



Degree Guide:

Dental Hygiene, Associate in Applied Science-Transfer (AAS-T) Degree

Program

[Dental Hygiene \(DHYG\)](#)

Degree Type

Professional Technical Degree

Program Coordinator

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Program Description

The Peninsula College Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science-Transfer (AAS-T) degree program is designed to prepare students for employment as a dental hygienist and increase access for diverse communities earning high-quality dental hygiene credentials in Clallam and Jefferson Counties. The program emphasizes student success through equity-minded educational experiences that engage students from entry to attainment of high-demand dental hygiene careers. The curriculum aligns with standards set forth by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), employer input, and best practices in dental hygiene education. The courses and clinical experiences were designed to develop competent oral health care providers who can deliver optimal patient care within a variety of practice settings and meet the needs of the evolving dental hygiene healthcare environment.

Program Length: 7 Quarters
Program Code: DEHDHAAS

Career Opportunities and Earnings

There is a growing demand for Dental Hygienists. Graduates may find positions within a variety of dental practice settings.

For current Washington state/county employment and wage estimates, please visit and search for the relevant occupational term: esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/learn-about-an-occupation#/search.

For current national employment and wage estimates, please visit and search for the relevant occupational term: bls.gov/oes.

Scope of Practice

Licensed Dental Hygienists in Washington are authorized to perform a variety of responsibilities, including:

- Oral disease prevention education
- Removal of deposits from teeth above and below the gumline
- Place sealants
- Application of preventive agents
- Polishing of restorations (fillings)
- Performing non-surgical periodontal therapy (root planning) and soft-tissue curettage

With necessary endorsements, dental hygienists may also:

- Administer local anesthesia and nitrous oxide



- Place and carve anatomy of restorations

For all duties allowed within the scope of practice and additional information please see:

- [Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\) 18.29](#)
- [Washington Administrative Code, Chapter 246-815 \(WAC\)](#)

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the Dental Hygiene AAS-T degree, students will be able to:

- Apply the use of reflection and critical thinking skills as students assess, develop, and plan individualized treatment for patient care.
- Apply acquired knowledge for successful performance on National and Regional licensing exams.
- Demonstrate integrity, a positive work ethic, intra- and inter-professional collaborative skills, and values fundamental to the Dental Hygiene profession.
- Develop students' professional growth, both within the program as well as beyond.
- Develop community partnerships to educate individuals regarding the importance of oral health to those that may have challenges accessing preventive dental hygiene care.
- Identify opportunities for experiential learning in community-based settings.
- Demonstrate the highest standard of dental hygiene services achievable based on each patient's needs.
- Apply inter- and intra- professional collaboration skills to address the needs of diverse populations.
- Apply information from current research to teach evidence-based decision making.
- Apply dental hygiene treatment modalities and skills based upon the most recent research.

Program Goals

- Educate individuals who will achieve academic excellence through innovative dental hygiene programming that is rigorous, engaging, evidence-based, and complies with CODA standards.
- Promote and model the practice of humanism which fosters mutual respect for fellow students, faculty, staff, and patients and includes a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Provide opportunities for experiential and service learning through engagement with community partners.
- Provide culturally aware, patient-centered, quality care under the guidance of expert faculty.
- Utilize current research to inform evidence-based teaching and clinical decision making related to dental hygiene treatment modalities and skills and to promote lifelong learning.

Program Prerequisites

- Please review the below course list for program prerequisite information.

Approximate Additional Costs

- Books, supplies and miscellaneous fees (per quarter): Amount TBD

Current tuition and fee information is published on the College website at pencol.edu or by calling the Student Services Office at (360) 417-6340.

Sample Schedule

This sample schedule is provided as a guide for a full-time student starting in fall quarter whose goal is to earn the AAS-T. The typical student schedule is based on entering the program during the fall quarter, however some programs allow students to enter in the winter or spring as well. Since not all do, please confirm with an advisor whether this program must be started during a specific quarter or not.



Prerequisites

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
BIOL& 160	General Biology with Lab, Cell Biology Emphasis	5
BIOL& 241	Human Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab	5
BIOL& 242	Human Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab	5
BIOL& 260	Microbiology with Lab	5
CHEM& 121 or CHEM& 161		5
ENGL& 101	English Composition I	5
MATH& 107 or above		5

For students planning to pursue a bachelor's degree pathway, it is recommended to enroll in [MATH& 146: Introduction to Stats](#) to fulfill the mathematics prerequisite for this program.

First Quarter (Fall)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
DHYG 110	Oral Health Education	2
DHYG 111	Head & Neck Anatomy	2
DHYG 112	Dental Anatomy & Morphology	2
DHYG 115	Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene	3
DHYG 116	Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene Lab	3
DHYG 118	Radiology I	2

Second Quarter (Winter)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
DHYG 114	Oral History & Embryology	2
DHYG 120	Intro to Periodontology I	3
DHYG 121	Pharmacology	3
DHYG 123	Medical & Dental Emergencies	2
DHYG 125	Dental Hygiene Theory I	1
DHYG 126	Clinical Dental Hygiene I	4
DHYG 128	Radiology II	2



Third Quarter (Spring)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
DHYG 122	General and Oral Pathology	2
DHYG 124	Pain Management	2
DHYG 131	Restorative & Dental Materials I	3
DHYG 135	Dental Hygiene Theory II	1
DHYG 136	Dental Hygiene Clinic II	4
DHYG 244	Biochemistry & Nutrition	3

Fourth Quarter (Summer)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
DHYG 245	Dental Hygiene Theory III	1
DHYG 246	Clinical Dental Hygiene III	5
PSYC& 100	General Psychology	5

Fifth Quarter (Fall)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
DHYG 224	Patient Management/Special Needs	2
DHYG 231	Sociology of Multiculturalism and Community Oral Health	5
DHYG 241	Restorative & Dental Materials II	3
DHYG 255	Dental Hygiene Theory IV	1
DHYG 256	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	6

Sixth Quarter (Winter)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
DHYG 227	Law and Ethics	3
DHYG 242	Restorative & Dental Materials III	3
DHYG 265	Dental Hygiene Theory V	1
DHYG 266	Clinical Dental Hygiene V	6



Seventh Quarter (Spring)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
DHYG 220	Periodontics II	3
DHYG 243	Restorative & Dental Materials IV	3
DHYG 275	Dental Hygiene Theory VI	1
DHYG 276	Clinical Dental Hygiene VI	6

Your personal educational plan will vary based on many factors including:

- The quarter you begin
- How many classes/credits you plan to take in each quarter
- Your math and English placement; Learn more about placement options by visiting the [Assessment and Placement website](#)
- If you start in our [Transitional Studies](#) program

Total Credits	100
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