Westmoreland County Community College
ADMISSIONS

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

FAQ’s

1. How long is WCCC’s dental hygiene program?

Once accepted into WCCC’s Dental Hygiene program, students can complete the program in two years.

2. Does WCCC have a part-time dental hygiene program?

No, once accepted to the Dental Hygiene program students must complete it in the recommended sequence.

3. Are the Accuplacer test and the NLN test (required for admission) the same thing?

No. The Accuplacer test is WCCC’s placement test for math and English. This test will indicate if a student needs developmental work in these two areas. The required developmental courses need to be completed with a letter grade of “C” or above before the student can take the NLN examination.

4. Do I really need to send my high school transcript?

Yes! The final OFFICIAL high school transcript is a mandatory requirement for the admission procedure. Do not assume for any reason that the college has your transcript...check with Admissions. The high school transcript is still required even if a student has a bachelor’s degree. It is always best to check with the Office of Admissions to confirm that your transcript is on file. You do not want to have this missing and not be eligible to take the NLN examination. To check the status of your high school transcript you can contact Admissions at 724-925-4077.

5. If I am trying to get into the Dental Hygiene program, can I have my pre-admission requirements and developmental courses in progress during the semester that the test is given and still be eligible to take the NLN test?

No. A student must have all pre-admission courses (algebra, biology and chemistry) and any required developmental courses, as indicated by the results of WCCC’s Accuplacer test, as well as the three required program prerequisites completed by the application deadline date of January
5, in order to be eligible for the NLN Pre-Entrance Exam. (Should a student be working toward the program by taking general education courses that the program requires, courses must be completed with at least a “C” grade and the GPA must be 2.5 or above to test.)

6. Is the Dental Hygiene program offered at any of the other WCCC’s off-campus centers?

No, but students are able to take any of the general education requirements at any of our centers to work toward the program. The actual dental hygiene courses are only offered at the Youngwood campus.

7. If I have general education courses completed from another college and they are required for the dental hygiene program, can they be applied to WCCC’s program?

In most cases, if the student has a Bachelors or Associates Degree from another college OR if the courses have been taken less than ten years ago with a grade of “C” or above, the college will transfer the courses in. The student will need to supply WCCC with official transcripts from ALL colleges that they wish to have courses transferred from, and submit a completed Transfer of Credit form (obtained from the Admissions office) and the Admissions Coordinator must evaluate the transcripts to complete the process.

8. If I have general education courses completed, is the Dental Hygiene program still two years?

Yes. The dental hygiene courses are offered in a sequence; therefore making the program the full two years. However, completing general education courses that the program requires will lighten a student’s course load.

9. Does WCCC accept dental hygiene courses from other schools?

Students with dental hygiene courses from other institutions will need to speak with the Director of Dental Hygiene to see if they are transferable.

10. If I have general education courses completed from another college and they are required for the dental hygiene program, can they be applied to WCCC’s program?

In most cases, if the student has a degree from another college or if the courses have been taken less than ten years ago with a grade of “C” or above, the college will transfer the courses in. The proper paperwork is necessary, and the Admissions Coordinator must evaluate the transcripts to complete the process.

11. If I already have a radiology course or certification, can I use that within the program?

Pennsylvania radiology certification is not transferable to the dental hygiene program. The only possibility for radiology to transfer into the dental hygiene program is if students have taken a radiology course (minimum of 3 credits) from another CODA accredited dental hygiene program at another institution, the course may be considered for transfer. This would be done through the Director of Dental Hygiene.
12. How often can I take the NLN test?

You may try as many times as you wish to get into our program, however, you may only test once a year.

13. Do I need to complete all of my physicals, clearances, etc. now?

No. Once a student has been accepted to the program these requirements will be explained to the accepted students at the orientation meeting held by the Director of the Dental Hygiene Program. Students are informed of this meeting in their acceptance letter.

14. How can I get back into WCCC’s Dental Hygiene program, if I was in it previously?

A previous student would get into our program just as a new student would. They must apply, meet all pre-admission requirements and score high enough on the NLN test for acceptance.

15. Once I get my Associates Degree from WCCC, can I transfer this to a four-year institution to obtain my bachelors degree?

Yes. WCCC’s Associate Degree for Dental Hygiene program is fully accredited and transferable to most four-year institutions.

16. How many students are accepted to the dental hygiene program?

24 students

17. What are the hours of the dental hygiene program including clinicals?

Dental hygiene classes are scheduled on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 am and 5pm. Clinical courses are scheduled to include two evenings of clinic each semester. The evening clinic sessions are scheduled from 5pm until 8:30pm.

Individual class schedules will vary from semester to semester. Students are made aware of the dental hygiene schedule for the ensuing semester prior to the WCCC registration days which are held every year in October and March.

18. Do I need to recruit my own patients?

Yes, students are responsible to secure the types and classifications of patients that they need to meet the clinic requirements for progression in the dental hygiene program. The dental hygiene clinic does have a pool of public patients that are distributed on a rotating basis to students in the program.

19. Can I still work and still complete the dental hygiene program?

Due to intense curricular demands, students are advised NOT to work while enrolled in the dental hygiene program. However, if the student has enough support at home, some students have been successful at working 10 – 20 hours per week while enrolled in the dental hygiene program.
Work schedules must be flexible to accommodate the changing demands of the program from semester to semester.

Students that must work more than 20 hours per week have not been successful at completing the dental hygiene program.

20. Are there an abundance of jobs in the dental hygiene field?

Dental hygiene is a high priority occupation with many career opportunities throughout the state and the country. However, full time jobs with benefits are scarce in the Westmoreland county region. Many hygienists seek part time employment at several dental offices, and have the ability to create their own personal work schedule in the process.

ADMISSIONS: DLT: 9/19/08, 2/3/09