

## 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.

#### Getting Started: General Application Process for Health Professions Programs

- Apply to be a Westmoreland County Community College Student.
- Submit official transcript from all secondary schools attended, graduate equivalency degree (GED) programs and any other formal educational program beyond high school.
- Applicants for the Westmoreland County Community College Health Profession programs must be a Westmoreland County Community College student and have an active Student ID and college email account.
- Applicants for the Health Professions Programs must also have attended any college required planning sessions and placement assessment(s) and completed any developmental coursework that may be required based upon the assessment evaluation prior to applying for the selected Health Profession.
- 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 College by the deadline.
- Qualified applicants to the Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Nursing Program will be invited to take the standardized entrance examination. The score on this examination is utilized in the selective admissions process. You may only take this examination once per admission cycle.
- Preference for admissions will be given to students who exceed minimum criteria

#### Special Admission and Selection Criteria for the Associate Degree Dental Hygiene Program

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

- High school preparation should include:
  - Mathematics (2 units, one in algebra required)
  - Science (2 units - one in chemistry with a laboratory and one biology with a laboratory)
  - If high school algebra, chemistry and biology were not successfully completed with a "C" grade or better, applicants may meet these application requirements by completing MTH 052, MTH 052A, CHM 107, BIO 107, or higher level course in discipline with a "C" grade or better. Placement testing demonstrating the applicant to be at the college level meets the high school algebra requirement for this criterion.
- 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

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the examination will be provided to students upon acceptance.

*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 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.

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 special needs patient.
- Prepare the dental hygiene process of care that includes comprehensive collection of patient data, analysis of assessment, establishment of a dental hygiene care plan, provision of comprehensive patient-centered treatment, measurement of goals, and accurate recording of documentation.
- Provide dental hygiene care for all types of classifications of periodontal diseases including patients who exhibit moderate to severe periodontal disease.
- Demonstrate interprofessional communication, collaboration and interaction with other members of the health care team to support comprehensive patient care.
- Recognize the oral health needs of community-based programs by planning an oral health program to include health promotion and disease prevention activities, implementing the planned program, and evaluating the effectiveness of the implemented program.
- Provide appropriate life-support measures for medical emergencies that may be encountered in dental hygiene practice.
- Apply ethical reasoning, ethical decision making and legal and regulatory concepts to the provision and/or support of oral health care services
- Identify self-assessment skills to prepare for life-long learning.
- Implement the use of current scientific literature
- Apply problem solving strategies related to comprehensive patient care and management of patients.

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Sugg. Term	Seq. #	Course ID	Course Title	Cr.	Term Offered	Prereq/Coreq(Co)	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 107, CHM 155, CHM 225 or high school chemistry (C or better) and ENG 095 or Placement	
	2	CHM 225	Chemistry for the Health Sciences	4	F, Sp, Su	One year of high school chemistry (C or better), 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	BIO 171, CHM 225, PSY 160, SOC 155; Co: DAH 102, DAH 104, BIO 172	
	6	DAH 102	Dental Materials	2	F	BIO 171, CHM 225, PSY 160, SOC 155; Co: BIO 172, DAH 101, DAH 104	
	7	DAH 104	Head, Neck and Dental Anatomy	4	F	BIO 171, CHM 225, PSY 160, SOC 155; Co: DAH 101, DAH 102, BIO 172	
	8	BIO 172	Anatomy and Physiology II	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 171 with a "C" grade or better.	
	9	ENG 161	College Writing	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 085 Placement; Co: ENG 095 or ENG 099 or placement	
1st Spring	10	DAH 103	Medical Emergencies	1	Sp	Co: DAH 105, DAH 111, DAH 112, DAH 113, DAH 114	
	11	DAH 105	Dental Radiology	3	Sp	DAH 104; Co: DAH 103, DAH 111, DAH 112, DAH 113, DAH 114	
	12	DAH 111	Dental Hygiene Lecture	3	Sp	Co: DAH 103, DAH 105, DAH 112, DAH 113, DAH 114	
	13	DAH 112	Dental Hygiene Lab	4	Sp	BIO 172; Co: DAH 103, DAH 105, DAH 111, DAH 113, DAH 114	
	14	DAH 113	Oral Histology/Embryology	2	Sp	DAH 104; Co: BIO 172, DAH 103, DAH 105, DAH 111, DAH 114	
	15	DAH 114	Periodontics I	3	Sp	Co: DAH 103, 105, 111, 112, 113	
2nd Summer	16	DAH 106	Nutritional Biochemistry	2	Su	DAH 103, DAH 105, DAH 111, DAH 112, DAH 113, DAH 114; Co: DAH 109, DAH 115, DAH 117	
	17	DAH 109	Oral Pathology	2	Su	DAH 103, DAH 105, DAH 111, DAH 112, DAH 113, DAH 114; Co: DAH 106, DAH 115, DAH 117	
	18	DAH 115	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	5	Su	DAH 103, DAH 105, DAH 111, DAH 112, DAH 113, DAH 114; Co: DAH 106, DAH 109, DAH 117	
	19	DAH 117	Local Anesthesia	3	Su	DAH 103, DAH 105, DAH 111, DAH 112, DAH 113, DAH 114; Co: DAH 106, DAH 109, DAH 115	
	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, CHM 155, CHM 225 or high school chemistry (C or better), ENG 085 or placement	
	22	DAH 205	Periodontics II	1	F	DAH 106, DAH 109, DAH 114, DAH 115, DAH 117	
	23	DAH 206	Clinical Dental Hygiene II	6	F	DAH 106, 109, 114, 115, and 117	
	24	DAH 207	Pharmacology	2	F	DAH 115; Co: DAH 206, BIO 265	
	25	DAH 209	Community Dental Health	3	F	Co: DAH 205, DAH 206	

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2nd Spring	26	DAH 208	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	6	Sp	DAH 205, DAH 206	
	27	ENG 163	Business Communications	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 161	
	28	BUS 120	Math of Business	3	F, Sp, Su	MTH 050, MTH 050A, or Placement	ACC 155
	29	SPC 156	Interpersonal Communications	3	F, Sp, Su		

Total Program Credits

93

DEH

Students must pass all program courses with a C or better