Vancouver Community College’s (VCC) Dental Hygiene Program leads to a career as a registered dental hygienist. Graduates acquire specialized knowledge, skills and attitudes to function as an important member of the oral health team. Dental hygienists work collaboratively with a variety of dental and other health professionals to address the oral health needs of individuals, populations and community groups.

The dental hygiene program involves experiential learning in areas including professionalism, communication and collaboration, critical thinking, advocacy, clinical therapy, oral health education and health promotion. Students have the opportunity to apply what they’ve learned while working with the public in the VCC Dental Clinic. Rotations to a wide variety of health care and community facilities are also organized for students to learn and apply knowledge and skills.

Registered dental hygienists work in a number of practice settings including dental offices, dental hygiene practices, residential care facilities, hospitals, community health agencies, educational institutions, research facilities, administrative roles and may also practice as self-employed contractors.

Program information

- Credentials: Diploma
- Length: 2 years, full-time
- Start: September

Program admission requirements

The following first year university transfer credit courses with an overall grade point average of 3.0 (B) or better:

- Biol 1120 & Biol 1220 or equivalent Human Anatomy & Physiology (min 6 credits)
- Chem 1121 & Chem 1223 or equivalent Chemistry (min 6 credits)
- Engl 1127 & Engl 1229 English (Literature) or Engl 1101 & Engl 1001 plus Engl 1102 & Engl 1002 or equivalent English (min 6 credits)
- Psych 1100 & Psych 1200 or equivalent Psychology (min 6 credits)
- Math 1111 or equivalent Introductory Statistics (min 3 credits)
- Elective—unspecified (min 3 credits)

Upon acceptance the following will be required:

- Current “C” certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation CPR
- Proof of a negative TB skin test. If the skin test is positive, proof of a negative TB chest x-ray is required.
- A Criminal Record Check (CRC) is required in accordance with the Criminal Records Review Act.
- A complete immunization record.
- Current certification in Emergency First Aid from St. John’s Ambulance or the Red Cross

If English is not your first language:

- Successful completion of six credits of University Transfer English courses (C+ grade or higher in each course) or
- completion of an English language assessment

More information

Contact Program Advising:
By phone: 604.871.7000, option 2
In person: 1155 E. Broadway, or
200-block Dunsmuir at Hamilton

For the most up-to-date program info, check vcc.ca.