

Archived: September 10, 2019

Health Programs

Dental Hygiene

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Diploma

Program Length:

2 Years

The Program

The Dental Hygiene Diploma program at Vancouver Island University is a Commission on Dental Accreditation Canada (CDAC) accredited program. The program provides education in the application of preventative and therapeutic methods of oral disease control and oral health promotion.

The concepts of health education, professionalism, critical thinking, life-long learning, and community service are strongly encouraged in the program curriculum. Students have the opportunity to apply knowledge and gain practical experience in public dental clinics and dental health activities in the community. Strong computer literacy is highly recommended prior to admission to the program.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be granted a diploma which makes them eligible to apply for registration and licensure with the College of Dental Hygienists of BC (as per their criteria) as a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH).

Dental Hygiene - Program requirements prior to September 2019

Program Outline

YEAR 1	
Semester 1	Credits
DHYG 210 - (Dental Hygiene Foundations I)	3
DHYG 211 - (Dental Hygiene Preclinic)	3
DHYG 212 - (Head and Neck Anatomy)	3
DHYG 213 - (Elements of Dental Hygiene)	3
DHYG 214 - (Pathology I: Introduction to Periodontal Diseases)	4
DHYG 218 - (Dental Histology and Embryology)	1.5
DHYG 219 - (Radiography I)	1.5
Semester 2	
DHYG 220 - (Dental Hygiene Foundations II)	3
DHYG 221 - (Dental Hygiene Clinic I)	3
DHYG 222 - (Pharmacology I: Local Anesthetic)	3
DHYG 224 - (Pathology II: Oral Diseases)	3
DHYG 225 - (Dental Materials)	3
DHYG 227 - (Health Promotion I: Oral Health for Individuals)	3
DHYG 229 - (Radiography II)	3
Total Credits	40

YEAR 2	
Semester 1	Credits
DHYG 310 - (Dental Hygiene Foundations III)	3
DHYG 311 - (Dental Hygiene Clinic II)	4
DHYG 312 - (Pharmacology II)	3
DHYG 314 - (Pathology III: DH Care for Complex Clients)	3
DHYG 317 - (Health Promotion II: Concepts in Dental Public Health)	1.5
Choose <i>one</i> of the following:	
HHS 263 - (Elder Teachings Across Disciplines)	3
HSD 201 - (First Nations Wellness I: Models and Strategies)	
HSD 202 - (First Nations Wellness II: Models and Strategies)	
Semester 2	
DHYG 320 - (Dental Hygiene Foundations IV)	3
DHYG 321 - (Dental Hygiene Clinic III)	4
DHYG 323 - (Professional Issues in Dental Hygiene)	3
DHYG 324 - (Pathology IV: DH Care for Medically Compromised Clients)	3
DHYG 326 - (Research Methodology)	3
DHYG 327 - (Health Promotion III: Community Oral Health Interventions)	3
Total Credits	36.5

Completion Requirements

To be eligible for a Diploma in Dental Hygiene, students must have met all of the learning outcomes and completed all program courses with a minimum "B-" in each course.

Admission Requirements

Prerequisites

Course	Credits	Course Options
English	6	Degree English Requirement
Anatomy and Physiology	8*	BIOL 151/152/153/154 or BIOL 156/157
Chemistry	8*	CHEM 140/141 or CHEM 140/142
Psychology	6	PSYC 111/112 or PSYC 121/122 or PSYC 131/132
Statistics	3	MATH 211 or MATH 161
Elective	3	Any 100 or 200 level course (courses without a T or G suffix)

**Or an approved equivalent course with lower credit value. For example: 6 credits may be approved for Anatomy and Physiology and Chemistry prerequisites if courses are deemed equivalent.*

Note: Students laddering into a Bachelor of Dental Science (Dental Hygiene) degree after completion of the Dental Hygiene Diploma need to check with the receiving institution for transferability of prerequisites.

- General admission requirements apply.
- Students must have completed the minimum requirements listed in the prerequisite list (above), or equivalent.
- Biology and Chemistry prerequisites must have been completed within the last 5 years (prior to admission).
- Submission of a Personal Profile.

Notes on Admission

Acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Diploma program is competitive and will be determined by a combination of GPA and Personal Profile scores. Once accepted into the program, students will be required to submit the following information by early August:

- A completed Immunization Requirements Form is required. The Health Immunization form must be signed by the public health nurse.
- Evidence of successfully completing a nationally recognized WHMIS course.
- Evidence of current CPR Level "C" certification or Level HCP (healthcare provider).
- Criminal Record Check. Fieldwork, practicums, or clinical practice will require a satisfactory criminal record check prior to placement. Criminal Record Checks are requested through VIU. The Registration Centre at VIU will contact prospective students by mail regarding the requirements for a Criminal Record Check. Criminal Record Checks are processed through the Ministry according to the Criminal Records Review Act. A check completed through the RCMP is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Act.

Notes on Registration and Licensure

Authorization for a criminal record check is required to register and license as a dental hygienist in British Columbia. A criminal conviction may interfere with eligibility for registration.

Career Opportunities

Registered dental hygienists are key members of the oral health team. The RDH provides high quality dental care, helps prevent oral disease, and promotes oral health. Graduates apply to the provincial authorities (or equivalent) for registration. Opportunities exist for licensure and registration in over 50 countries where dental hygienists are an integral component of health care.

Graduates can work in a number of settings including: general and specialty dental offices, self-owned independent dental hygiene practices, residential care facilities, hospitals, educational institutions, and community health agencies. RDHs may also work as self-employed contractors, researchers, or sales representatives to dental companies.

More information can be found on the British Columbia Dental Hygienists' Association (BCDHA) website.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September and applications will be accepted between the first business day in October and March 31.

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