

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN HEALTH CARE AT VWCC

## DENTAL HYGIENE

Associate in Applied Science  
VWCC

Joint Venture with DCC and LRCC

Application Information for 2026

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Fralin Center for Science & Health Professions

at VWCC

Application Deadline: **December 1, 2025**

(Notes below)

Virginia Western Community College has an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene.

Pam Woody and Jasmine Terry process academic files for students applying to Dental Hygiene, Nursing, Practical Nursing, Radiography, Radiation Oncology, Medical Laboratory Technician, Physical Therapist Assistant, Surgical Technology & OTA (coming fall 25). All academic files to one of these Health Professions programs will be processed in the Health Professions Advising and Applicants Office. Our office is located in the Fralin Center for Science and Health Professions (Fralin Center) which is on the Virginia Western Community College campus in Roanoke, Virginia. The room number is 339. (You can mail the application materials to: Attention Pam Woody, School of Health Professions, 3091 Colonial Avenue; Roanoke, VA 24015.) You can reach a team of advisors at [healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu](mailto:healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu).

The Dental Hygiene program is a five-semester program, and we accept one time a year for VWCC and either LRCC (even years) or DCC (odd years). The classes will begin in the Fall of each year which is usually in the mid to later part of August. We do not have a waiting list for this program. We go through an acceptance process each year to consider all applicants that have made application and completed the admission steps, including completion of an entrance test and an

interview of some sort, if required. Interviews and essay prompts have not been used since fall 2019 admission. Details regarding the continued admission process will be relayed when it is time to complete the TEAS in spring prior to fall admission. We accept applications from March 2025 to the **deadline of December 1 of 2025**.

This presentation will discuss the Admission Criteria and process, the prerequisites for the program, the Dental Hygiene Curriculum, a typical schedule for the first semester, if accepted and estimated cost of the program.

For information regarding the application process and verification of complete academic file, prior to receiving the advising letter, you may contact Ms. Brown for assistance. For assistance with career choices and selections, you may contact team of advisors at [healthprofessions@virginiawestern.edu](mailto:healthprofessions@virginiawestern.edu)

Let me also mention our Joint Venture Sites. While we accept at **VWCC in Roanoke each year**, we have alternating acceptance cycles with our Joint Venture sites. We have a Joint Venture Site at Laurel Ridge Community College which is located in Middletown, Virginia. We accept at this site for the **Fall in even years**. The application deadline for VWCC and **Joint Venture LRCC will be December 1, prior to fall admission in even years**. ie December 1, 2025 for fall 2026 consideration

We accept in odd numbered years at our Joint Venture with **Danville Community College** located in Danville, VA. The application deadline for VWCC and **Joint Venture DCC is December 1, prior to fall admission of odd years**. For fall 2027 consideration, the application deadline will be December 1, 2026.

Please note that the Dental Hygiene classroom environment consists of various modalities. While most courses originate from the main campus at VWCC, some courses may originate from one of the distance campuses.

For course suggestions and mapping, you may contact the Program Advisor, Ms. Rhonda Perdue, [rperdue@virginiawestern.edu](mailto:rperdue@virginiawestern.edu).

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- ▶ Academically Challenging
- ▶ Science and Math orientation
- ▶ Classroom and Clinical components
- ▶ Skills application
- ▶ Patients as partners in health/wellness

The Dental Hygiene program is academically challenging in regards to it is a very intense program.

It does have a strong math and science orientation and studies have shown if students are successful in Math and Science they should be successful in a Health Professions program. That is one reason we have the math and science prerequisites for our program and that science and math is the basis for our courses.

The program does consist of classroom and clinical components. At VWCC, the clinical sites include a fully operational digital clinic on the Virginia Western Campus as well as several enrichment clinical sites such as the VA Medical Center, Roanoke Memorial Hospital, UVA in addition to other sites in the Roanoke area as well. The Joint Venture sites have a fully operational clinic that they utilize on their respective campuses and also have enrichment clinical rotations in their geographical regions as well.

The program consists of applying skills learned in the classroom and clinic. The students will work on each other for the first semester of the program to become proficient in instrumentation and policies and procedures. Students will work on the general public beginning in the Spring semester of the program.

The students enters into a cooperative relationship with their patients and part of the student's job is to educate their patient on life-style and behavior changes that could improve their oral and overall health—the patient is often issued goals to work on at home in between visits to the clinic.

## DENTAL HYGIENE ADMISSION CRITERIA

### ► Required

- High School Diploma/GED
- One unit of Chemistry; at “C” level or above-completed by end of **Spring prior to fall admission**. (Chemistry must have lab component as part of the course.) (High School equivalent)
- College-level Anatomy and Physiology I and II (4 credits each with lab component) completed by end of **Spring prior to fall admission** at “C” level or above. (Completed within five years of beginning the program.) **NOTE: BIO 142 may be completed in the summer prior to fall admission.** This is the only prerequisite that is allowed to be completed in the summer and still be considered for fall admission.
- College level SDV 101-two credits-Orientation to Health Professions
- HS/College cumulative GPA of 2.75 or above by end of **Fall 2025 for fall 2026 consideration**. (If using college GPA, must have at least 12 credit hours of college credit in 12-month time-frame to use GPA.)

In order to be considered for the fall Dental Hygiene program, you must be either a HS Graduate or have obtained a GED.

In addition, the courses required to be considered are Chemistry completed with a grade of “C” or higher by the end of **Spring prior to fall admission** in High School or college. (Chemistry must have a lab component.) If you took the class in High School and the grades are on the semester system you will need to make a “C” or higher in each semester to be considered as having met the requirement. For instance, if you took Chemistry in High School and one semester made a “C” and the second semester you made a “D” with out a final grade being given, that is a class that you will need to repeat the course at a community college in order to fulfill the prerequisite. In college, one semester of each course passed with a grade of “C” or higher will be sufficient. Note: at VWCC, successful completion of MDE 10 or direct enrollment into college level math is a prerequisite for the CHM 5 enrollment.

College level Anatomy and Physiology I is also required as pre-requisites by the end of **Spring prior to fall admission**. The BIO 142 –Anatomy and Physiology II is the **ONLY** prerequisite that can be completed in the summer prior to fall admission. You can complete the series at other Institutions of BIO 231/232. The Anatomy and

Physiology I and II must be completed within the last five years of beginning the program. Courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher. Recent Biology (within the last three years) is a pre-requisite for the BIO 141 course at VWCC with a passing grade of “C” or higher or NAS 2, completed with a grade of “S” within the last three years or completion of the challenge exam at 75% or higher within the last three years, to test into BIO 141 without completion of BIO 101/NAS 2. Check with Counselors at other colleges to determine the prerequisite for their Anatomy and Physiology courses.

SDV 101-two credits—Orientation to Health Professions, which is designated with a “P” on the course listing. Please note that if you have obtained a Bachelor’s Degree (in the United States or provided documentation from an organization that indicates the equivalent of such in your country), we can waive the two credits of SDV 101 and award the two credits of SDV based on completion of the Bachelor’s Degree (or Associate Degree).

GPA is calculated at the end of the Fall semester (2025 for fall 2026 consideration), because the Admissions Committee will meet prior to the end of the Spring semester. Your cumulative GPA must be a 2.75 or higher by the end of **Fall prior to following fall admission** in order to be considered for the program. If you have attended college with a minimum of 12 credit hours of college credit that is the GPA we will go by to determine eligibility. College GPA must be based on at least 12 credit hours of college credit. We use the most recent educational experience with 12 credit hours of college credit to determine your GPA. However, if you have 63 credit hours, for example, at the same Institution, we will use the 63 credit cumulative GPA to determine your GPA. The GPA has to be a minimum of 12 credit hours, but we use the cumulative GPA of all credit hours completed at the same college.

The Admissions Committee reviews your entire academic history with emphasis being placed on your most recent educational experiences.

There are several situations: if you did not take HS seriously and have completed 22 credit hours of college credit with a 3.6 cumulative GPA---that is the GPA we will use to determine eligibility. However, if you have attended one college and completed 22 credit hours of college credit and have a 2.6—that would make you ineligible for consideration for the **Fall** program. However, you could take classes to increase your GPA and reapply to the program.

## DH PROGRAM ADMISSION PROCEDURES

- ▶ Apply to VWCC by completing VWCC application on-line at <http://apply.vccs.edu> and submit to VWCC. Indicate that you will be a “curricular” student and your program of study as Career Studies Certificate: Introduction to Dental Hygiene on the VWCC Admission Application. **This must be your first step** in the application process.
- ▶ Apply to the Dental Hygiene Program by completing the one page DH Program Application (indicate first/second choice of Roanoke, LRCC or DCC).
- ▶ Apply to Joint Venture site by completing their Admission application and submitting to their Admissions Office. (Remember, Joint Venture applicants must also complete VWCC application and this needs to be the first step.)
- ▶ Submit the 16 hours of observation form by December 1, 2025—Note: must be submitted each application year.

There are several steps that need to be completed in order to apply to the Dental Hygiene Program. **The first step** will be to complete a VWCC application making sure that you indicate you are interested in the Career Studies Certificate: Introduction to Dental Hygiene and that you will be a curricular student at VWCC. You may complete the VWCC application on-line. For our Joint Venture Applicants you will need to complete the VWCC application and an application to the host school like Laurel Ridge, or Danville C.C.. The applications for the Joint Venture sites are available on-line (<http://apply.vccs.edu>). By indicating at VWCC that you are interested in the CSC: Introduction to Dental Hygiene, this allows the Health Professions Advising and Applications Office to know of your interest in the program. In addition, if you do not have a completed VWCC application on file and indicate that you are CSC: Introduction to Dental Hygiene and transcripts begin to arrive in the Records Office (by accident), they will be unable to “match” your transcripts with your file and you will remain incomplete. If you have trouble with your VWCC application, you may contact the Enrollment Center at 540-857-7231 for assistance.

The next step would be to apply to the DH program itself. There is a separate application for this and it may be located on our website that contains not only the DH program application but all forms necessary to apply to the program. On the Dental Hygiene Application, please complete your first choice of program—ie a Joint Venture site or Roanoke.

Submit the 16 hours of observation (using form under the “forms” link on the DNH website) by December 1. The DNH application and academic transcripts can arrive prior to the 16 hours of observation form. Early application is encouraged. If you are unable to obtain a dental office allowing observation, you will need to reach out to our office by November 1 for alternative dental practices.

## DH PROGRAM ADMISSION PROCEDURES con't

- ▶ Submit official transcripts from HS/GED scores and all Colleges attempted to the School of Health Professions. It is **mandatory** that all information arrive in one envelope. (Exception: VCCS transcripts are not required, as we can access information on the VCCS system.) Mailing Address: VWCC, Attn: Pam Woody (or Health Professions),  
3091 Colonial Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24015
- ▶ Advising letter scanned to email address at the college or the email account provided on the application usually within four-six weeks of completed academic file. (Exception: high-volume time frames such as registration periods and prior to Health Profession deadlines and acceptance in May-June.)
- ▶ Meet with the Health Career Program Advisor to discuss concerns or questions after receipt of advising letter

You will also need to submit official transcripts from HS/copy of GED scores, and all colleges attempted (except the transcripts from VWCC or any other Community College in VA.) The transcripts do need to come to HPAAO and they need to arrive in one envelope. It's best to request HS and college transcripts to be mailed to you, do NOT open them, and when you have rec'd all of them, then mail them to: VWCC, School of Health Professions, ATTN: Pam Woody or School of Health Professions, 3091 Colonial Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24015 in one envelope. This will notify us that you have a completed academic file. Please be sure to send them to the Attn. of Pam Woody. If you mail your transcripts to the Admissions or Records Office, it delays your file from being processed. Once the Advisors in the HPAAO receives your academic file, then we can begin to "process your file" and do a verification process. It is YOUR responsibility to request and determine if your academic file is complete by the deadline. We need OFFICIAL transcripts from ALL colleges attended/attempted (except other Virginia Community Colleges—we can access that information from using the PeopleSoft system.) We also need official HS transcripts even if you have an advanced degree and we need HS if you completed a GED and attended at least thru 9<sup>th</sup> grade of HS. We need copy of your GED scores, if applicable. The academic file may be sent prior to the observation forms—however, all items must arrive by the application deadline of **December 1**. Please note that if you are attending a non-Virginia Community College, in fall—you will need to submit updated transcripts upon completion of the semester (December of January) and forward those updated transcripts to the

HPAAO to make your academic file complete by **January 15th**.

It is YOUR responsibility to request and determine if your file is complete by the deadline.

The advising letter will be scanned to your school email or the email used on the application, upon completion of academic file and it will inform you of the prerequisites you have completed, the grade you rec'd in those classes, your GPA at point of application, and any college courses previously completed or currently enrolled in that can be used in DH curriculum. It will also inform you if you have submitted your letters and forms of recommendation. The advising letter typically takes 4-6 weeks from receipt of completed academic file to process. However, during deadline periods, registration periods, and acceptance periods for programs, there will be a delay as well as during the spring semester.

Deadline is **December 1** with no exceptions!

It is in your best interest to **apply early** so we can advise course selection for fall and Spring semesters and etc. Even if you lack some of the prerequisites, we update your record in January to reflect courses completed in Fall and your cumulative GPA at the end of Fall and which courses you are enrolled in for **Spring prior to fall admission**. If you apply from May to December and you are currently enrolled in a non-Virginia Community College, you will need to provide us updated transcripts reflecting your final grades in the Fall semester, by January 15<sup>th</sup> to update your academic file. This updated transcript must arrive by **January 15**. (Note: the application deadline is December 1, the only allowable transcript in January, is an official updated transcript reflecting fall grades, so the academic GPA can be reviewed. Spring is allowable to complete the missing prerequisites (except BIO 142 is allowed to be completed in summer prior to fall admission).

For those students who are eligible to continue in the process, we notify them of the testing dates for the TEAS (which I will explain in the next slide). For those students who are ineligible to continue in the process you will receive a letter in February that will indicate why you are ineligible. The reasons may include missing items like letters/forms of recommendation or updated HS or college transcripts, or missing pre-requisites, or cumulative GPA is below the 2.75.

## DH ADMISSION PROCEDURES-con't

DEADLINE for application packet items:

**December 1, 2025** for VWCC & Laurel Ridge Community College  
for fall 2026 consideration

**December 1, 2026** for Danville Community College applicants to  
VWCC for fall 2027 consideration.

Again, the only allowable transcript to arrive after December 1 is one showing fall course completion and it must arrive by January 15<sup>th</sup>. All other application items are due by December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

## DH ADMISSION PROCEDURES-con't

- ▶ Complete 16 hours of observation of dental hygienist and be ready to submit by December 1, 2025 application deadline for fall 2026 <https://www.virginiawestern.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DHObservationForm.pdf> and it is also available from the DNH website under the “Forms” link. Note: must be submitted with each admission cycle
- ▶ Register, pay, and complete TEAS VII. Information will be emailed to qualified VWCC applicants in mid- March regarding testing dates for late March. DCC applicants will be tested during Spring semester of odd years with the Roanoke Campus. Details will be forthcoming. LRCC applicants will test at VWCC as well. We are currently offering remote testing for the TEAS VII. We will keep you posted, if this process changes in the future. Typically, the TEAS testing information is sent to email via a Navigate campaign.

As part of the application process at VWCC (and Joint Venture Sites) we are requiring that every applicant complete the observation form verifying at least 16 hours of observation of dental hygiene. This completed document is due at the application deadline of **December 1, 2025**

This observation requirement is designed to familiarize the dental hygiene applicant with routine dental hygiene procedures. (Only dental hygiene observation is accepted.)

Qualified students will need to complete the TEAS. The Test of Essential Academic Skills at their expense and the estimated cost is \$75.00 but this can vary. Information regarding the cost, times and dates of the TEAS will be emailed in early March for the VWCC & either Laurel Ridge or DCC applicants for their admission years. We must update all records of those who have applied with courses completed in the Fall and update their record to reflect what they are currently enrolled in for Spring. We notify everyone who applied and have a completed academic file by December 1 of their eligibility to continue in the application process. If you are ineligible, we also send you a letter and notify you of the reasons, which can be missing pre-requisites, low GPA, missing transcripts, missing observation form and etc. For those qualified for VWCC & DCC, we will inform you of the testing and payment format for the TEAS.

LRCC applicants will need to plan to complete the TEAS with the VWCC applicants, during the spring semester after the December deadline. Applicants for VWCC, DCC, & LRCC program, will be given dates during Spring prior to fall admission for testing options.

The TEAS provides an objective measurement of your critical reading ability and evaluates your level of success with basic mathematics. Other parts of the TEAS evaluates your science knowledge of Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology , General Science and Physical Science, your mathematical abilities, and your English Language Usage skills.

Please note that if you have applied and received the two-page advising letter and you have not been contacted regarding the TEAS by the third week of March, you need to immediately contact our office for direction. Currently, with remote testing, you need to be prepared to have a valid credit card to pay for the test just prior to the testing time.

## DNH APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES-DURING APPLICATION PROCESS

- ▶ Notify Health Professions Advising and Applications Office of any changes in email, addresses, name, and phone number after application. This must be done in writing in a note that includes Student ID (healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu)
- ▶ Review the Essential Functions of the Dental Hygiene Program. This listing can be obtained from the Program Policy link on the DNH website at VWCC.
- ▶ Contact Virginia Board of Dentistry (804-367-4538) if you have a felony or misdemeanor conviction—you may be ineligible to take the licensing examination.

Anytime you move or change your name during the application process, you need to inform the Health Professions Information Office (healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu). We use a separate database than the college and if you inform Admissions, we will not know of the changes and we need to maintain contact with you in regards to the next step in the application process. We will need changes in writing with an identification number such as your student id and if your name changes, we will also need a copy of your marriage license or your driver's license that reflects the name change.

You need to review the Essential Functions and need to make sure that you are able to perform these functions or if we can make reasonable accommodations for the disability. Please refer to Program Policies link with the DNH website.

If you have been convicted of a Felony or misdemeanor, you need to contact the Virginia Board of Dentistry as this may prevent you from sitting for your Boards. In addition, we require a clear criminal background check and a negative drug screening for our clinical sites. You must have a clear criminal background and negative drug screening in order to participate in clinical facilities. If you are unable to achieve this, you will not be allowed to go to clinical and therefore will not be able to achieve the clinical objectives of the program.

## First Friday Application Sessions

- ▶ All Applicants are **encouraged** to attend an in-person First Friday Application “Best Tips” held the First Friday of every month (except July) at 1:00 at VWCC in Fralin, Room 210. Approximately from 1:00-2:30. Our office will “walk” applicants through the application process, time-lines, helps and hints, best practices, and end with a Question and Answer period for those in attendance.
- ▶ Attendees in the past—have found the session to be very helpful as they navigate the admission process and etc.

## DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES-(if accepted)

- ▶ Admission contingent upon satisfactory receipt of medical examination, CPR certification, professional liability insurance, observation in dental office, negative drug screening and clear criminal background check.
- ▶ Attend one day Dental Hygiene orientation.
- ▶ Maintain a “C” average in dental hygiene and Microbiology (BIO 150 or BIO 205) and all support courses within the AAS Dental Hygiene.
- ▶ Purchase lab supplies, uniforms, and instrument kit.
- ▶ Provide transportation to and from agencies.

Your Admission is contingent upon satisfactory receipt of medical examination, the required CPR certification; obtain professional liability insurance, clear criminal background check and negative urine drug screening, and observation in a dental office. The forms and the amounts of the above and other cost associated with the beginning of the program will be mailed in the orientation packet that is mailed once we have selected our class and they have accepted their positions, which is usually in June. Most items are due at orientation which is usually held in July or the first day of class.

You must maintain at least a “C” average in dental hygiene and the Microbiology science course and all courses included in the AAS Dental Hygiene curriculum.

It is your responsibility to purchase lab supplies, uniforms, and the instrument kit, once again information will be sent regarding these items in orientation packet and discussed at new student orientation typically held in the summer prior to fall program .

Provide your own transportation to and from agencies that we use for our clinical sites.

## DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES-(if accepted)

- ▶ Negative drug and alcohol screening and clear criminal background check (at student's expense) is required as part of your admissions and is needed prior to rotating through clinical sites.
- ▶ Be prepared to attend classes/clinicals on day or evenings. (Joint Venture sites sometimes utilize weekend clinicals as well.)
- ▶ Meet minimum client competency requirements for each clinical semester
- ▶ Meet total client requirements for graduation

It is required that you have a clear criminal background check and negative drug and alcohol screening at your expense prior to admission. The estimated cost of this is \$150.00.

Everyone must be prepared to attend clinicals during the day and evenings.

Meet minimum client competency requirements for each clinical semester.

Meet total client requirements and performance for graduation

## CREDENTIALS FOR PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST (R.D.H.)

- Graduate of an accredited program (VWCC's Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association)
- Successful completion of:
  - National Board examination
  - State/Regional Board examination
  - State jurisprudence examination
  - Apply for license and renew annually
  - 15 hours continuing education annually

National Boards are generally given in an on-line format can be taken after March.

Regional Clinical Boards are usually taken between April and June depending on the individual student.

## PRE-PREREQUISITE COURSES DH-VWCC

EDE 10 or EDE 11. If you are a recent High School graduate (within the last five years) here are the guidelines for placement into ENG 111.

- HS GPA < 2.0= EDE 10
- HS GPA 2.0-2.99= EDE 11 + ENG 111
- HS GPA = 3.0+ = ENG 111

If you have graduated over six years from High School, then Informed Direct Placement will place you in the recommended ENG or EDE courses.

Please check with Advising Specialist at other colleges to determine the testing required and classes that can be completed to fulfill any deficiencies. Upon completion of the examination, we can determine course sequence.

Depending on your academic history it may be necessary for you to take certain English preparatory courses. Joint Venture applicants, please work closely with the Counseling Office, at your college, to determine the appropriate English course that is needed, if not previously completed. VWCC applicants will need to work with New Student Advisor in assessing the need for discussion regarding your course sequencing. Sometimes it is necessary to complete the English writing sequence of a non-credit English to assist you with some skills and then move to other courses offered at the college.

Readiness for ENG 111/EDE 11 is required before BIO 101, PSY 230 and other courses requiring reading. For instance, if you need to register for EDE 11 and ENG 111 and plan to complete BIO 101, you will need to either be enrolled in the EDE 11 and ENG 111 as well as BIO 101 or complete the sequence of EDE 11 and ENG 111 prior to enrolling.

## PREREQUISITE COURSES--DH

- ▶ Successful self direct enrollment into college math (or waiver based on High School grades and GPA within the last five years) is required prior to registering for CHM 5 at VWCC or successful completion of MDE 10 within the last five years.
- ▶ BIO 101-(4 credits)-Biology-(must have lab component) or NAS 2.  
Must be eligible for EDE 11/ENG 111 and pass (or bypass) MDE 10. This is a prerequisite for the college level BIO 141 at VWCC.
- ▶ CHM 5-(4 credits)-Chemistry-(must have lab component—For VWCC, you will need to place out of MDE 10 (or successfully complete) within the last five years.  
Note—above courses can be completed in High School with a grade of “C” or better. Must be completed by end of **Spring prior to fall semester.**

Some prerequisite courses can be fulfilled in High School, within the last five years, with a final grade of “C” or higher or taken at a community college or another college or universities with a final grade of C or higher.

Successful completion of MDE 10 or direct enrollment into college level courses are required before registering for Chemistry 5 or Biology 101.

Chemistry 5 is required to fulfill the prerequisite—the chemistry must have a lab—some of the other colleges may offer another chemistry that can be used to fulfill the requirements and you will need to check with the Counseling/Advising office at that institution to make sure that you meet the prerequisites for the class. For VWCC, you will need to place out of MDE 10 or successfully complete to take CHM 5 because of the math skills needed to successfully pass this course.

If you take Chemistry 5 you will receive a grade of “S” for satisfaction, or “U” for unsatisfactory or “R” for repeat. Your grade must be an “S” in order to fulfill these requirements.

Prerequisite courses must have a lab component in order to be used to fulfill

requirement.

Grade of “C” or higher is required.

## College level prerequisites-con't

BIO 141-4 credits (Anatomy and Physiology I)-  
Prerequisite: Recent (within last three years) Bio 101  
"C" or higher or NAS 2 (grade of "S") required at  
VWCC. Generally offered in Fall and Spring and  
Summer at VWCC. NAS 2 or BIO 101 can be offered  
first five weeks of summer with BIO 141 offered  
second five weeks of summer. NOTE: BIO 141  
should be completed by end of spring prior to fall  
admission. Course must have lab component. Joint  
Venture applicants should check with  
Counseling/Advising Office to determine course  
sequence, offerings, and pre-requisites. Must be  
completed with grade of "C" or higher. Must be  
completed by end of **Spring prior to fall admission.**  
(If previously completed, must be within the last five  
years of beginning the program.)

Also, we require the college level Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO 141) to be completed with a grade of "C" or higher by the end of **Spring prior to fall admission.** The pre-requisite for BIO 141 at VWCC is recent BIO 101 (within three years with final grade of "C" or higher or completion of NAS 2 with grade of "S" and completed within three years or successful challenge of the exam to enter BIO 141 at 75% or higher within the last three years. The reason is for the first part of BIO 141, previous knowledge learned in BIO 101 is required in order to be successful in 141. In addition, students must be ready for ENG 111 as well or be co-enrolled in EDE 11/111.

Some colleges offer the course sequence of BIO 231/232 and this is acceptable to transfer as long as the grade is "C" or better and that they had lab components and were completed at a regionally accredited institution. While we will also accept the course sequence of NAS 161/162-this is not the preferred course sequence as it does not include the depth of knowledge that the other course sequence includes. If you are attending another college, you will need to check with a counselor regarding the pre-requisites for college level A&P.

Also, there is a five-year limit in regards to completing the college level A&P. They must be completed within five years of beginning of the program. If it has been longer than five years, you will need to repeat the BIO 141 with a grade of "C" or

higher by the **Spring prior to fall admission** deadline and BIO 142 by the summer prior to fall admission.

At VWCC, we offer Bio 141 in the Fall, Spring and often in the Summer semesters. The only semester that BIO 141 and BIO 142 can be completed within the same semester is our summer sessions which BIO 141 is taught the first five weeks and the BIO 142 is taught the second five weeks. Otherwise, you will need to complete 141 by the end of spring prior to February deadline and BIO 142 by the end of Summer prior to fall admission.

## College level prerequisites-con't

BIO 142-4 credits (Anatomy and Physiology II)-Prerequisite: Bio 141-generally offered in Spring and Summer—one section may be offered in Fall at VWCC. Course must have lab component. Joint Venture applicants should check with Counseling Office to determine course sequence, offerings, and pre-requisites. Must be completed with “C” or higher. Must be completed by end of **Summer prior to fall admission**. (If previously completed, must be within the last five years of beginning the program.) NOTE: this is the only prerequisite allowed to be completed in the summer and be considered for fall admission,.

**SDV 101-two credits—Orientation to Health Professions—Must be completed by end of **Spring prior to fall admission****

Also, we require the college level Anatomy and Physiology II (BIO 142) to be completed with a grade of “C” or higher by the end of **Summer prior to fall admission**. Some colleges offer the course sequence of BIO 231/232 and this is acceptable to transfer as long as the grade is “C” or better and that they had lab components and were completed at a regionally accredited institution. While we will also accept the course sequence of NAS 161/162-this is not the preferred course sequence as it does not include the depth of knowledge that the other course sequence includes. If you are attending another college, you will need to check with a counselor regarding the pre-requisites for college level A&P.

Also, there is a five-year limit in regards to completing the college level A&P. They must be completed within five years of beginning of the program. If it has been longer than five years, you will need to repeat the BIO 141 with a grade of “C” or higher by the **Spring prior to fall admission** deadline and BIO 142 by the **summer prior to fall admission**.

SDV 101-two credits—Orientation to Health Professions, which is designated with a “P” on the course listing. Please note that if you have obtained a Bachelor’s Degree (in the United States or provided documentation from an organization that

indicates the equivalent of such in your country), we can waive the two credits of SDV 101 and award the two credits of SDV based on completion of the Bachelor's Degree (or Associate Degree), upon receipt of the official final transcript showing degree confirmation.

## PREREQUISITE COURSES-con't-DH

- ▶ Prerequisite courses Chemistry, college-level Anatomy and Physiology I, SDV 101-two credits) need to be completed by the end of **Spring prior to fall admission** to qualify for the fall Dental Hygiene Program. BIO 142 completed by end of **summer prior** to fall admission.
- ▶ Cumulative GPA must also be above a 2.75 by end of **Fall after the December 1 deadline** -(if using college GPA, must be based on at least 12 credit hours of college credit within 12 month timeframe).
- ▶ The CHM 5 or any developmental math course needed for BIO 101/NAS 2 will **NOT** count towards your GPA.

Best to complete prerequisites as early as possible, but the latest you have to complete them is **Spring prior to fall admission (except the BIO 142 an be completed in the summer prior to fall admission)**. If you are accepted into the program, your acceptance will be based on the contingency that you successfully complete any missing prerequisites.

GPA is based on the last place attended. If you have 12 credit hours by end of Fall, that is the GPA we will use. If you have less than 12 credit hours, we will proceed in reverse chronological order until we reach an Institution of 12 credit hours.

## CAREER SUPPORT CLASS INFORMATION-Dental Hygiene

- ▶ Career support classes may be completed prior to entering the Dental Hygiene Program. Classes may be completed at any Community College or another college provided courses are similar and are a viable substitute based on course content and credit hour and completed at a regionally accredited college.
- ▶ Career support classes are classes without the “DNH” prefix in the curriculum listing.
- ▶ Completion of support classes does not guarantee a position in the program.

In addition to the prerequisite courses there are career support classes that can be completed prior to entering the Dental Hygiene program. Career support courses are classes within the Dental Hygiene curriculum that does not have the DNH prefix. For instance, BIO 150 or 205, ENG 111, PHI 220-Ethics, and PSY 230-Developmental Psychology, --these will be listed on a following slide.

You are encouraged to complete some of the support classes prior to entering the program, but it is not mandatory that you do so. Most of the applicants have completed some, if not all, of the support classes prior to entering. However, keep in mind that completion of the support classes does not guarantee you Admission into the program. If you are accepted into the Dental Hygiene program without completing the support classes, you will take the curriculum as outlined in a following slide.

Note: At VWCC, applicants for the Dental Hygiene program are enrolled in the CSC: Introduction to Dental Hygiene and some of the support classes are not included in the CSC for Financial Aid purposes. BIO 150 Is **not** included in the CSC and there is a choice of either PSY 230 **or** PHI 220. If you wish to complete those courses prior to entry, you will need to plan to pay for those courses out of pocket. (If accepted into the Dental Hygiene program, at that time, FA will cover those courses. The plan change from CSC to AAS Dental Hygiene typically occurs

in late May or early June for fall programs. The effective date for the plan change will be fall (not summer).

All courses within the AAS Dental Hygiene program must be passed with a grade of “c” or higher in order to graduate.

## CAREER SUPPORT CLASS INFORMATION- continued

- ▶ Advantages to completing career support classes prior to entering program:
  - ▶ Helps establish a qualified GPA (2.75 or higher)
  - ▶ If accepted, allows student to spend more time on “core” classes
  - ▶ Student has been exposed to material prior to Dental Hygiene lecture -Microbiology

There are several advantages to completing the support classes prior to entering the program. One of them would be it would allow you as a student, if you were to be accepted into the program, to spend more time on your core Dental Hygiene classes. If you have to take a lab science course like Microbiology the lab science course would involve a lecture and lab component. You would need to attend both the lecture and lab sessions and be ready to complete test and evaluations for both class and labs. That one course within itself would take four different time elements away from you studying for the core classes.

Another advantage to completing career support classes prior to entering is the time-frame for you to associate previous learning with current learning. For instance, if you have completed Microbiology and the suggested Medical Terminology, you should be able to associate the current learning in Dental Hygiene with previous information learned in Microbiology. Studies have shown the more times a student is exposed to material and the student's ability to associate and relate previous learning---it assist with retention and recall of information.

Once again, you are encouraged, if possible, to complete some of the support classes prior to entry. However, it is not mandatory and we do have students who enter the program w/o completing the support courses prior to entry and they are successful. Just remember it is an intense two-year program.

## CURRICULUM-DNH

<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
DNH 111-2 cr	DNH 142*-5cr	DNH 150-2 cr
DNH 115-3 cr	DNH 145-2 cr	DNH 143*-3 cr
DNH 120-2 cr	DNH 146-2 cr	<b>ENG 111-3 cr</b>
DNH 130*-3 cr	DNH 216-2 cr	DNH 235*-2 cr
DNH 141*-5 cr	<b>BIO 150/205-4 cr</b>	

<b>Fall-2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>	<b>Spring</b>
DNH 214*-2 cr	DNH 227 -1 cr
DNH 226- 2 cr	DNH 230-1 cr
DNH 244* -5 cr	DNH 245*-5
<b>PSY 230 -3 cr</b>	<b>PHI 220-3 cr (PHI 226 for DCC)</b>

\*Registered at Distance Site

111-Oral Anatomy

115-Histology/Neck Anatomy

120-Medical Emergencies

130-Oral Radiography

141-DH I-work in clinic—course where you work on each other to become proficient with instruments and etc. prior to working on public in Spring semester

Spring

142-DH II—clients-client education--

145-General and Oral Pathology

146-Periodontics

216-Pharmacology

Summer

150-Nutrition

143-Coordinated Practice

235-Management of Pain/Anxiety

Fall-214-Materials

226-Public Health-volunteer

244-Dental Hygiene-IV-rotations outside of clinic

Spring---

DNH 227-Public Health

DNH 230-Ethics

DNH 245-DH V

## SUPPORT CLASSES-DNH

- ▶ BIO 150 or BIO 205-4 credits (Microbiology)-  
Prerequisite: Recent (within last five years)  
Bio 101-generally offered in Spring/Summer  
and sometimes Fall at VWCC. Joint Venture  
applicants should check with Counseling  
Office to determine course offerings. Must  
be completed within five years of beginning  
the program and must have a lab  
component.

I am going to begin with the science support class which include BIO 205 or BIO 150-Microbiology. The prerequisite for BIO 150 (Microbiology) is recent Biology in college or BIO 141. The BIO 150, if previously completed, must be completed within the last five years of beginning the program. If you are attending another college, you will need to once again check with a Counselor regarding any prerequisites for this college level course and the semester that this class will be offered

BIO 205 or BIO 150-Microbiology is generally offered in Spring and Summer semesters and sometimes in the Fall at VWCC (BIO 150 is not currently offered in fall at VWCC). Bio 205 can be used as a substitution provided the course was 4 credits and the grade was higher than a "C" and was completed at a regionally accredited institution. At VWCC, the prerequisite for BIO 205 is a college level Chemistry.

There is a five-year limit on completing this courses and entering the program. If you have completed it with in five years of being admitted, you will not need to retake the course. However, if it has been longer than five years, you will need to repeat it due to informational changes and etc. We want the information current to assist with your classes and the Boards.

If you haven't begun to take the science courses, it is generally better to take one science course each semester rather than trying to combine two such as Anatomy and Physiology and Microbiology. By taking only one science course per semester, you are able to focus more on the material and able to learn and master the material easier which will allow more usage from the class during DH lectures. However, do realize that if you are accepted into the Dental Hygiene program, you will then begin to complete numerous DNH courses, that are intense, in one semester, including summer semester.

## SUPPORT CLASSES-continued

Support classes generally offered every semester:

- ENG 111-3 credits-English-Prerequisite satisfactory VPT results. Joint Venture applicants check with Counseling Office for details regarding the need for placement prior to ENG 111.
- PSY 230-3 credits-Developmental Psychology
- PHI 220-Ethics-3 credits
- Medical Terminology can be beneficial (but not required):  
HLT 143-3 credits or HLT 141 is one credit

ENG 111- sometimes the course is listed as ENG 101/102 at other institutions, and it will transfer in as 111 and 112, provided the course covered Composition. ENG 111 at VWCC is offered on campus and Distance Learning.

PSY 230-offered on-campus and Distance Learning. (PSY 200 cannot be substituted for this course. The PSY 230 course covers human development from birth to death. If you completed the PSY 231/232 series with grade of “C” or higher, this course sequence can be substituted for PSY 230. However, you do need to complete both courses as the courses combined cover the material from birth to death.

PHI 220-Ethics

HLT 143 or HLT 141 is a good course to complete before BIO 141 or with the class. HLT 143 is offered in-class and Distance Learning. This is a recommended course. HLT 141 is typically in class. (Note: FA will not cover HLT 141 or HLT 143)

## TYPICAL SCHEDULE FOR DENTAL HYGIENE CLASSES-First Fall

Time	M	T	W	Th	F
8:00		D 111			
9:00	D 141	D 111	D 141	D 141	
10:00	D 141	D 115	D 130	D 141	D 141
11:00	D 141	D 115	D 130	D 141	D 141
12:00					
1:00	D 130	or D130	D 115		
2:00	D 130	or D130	D 115		
3:00	D 130	or D 130	D 120		
4:00		D 120-ends at 4:20			

Typical schedule. Please understand that the courses and times may change but this gives you some idea of class times for first semester. This schedule only includes the DNH classes.

141-pre-clinical –M 9-12, Th 9-12 and Friday 9-12

115-Histology—Tues 10:30-12:00 & Wed. 1-2:20

111-Oral Anatomy Tues 8:30-10:20

120 Medical Emergencies—Wednesday 2:30-4:20

130-Radiology lab will be either Group A on Monday from 1-4 or Group B is on Tuesday from 1:00-4:00 with lecture on Wednesday for all from 10:00-12:00.

Plan to spend 30 minutes per day on Instrumentation and Histology.

Devote 2-4 additional hours daily on your most difficult subjects.

Once again this is a typical schedule to give you an idea of how your Dental Hygiene classes may be in the fall semester—keep in mind that it can always change. Sometimes there is a need to have an evening clinical session and this schedule presented here is a typical schedule only. The schedule can vary as

deemed necessary from one Fall to another. If you are accepted into the Fall program, you will receive a Fall schedule of classes at the Dental Hygiene orientation usually held in July and classes will begin in August.

## PROCESS OF APPLICATION

- Apply
- **December 1 prior to following fall admission**—all items must be at VWCC before or on that date
  - VWCC application-with DNH indicated as program of study and curricular
  - (Apply to Joint Venture site i.e. DCC or LRCC by completing appropriate Application for respective College.) This application must be submitted directly to the Joint Venture college's Admissions Office.)
  - DH Program Application
  - GED scores/HS official transcripts
  - Official College Transcripts-except VCCS transcripts
  - ABOVE MUST ARRIVE in **ONE ENVELOPE**

MAIL ALL ITEMS TO:  
School of Health Professions, VWCC  
Attention: PAM WOODY  
3091 Colonial Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24015

Completed observation form (16 hours) due at time of application:  
December 1 or note as outlined on observation form

If you need to submit updated college transcripts at end of Fall, they must arrive before January 15<sup>th</sup>

Only item allowed for submission by January 15<sup>th</sup> is the updated fall transcript showing completion of fall courses. This allows us to verify GPA and etc.

Even though VCCS transcripts are not required, it must be noted that you attended or are attending a Community College on your VWCC application and DH Program application

Once again, early application is encouraged, not because of priority, because none is given for early application, but it allows us a chance to review your file and offer course selections for fall and Spring semesters. Early application is prior to start of fall semester prior to December 1 deadline. If you wait to submit your application materials in November, the Health Professions Advising and Applications Office will only be able to send you the process letter, after a delay. This is due to the large volume of application packages received daily. The HPAAO will not be able to confirm receipt of application materials or notify applicants of any missing items from their application files. Last year, the office received 66 completed application packages the last three days prior to application deadline.

If you are unable to obtain a shadowing experience, you will need to write a note and submit by December 1. The note will need to include your name, seven-digit

student id, the contact information for two dental offices and a signed statement indicating that you are unable to obtain a shadowing experience.

## PROCESS/TIME-LINE OF APPLICATION

- ▶ **Once academic file is complete**—should receive an ADVISING letter from Health Careers Program Advisor
- ▶ Schedule to take TEAS (at student's expense) in Spring
- ▶ Schedule interview with DH faculty after we obtain results of TEAS (this may be written or face-to face as it varies each year), IF REQUIRED (has not been required since 2019)
- ▶ Submit verified completed observation form of at least 16 hours by December 1<sup>st</sup>
- ▶ Wait for acceptance/alternate/denial status in program-usually in mid to late May
- ▶ If accepted, return acceptance form

In January, we update everyone's record that has applied. Since May 2024-December 1, 2024 We update Fall grades and GPA and indicate which courses applicant enrolled in for Spring. Again, if you are enrolled in a non-VCCS college in fall, you are required to submit an updated official transcript showing completion of fall grades by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

After that process, applicants will be sent a letter informing them either the next step in the application process which would be to take the TEAS or applicants will be sent a letter informing that they will not be considered for the program because either items arrived after the deadline, the cumulative GPA was below 2.75 or there are too many missing prerequisites to complete by the deadline.

TEAS will not be scheduled at VWCC or Joint Venture with LRCC or DCC until we have **all** documentation, including updated transcripts from Fall semester (except VCCS transcripts)

TEAS is administered remotely, if possible on a few testing dates established in March/April.

Upon results of the TEAS, you will have an interview at your first choice of sites, **if**

**interviews are required.** Interviews are typically scheduled during March and April. Once everyone has completed the application process, including the interview and essay, the committee will convene and review the applicant files and then select the incoming class.

Everyone that follows through with the application process, will receive a letter regarding their admission status in the program. These letters generally are mailed in mid to late May. If you are accepted, you will need to return the accept form.

## PROCESS OF APPLICATION- CON'T

- ▶ If placed on alternate list, return alternate acceptance form
- ▶ Will receive orientation packet after VWCC receives the acceptance forms- packet typically includes the following: information regarding medical forms, essential functions, professional liability insurance, CPR information, uniform ordering and instrument kit purchase and etc.

All applicants will receive a letter of either acceptance, placed on alternate list or not quite this year, provided they completed the application process, which the last step would be the interview and essay.

If you are accepted and return your acceptance form, you will be notified when you have access to the orientation information that contains: information regarding medical form, essential functions that are required to be a part of the program, how to obtain professional liability insurance, the appropriate CPR certification, how to order your uniforms and when to purchase the instrument kit and other supplies needed for the program, how to obtain your criminal background check and supply the urine specimen and etc..

## ESTIMATED COST OF DNH PROGRAM

- ▶ Tuition based on 72 semester credit hours at \$179.99 per credit hour for in-state students (\$12,959.28 which includes the eight credits of Anatomy and Physiology that are considered prerequisite courses.) (You are encouraged to check the VWCC website for updated tuition rates.)
- ▶ Instruments: \$~4,000 (& Loupes/Light)
- ▶ Books (Dental Hygiene books only)-\$~1,900.00
- ▶ Lab Supplies -\$~500.00 (non-refundable)
- ▶ Uniforms-\$~350.00
- ▶ Physical/CPR/Hepatitis B/Malpractice/Background check-\$~750.00
- ▶ Board/Licensure fees/dues-\$~2740.00

Once accepted, we'll provide you a contact person in the Financial Aid office for scholarships for allied health persons.

The book cost is for DH books only. Other general education courses like Microbiology, PHI 220, PSY 230 and etc. will be an additional book cost.

Please note, if using Financial Aid, that not all cost associated with program will not be covered by FA.

# DNH ADMISSIONS STATISTICS

For 2024 we had over 70 that was not accepted for VWCC and 62 not accepted for Laurel Ridge

For 2023 we had over 50 that was not accepted for VWCC and over 30 not accepted for DCC

For 2022 we had over 50 applicants that was not accepted to each site.

For 2021 we had 225 apply to VW and DCC

Considered 95 for VW

Considered 30 for DCC

For 2020 we had 250 apply to VW and LFCC

Considered 77 for VW

Considered 58 for LFCC

For 2019 we had 223 apply for VW and DCC

Interviewed 61 for VW

Interviewed 29 for DCC

For 2018 we had 286 apply for VW & LFCC

Interviewed 73 for VW

Interviewed 78 for LFCC

For 2017 we had 209 apply for VW & DCC

Interviewed 68 for Roanoke

Interviewed 24 for DCC

For 2016 we had 108 apply for VW & LFCC

Interviewed 55 for Roanoke

Interviewed 53 for LFCC

For 2015 we had 149 apply for VW & DCC

Interviewed 70 for Roanoke

Interviewed 41 for DCC

For 2014 we had 157 apply for VW & LFCC

Interviewed 60 for Roanoke

Interviewed 41 for LFCC

For 2013 we had 169 apply for VW & DCC

Interviewed 48 for Roanoke

- Interviewed 24 for DCC

Accept 18 annually at VWCC

Accept between 10-15 odd numbered years at DCC

Accept 18 in even numbered years at LFCC

Acceptance is based on strength of academics (GPA/Chemistry/Anatomy and Physiology I), TEAS (reading comprehension), experience by previous dental office work experience, and etc.

## EXAMPLES OF APPLICANTS-DH

### ▶ Academic History of Accepted Applicant

- ▶ Chemistry A
- ▶ 3.39 HS GPA
- ▶ College GPA 38 credit hours with 4.00

BIO 141-A, BIO 142-A,

ENG 111-A HUM-A PSY 230-A

TEAS-85%-Independent Reading Rate

Typically the Chemistry grade is high and the BIO 141 grade as well. The overall GPA is higher than 3.25 and the TEAS Reading is typically in the high 80's and above (percentile) for those accepted into the program.

## EXAMPLES OF APPLICANTS-DH

- Academic History of Accepted Applicant

- Chemistry-A
- 3.59 HS GPA
- College GPA 3.78 with 52 credit hours

Bio 141-A    BIO 150-A    Eng 111-A

Bio 142-A    Hum ele.-A    Psy 230-A

HOBET-95.% Independent Reading Rate

Often those accepted achieve in the upper 80's or higher on their TEAS VI Reading Comprehension (percentile)---they often have "B" or higher in sciences and etc. Remember if you make a "c" in either Chemistry or BIO 141, you are not differentiating yourself from other applicants, as the minimum grade required is "c". Often, accepted applicants make "a" in all sciences and score very high on the Reading Comprehension percentile on the TEAS.

# DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTICE SETTINGS

## ▶ Private practice

- ▶ General practice
- ▶ Specialty practice

Public health

HMO

Dental Hygiene Educator

Hospital Dentistry

Nursing Homes

Research

## REQUIREMENTS FOR REAPPLICATION-DNH

- Submit application for following year-increase academics/professional knowledge/ TEAS score to be more competitive
- Repeat application process
- Submit updated transcripts after each semester (non-VCCS students) and send to attention of Pam Woody at the VWCC address
- Repeat TEAS interview process and essay, if required and observation hours
- Joint Venture sites we accept every other year-i.e. LRCC-accept in even years DCC-accept in odd years

If you apply to the Fall program and if you are not accepted, you are encouraged to reapply to following year program. You would need to submit a **new DH application**, not your transcripts that you have previously submitted—but any that needed to be updated such as final HS transcript or final college transcript of courses completed in Spring, Summer or Fall prior to spring deadline. You would need to submit a **new DH Program application**, and you could increase the strength of your academics, and knowledge of the profession if you thought perhaps this was an area that you were lacking in during the previous application process. You would need to complete the application process which would involve retaking the TEAS. There are several options available if you would like to increase your reading scores. You could take a critical reading course or if you felt that you were reading too slowly, you could take a speed reading course. If qualified, you would need to go through the interview process and you will need to submit new observation hours. Remember at the Joint Venture sites we accept every other year

## Informational Packet

- ▶ You may access the following website for Application materials including the Application, Forms of Recommendation, Transcript Request Form and other information regarding the application process including Questions and Answers about the program:

<https://www.viriniawestern.edu/academics/health-professions/dental-hygiene/>

Email questions/concerns/feedback to [healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu](mailto:healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu)

There will be a team of HP advisors who have access to the [healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu](mailto:healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu) email account.