck and Dental Anatomy	4	F		
	8	BIO 172	Anatomy and Physiology II	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 171	
	9	ENG 161	College Writing	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 085 or placement	
1st Spring	10	DAH 103	Medical Emergencies	1	Sp	DAH 101, 102, 104	
	11	DAH 105	Dental Radiology	3	Sp		
	12	DAH 111	Dental Hygiene Lecture	3	Sp		
	13	DAH 112	Dental Hygiene Lab	4	Sp		
	14	DAH 113	Oral Histology/Embryology	2	Sp		
	15	DAH 114	Periodontics I	3	Sp		
2nd Summer	16	DAH 106	Nutritional Biochemistry	2	Su	DAH 103, 105, 111, 112, 113, 114	
	17	DAH 109	Oral Pathology	2	Su		
	18	DAH 115	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	5	Su		
	19	DAH 117	Local Anesthesia	3	Su		
	20	CPT 150	Microcomputer Concepts	3	F, Sp, Su		
2nd Fall	21	BIO 265	Microbiology	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 155 or BIO 171 and CHM 107, 155, 264, or HS Chemistry	
	22	DAH 205	Periodontics II	1	F	DAH 106, 109, 115, 117	
	23	DAH 206	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	6	F		
	24	DAH 207	Pharmacology	2	F		
	25	DAH 209	Community Dental Health	3	F		
2nd Spring	26	DAH 208	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	6	Sp	DAH 205, 206, 207, 209	
	27	ENG 163	Business Communications	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 161	
	28	BUS 120	Math of Business	3	F, Sp, Su	MTH 050, 050A, or placement	ACC 155
	29	SPC 156	Interpersonal Communications	3	F, Sp, Su		

Total Program Credits

92

Students must pass all program courses with a C or better