
Dental Hygiene Program

Application and Requirements Deadline – January 31, 2023

Applicants need at least two weeks to apply to this program.

It is the student's responsibility to monitor the completion of the Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR) whether enrolled at CVCC or elsewhere. CVCC reserves the right to change curriculum and admission requirements without prior notice. Applicants are responsible for completing admission requirements and ensuring all materials have been submitted by the deadline.

This packet provides information to assist you with the admission and selection process for the Dental Hygiene program. For questions regarding the program, contact the Director at (828) 327-7000 extension 4631 or by email at lhicks@cvcc.edu. For questions regarding admission requirements please contact Admissions at extension 4216 or by emailing healthcare@cvcc.edu.

How do I find information about Dental Hygiene and employment opportunities? For general information refer to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook – Dental Hygienists at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm>.

What is the class schedule/length for the Dental Hygiene program? The core dental hygiene courses are only offered during the day on a full-time basis. The program consists of seven semesters, which require two years to complete after all program pre-requisites are satisfied. The program begins in the fall term. Graduates of the program are eligible, with the approval of the Dental Hygiene Program Director, to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and the CITA Examination, as well as other state or regional examinations depending upon requirements. **Graduates applying for NC Licensure will be required to undergo a criminal records check and fingerprinting.**

What is the Dental Hygiene curriculum/course sequence? The Dental Hygiene course sequence can be found online in our catalog at http://mycatalog.cvcc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poid=2136&returnto=421

How do I apply for the program? Complete the [CVCC Online Application](#) for Admission under the "Apply Now" tab on the CVCC homepage.

How much does the program cost? College tuition is set by the North Carolina State Legislature and is subject to change. Dental Hygiene students are required to purchase a variety of books, instruments, clinic uniforms, malpractice insurance, accident insurance, and other fees as set by the College. The *approximate* cost for the program is **\$9,500**. This figure is based upon current in-state tuition rates and reflects an approximate cost only. Information regarding the estimated additional program costs is listed on CVCC's Dental Hygiene webpage.

How do I apply for Financial Aid? All applicants are encouraged to apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov)). For information about financial aid, contact the [Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid](#) by email at financial_aid@cvcc.edu or by calling at 828-327-7000, ext. 4860.

Do I need a computer? Coursework requires students to have their own computer with dependable internet access, printer access, microphone, webcam accessibility, Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Upon application activation to CVCC, students are assigned a CVCC email address. Communication between student, faculty and any other college personnel will be by CVCC email. Students are expected to use the CVCC email for **all** college correspondence. Students need to read CVCC emails daily and check Blackboard for announcements/assignments, whether enrolled at CVCC or elsewhere. Applicants are notified of an accepted or non-accepted status via **CVCC email**.

Will I be required to complete a Criminal Background Check/Drug Screening? Yes.

- *At this time*, clinical facilities are not requiring a criminal background check/drug screening for dental hygiene students, however, facilities can/may require one in the future. A student **is required** to complete a criminal background check when applying for a NC Dental Hygiene license. The NC State Board of Dental Examiners uses LiveScan to complete the criminal background check.
- Students will be required to pay fees associated with background checks/drug screenings.
- Clinical facilities may refuse access to clinical experiences based upon results of a criminal background check, drug screening or immunization/vaccination status.
- Should any facility refuse to allow a student access to a clinical experience, the student will be unable to continue in the CVCC Dental Hygiene program.
- **Predetermination of Eligibility for Licensure:** Individuals with a criminal history may petition the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners any time prior to applying for a license to determine if the individual's criminal history will likely disqualify them from obtaining a license. Individuals may receive such a predetermination through either a formal or an informal process. Visit here to learn more before applying to the Dental Hygiene program <https://www.ncdentalboard.org/Predetermination.htm>.

How does undocumented immigrant status or DACA status affect application to the program? Current North Carolina Community College System policy allows DACA and undocumented applicants to enroll at CVCC at the out of state tuition cost. However, acceptance to the college does not guarantee acceptance to a *specific* program. Students with an *unexpired DACA status* are eligible to apply to an Allied Health program. Students must keep active DACA status to remain enrolled in an Allied Health program. Professional licensure is granted by state licensing boards; **students MUST inquire with the appropriate licensure board for specific licensure requirements**. Undocumented students are not eligible for admission to an Allied Health program. According to North Carolina and Federal laws, undocumented students are not eligible for North Carolina professional licensure. This policy is subject to change without notice based upon federal and state regulations.

I am currently a Dental Hygiene student at another college/university and would like to transfer to CVCC. Email the Program Director hicks@cvcc.edu for more information.

When and how will I be notified of acceptance to the program? Applicants are notified of acceptance to the program within two to six weeks of the deadline via an email *to their CVCC email account*. Applicants chosen as alternates or not accepted for the program will be notified at that same time. Students may apply to only one (1) healthcare program at a time. Should acceptance to that program be denied, the student may apply to another healthcare program whose application deadline has not yet occurred at CVCC. (CVCC Procedures 3.4)

What if I am not admitted to the program? Applicants not admitted to the program will need to re-apply by completing the MAR Checklist for the **year** of reapplication AND by emailing healthcare@cvcc.edu to ensure an active program status. Students are responsible for following the guidelines for reapplication. Students are required to submit a new MAR Checklist and other required documentation **each year** of reapplication.

What am I required to do before the first day of class if accepted? Accepted students must attend an Orientation Session with the Dental Hygiene Program Director and Faculty at which time the student will be provided with information concerning other program requirements including: Healthcare Provider CPR certification, health examination form certifying that he/she appears to be able to participate in the activities of a health profession in a clinical setting, uniforms, and additional program costs.

What if I am unable to attend the Orientation Session or meet the other requirements before the first day of class? Students not attending the Session and/or being unable to meet any additional requirements listed above will be unable to enter the Dental Hygiene program.

Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR) Explained

To be considered for acceptance, all applicants must complete Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR) by the published deadline. Applicants are responsible for making sure all materials are submitted to the College by the deadline and as directed by the packet.

1. DO THIS STEP FIRST: Activate* the [CVCC Application](#) with “Dental Hygiene” as the intended major and appropriate entry term.

2. Official, Sealed High School/High School Equivalency Transcript submitted and received before the deadline.

Submit an *official* High School/High School Equivalency transcript in a sealed envelope issued from the school, electronically through a **3rd party vendor** to transcripts@cvcc.edu or by postal mail. Plan accordingly to ensure transcripts arrive by the deadline. Information on how to request transcripts may be found at the [How to Request Official Transcripts](#) webpage.

3. All Official, Sealed College Transcripts from all originating institutions, submitted and received before the deadline.

Submit **ALL** *official* college transcripts from **EVERY** school ever attended (except CVCC) in a sealed envelope issued from the school, electronically through a 3rd party vendor (Parchment, ScriptSafe etc.) to transcripts@cvcc.edu or by postal mail. Plan accordingly to ensure transcripts arrive by the deadline. Information on how to request transcripts may be found at the [How to Request Official Transcripts](#) webpage.

4. Meet Required CVCC Grade Point Average (GPA).

- Students previously enrolled, or currently enrolled at CVCC, must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 on all CVCC coursework.
- Applicants who have not attended CVCC, but have completed at least 6 curriculum course credit hours at another regionally accredited college or university and earned at least a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better may use that GPA.

5. Applicants must complete EVERY course listed on the Pre-Admission Coursework Guide (page 9) with a grade of “C” or higher before January 31, 2023.

6. Complete the ATI TEAS.

- There is no minimum score required for the TEAS; applicants are awarded points in the competitive admission process according to the applicant's TEAS score.
- The TEAS test is offered at the CVCC Testing Center. Email the Testing Center at testingcenter@cvcc.edu for more information on scheduling a TEAS exam.
- There is no limit placed on the number of times an applicant can take the TEAS exam. The highest score within three (3) years will be used. Applicants may test only once per day.
- An ATI TEAS Study Guide is available for purchase in the CVCC Campus Store or may be purchased online at www.atitesting.com.

7. Submit the completed MAR Checklist before the deadline.

From the applicant's CVCC email account, email a scanned copy or cell phone photo of the completed MAR Checklist to healthcare@cvcc.edu. The MAR Checklist must be entirely readable with the student's name and CVCC ID#. MAR Checklists and other documents are not accepted after the published deadline. Documents emailed to any other CVCC email address **are not** considered. Do not submit extra documentation (award commendations, resumes, personal letters of reference, etc). These items **DO NOT EARN POINTS** in the competitive admission process; please submit only the requested items from this packet.

COMPETITIVE SELECTION AND RANKING

The following criteria will be used to evaluate and select the best-qualified applicants from those who completed all Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR) by the deadline. Those applicants receiving the highest number of points will be admitted to the program until the class is filled. The number of students accepted each year can vary. The Dental Hygiene program plans to accept 20 students each fall.

(a.) Assignment of points for ALL prerequisite General Education Courses in the Dental Hygiene Program.

Applicants must complete EVERY course listed in the **Pre-Admission Coursework Guide (found on page 9)** with a grade of "C" or higher before January 31, 2023. Applicants are not considered for the program if the following courses are not completed with an earned grade of "C" or higher.

(b.) Points for the applicant's cumulative GPA. The applicant's unweighted cumulative high school GPA may be used. The applicant must have graduated from high school January 1, 2020 or later. Applicants in their senior year of high school at the time of application will be required to submit a partial high school transcript and the cumulative unweighted GPA at the time of the deadline will be used. Applicants who have graduated from high school within the specified timeframe will use either the unweighted HS GPA or the cumulative GPA at CVCC, whichever is higher. Transfer students bringing in 6 or more transfer credits from a regionally accredited college or university may use that college's GPA, CVCC's GPA, or the unweighted HS GPA. The highest cumulative GPA total will be used. There will not be any GPA combinations. Only the highest single source cumulative GPA will be used.

(c.) Applicants who graduated with a diploma from a CODA accredited Dental Assisting Program or who have earned DANB's Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA) certification will earn extra points in the competitive admission process provided the school was CODA accredited or a DANB-accepted program for CDA or NELDA certification at the time of applicant's graduation. Visit www.danb.org for a list of accredited schools. Transcripts showing coursework and graduation date from the program must be provided and received by the published deadline date.

(d.) Applicants will be awarded points according to their score on the TEAS exam. There is no limit on the number of times an applicant may take the TEAS test, but applicants may test only once per day. Official test scores sent electronically by ATI must be received by the published deadline to be considered. Scores within the last three (3) years will be considered and the highest total score will be used.

Dental Hygiene - Technical Standards

Catawba Valley Community College does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities and will attempt to provide reasonable accommodations as required by law. The following activities are examples of the kind of activities which a student in the Dental Hygiene program will be required to perform in order to successfully complete the program. If an accepted applicant believes that he/she cannot meet one or more of the standards without accommodations, the applicant should consult the counselor of the program for student with disabilities.

Issue	Standard	Example
Occupational Exposure	The dental hygiene student may be exposed to communicable diseases, body fluids, toxic substances, latex and medicinal preparations. Students shall use appropriate precautions at all times.	Provide care, using standard precaution, for a client/patient with a communicable disease.
Communication Skills	Written, verbal & auditory communication skills to permit effective interaction with others.	Communicate with staff members, patients and other students while wearing high filtration masks. Ascertain medical/dental history information. Monitor patient needs during treatment. Provide individualized homecare instructions.
Visual	Visual acuity sufficient to read medical information and assess dental conditions.	Annotate chart entries on paper and/or computerized medical records. Assess intraoral conditions. Interpret dental radiographs.
Mobility	Sufficient mobility to maneuver in small areas.	Access patient within confines of dental operatory and radiographic room, which involves a variety of sitting and; standing positions, including bending, twisting and reaching. Access darkroom for development of radiographs.
Motor Skills	Fine and gross motor skills sufficient to perform complex psychomotor tasks	Exploring and scaling teeth with small diameter instruments. Manipulating power-driven instruments. Placing dental radiographs.
Cognitive/Critical Thinking	Cognitive ability sufficient to recognize deviations from normal, co-diagnose, and plan treatment.	Respond quickly and appropriately to medical emergencies. Utilize assessment information to identify pathology, individualize treatment, and suggest referral when necessary.

Please note: Examples are not all inclusive.

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Counselor/Students with Disabilities Program at least 72 hours in advance at (828) 327-7000, ext. 4222 or accommodations@cvcc.edu.

Dental Hygiene – Information for Dental Assistant II Documentation

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2023 at 11:59pm EST

Applicants who are a Dental Assistant II (DA II) in NC will earn extra points in the competitive admission process. The Applicant (and Dentist, where specified) must complete the documentation outlined below to confirm the Applicant's DA II status. **Applicants are responsible for ensuring all documentation is submitted as directed and by the deadline.**

There are two ways an Applicant may provide documentation for DA II status:

- 1.) Applicants who *successfully completed* an **ADA CODA accredited Dental Assisting Program or DANB CDA/NELDA certification** must submit BOTH of the following documents:
 - a. The **official transcript** from the ADA CODA accredited Dental Assisting program must be submitted to CVCC (electronically through a 3rd party vendor or sent in postal mail *from the issuing school* to CVCC.); **AND**
 - b. Complete **Section A** of the “Dental Hygiene – DA II Documentation Form” and email to healthcare@cvcc.edu.

OR

- 2.) Applicants who **did not graduate from an ADA CODA accredited Dental Assisting Program or have a DANB CDA/NELDA certificate** must provide evidence of **ALL four** of the following items per NC Law in order to be considered for a DA II:
 - a. Complete **Section B** of the “Dental Hygiene – DA II Documentation Form” to provide evidence of full-time employment and experience as a chairside assistant for two years (3000 hours) within the past 5 years. The Applicant and the Dentist must complete the form. Applicants may submit the form to healthcare@cvcc.edu.
 - b. Submit the following **three (3) certificates** to healthcare@cvcc.edu:
 - A 3-hour course in sterilization and infection control;
 - A 3-hour course in dental office emergencies;
 - Radiology Training consistent with G.S. 90-29(s)(12)

Dental Hygiene – DA II Documentation Form

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2023 by 11:59pm EST

All required documentation must be submitted by the published deadline. The applicant must scan and email this form to healthcare@cvcc.edu. Late submissions, or those emailed to any address are not considered.

Applicants may need to copy this form if full time employment and experience as a chairside assistant for 2 years occurred at multiple dental practices. **Applicants are responsible for ensuring all documentation is submitted as directed and by the deadline.**

Section A: Complete this section to document completion of a Dental Assisting program:

Applicant: _____ CVCC ID # _____

Name of ADA CODA Accredited Dental Assisting School:

OR

Section B: Complete this section to document full time employment and experience as a chairside assistant for two years:

Applicant: _____ CVCC ID # _____

Name of Dental Practice: _____

Address of Dental Practice (s): _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number of Dental Practice: _____

Dates of Employment at the practice: _____

To be completed by the Dentist:

I, _____, attest that the Dental Hygiene applicant,
(Print Dentist's Name)

_____, has worked as a chairside assistant for
(Print Applicant's Name)

_____.
(How long employed, specify months and years)

Dentist Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pre-Admission Coursework Guide

The information provided below is for planning purposes only. Admission and curriculum requirements are subject to change without notice, particularly course substitutions.

Students who have not completed **all items** on the MAR Checklist are not considered for admission to the program. It is a student's responsibility, whether enrolled at CVCC or elsewhere, to monitor program requirements each semester.

NOTE: These courses, which require a minimum grade of "C" or better in each course/lab, meet minimum requirements for program consideration. APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE EVERY COURSE LISTED BELOW WITH A GRADE OF "C" OR BETTER BEFORE APPLYING TO THIS PROGRAM:

<p>BIO 168 – Anatomy and Physiology I (4 credit hours) (BIO 163 with a "C" or higher will substitute.)</p>	
<p>BIO 275 – Microbiology (4 credit hours) (BIO 175 with a "C" or higher will substitute.)</p>	
<p>CHM 130 & 130A - Gen., Org. & Biochemistry & Lab (4 credit hours) The only substitution for CHM 130/130A is CHM 131, 131A and CHM 132. A student must complete <i>all 3 courses with a "C" or higher in every course to allow substitution.</i></p>	
<p>COM 110 – Introduction to Communication (3 credit hours) COM 120 (3 credit hours) OR COM 231 (3 credit hours) will substitute.</p>	
<p>ENG 111 – Writing and Inquiry (3 credit hours)</p>	
<p>ENG 112 – Writing/Research in the Disciplines (3 credit hours) OR ENG 114 – Professional Research and Reporting (3 credit hours)</p>	
<p>Humanities/Fine Arts Elective (3 credit hours) HUM 115 – Critical Thinking is preferred course.</p>	
<p>PSY 150 – General Psychology (3 credit hours)</p>	

IMPORTANT NOTE: Substitution information is provided as a general guideline. Substitution courses are subject to change without notice.

Activated* Application & Requirements Deadline – January 31, 2023 by 11:59pm EST

Name: _____ **Student ID#:** _____

Admission requirements are subject to change without notice and it is the student's responsibility to monitor program information whether enrolled at CVCC or elsewhere.

Please do not submit non-required documentation (award commendations, personal letters of recommendation, resumes, etc.) Only required items listed in the Dental Hygiene admissions packet earn points in the competitive admission process.

- 1. Complete the [CVCC Application](#) with "Dental Hygiene" as the intended major with appropriate entry term.
- 2. Submit official, sealed [High School/High School Equivalency Transcript](#).
- 3. Submit ALL Official, sealed [College Transcripts](#) submitted from EVERY college ever attended (except CVCC). If additional coursework is completed after submission of transcripts, an official *updated* transcript must be submitted to CVCC to ensure all possible transfer credit is awarded.
- 4. Meet GPA requirement (3.0).
- 5. Complete EVERY general education class listed on the Pre-Admission Coursework Guide of the Admission Packet (page 9) with a grade of "C" or higher; applicants who have not completed all of the courses with a grade of "C" or better will not be considered.
- 6. Complete ATI TEAS Exam.
- 7. **Submit the completed MAR Checklist & other documentation before the deadline.** From the student's CVCC email account, send a scanned or cell phone photo of document to healthcare@cvcc.edu.