



DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

Online Information Session

Revised September 2026

NOVA | Northern Virginia
Community College

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SESSION AGENDA

During this information session, we will discuss:

- Overview of the Program
- NOVA Application Process
- DNH Admission Procedures

GETTING STARTED

Before viewing this presentation, print out the following items and have them available as you watch this program.

- The [Dental Hygiene Curricular Program of Study](#)
- Health Science Application
- List of Essential Functions
- Chairside Dental Assisting Work Experience Form
- The TEAS test information

THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROFESSION

What is a Dental Hygienist?

A Dental Hygienist is a licensed health care professional who works with other members of the dental team to provide preventive oral health education and treatment.

For more information regarding the dental hygiene profession, visit the [American Dental Hygienists' Association's website](#).



CAREER SETTINGS

Graduates may choose to pursue a career in a variety of settings:

- Private Practice Settings
- Dental Management Organizations
- Specialized Areas of Dentistry
- Government Agencies
- Dental Education
- Public Health
- Marketing

THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM — MISSION

The Program is committed to creating an educational environment that will foster the development of learning as a life-long process, providing students with the cognitive knowledge, psychomotor skills and a framework of affective values to provide dental hygiene care for a diverse population.

THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

- Northern Virginia Community College offers an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene.
- The program is two academic years of full-time study consisting of two fall and two spring semesters that are 15 weeks with one summer session which is six weeks.
- The curriculum includes course content in general education, biomedical science, dental and dental hygiene science, as well as clinical dental hygiene.

AFTER GRADUATION

After successful completion of the Dental Hygiene program, graduates will be eligible to take the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination and professional licensure examinations leading to becoming a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH).



PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

The [Commission on Dental Accreditation](#) (CODA) can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2678.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Successful completion of the on-line Dental Hygiene Information Session.
- Submission of a NOVA Application for Admission.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Have a GPA of “2.5” or higher from the last school attended. For Health Science programs, GPA evaluation will prioritize a student’s record at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). If no NOVA GPA is available, the GPA from the student’s most recent institution will be considered.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS — PREREQUISITES

Applicants must complete the following prerequisite courses and placement tests prior to applying to the Dental Hygiene program.

- ENG 111 College Composition with a Grade of “C” or better
- BIO 141 Human Anatomy and Physiology I with a grade of “B” or better
- BIO 142 Human Anatomy and Physiology II with a grade of “B” or better
- BIO 150 Introductory Microbiology or BIO 205 General Microbiology with a grade of “B” or better
- SDV 101 Orientation to Health Care or equivalent with a Grade of “C” or better. SDV 101 is preferred.
- The TEAS test: Math, Science, Reading, English with a score of 50% or higher

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS — RECOMMENDED COURSES

The DNH program is challenging and quite demanding. Many students find they are not able to work so they can devote most of their time to their academic studies.

Prior to entering the program, applicants are encouraged to take the following general education courses in order to reduce their academic load:

- CST 229: Intercultural Communications
- PSY 200: Principles of Psychology
- [Humanities/Fine Arts Elective](#): Please check the link below for approved courses for this elective.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS — TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

The DNH program is a technology-based curriculum; therefore, prospective students are expected to know basic computer applications and internet browser programs.

Applicants wishing to improve their computer skills may enroll in HIM 130 (Healthcare Information Systems) or take student success workshops or open computer lab instruction.

THE ADMISSION PROCESS

The Dental Hygiene curriculum is rigorous and has an intensive scientifically-oriented program of study; therefore, special admission criteria are necessary to ensure applicants are selected according to their potential for successfully completing the program.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Criteria used in the admission process include:

- TEAS test scores (Math, Reading, Science, English) with a score of 50% or higher
- Cumulative GPA
- Completion of the General Education Courses — applicants are more competitive if most or all of these courses have been completed
- Documentation of Dental Assisting Work Experience — applicants are more competitive with 1 year or more of chairside work experience as a dental assistant

ADDITIONAL COMPETITIVE CRITERIA

Other criteria used in the admission process making an applicant more competitive includes completion of the following:

- Completion of a CODA accredited Dental Assisting Program.
- Certification from the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. as a “Certified Dental Assistant” in all three components of the Board.

Note: This requires a copy of the official certificate to document certification that is within the calendar year or the yearly renewal card if the DANB was taken more than a year ago in order to be considered.

TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION

If the applicant holds a previous degree, it will be necessary to complete the “transcript evaluation” form online to determine what previous coursework the applicant will be given credit for. This process can take 8-10 weeks and needs to be completed prior to applying.

DENTAL ASSISTING COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS

Students who graduate from the NVCC Dental Assisting Certificate Program within one year of acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Program may substitute DNA 110 (Dental Materials) for DNH 214. DNA 134 (Dental Radiography) may be a substitute for DNH 130.

It will be required to register and take DNH 196, a 1 credit course during the summer semester to supplement dental materials course work that is specific to the dental hygiene scope of practice and review necessary skills.

APPLICANT SCORING

Applicants are scored based on 100 points. Points are given for:

- Grades received in science courses
- If general education courses are completed
- TEAS results
- Dental work experience
- Completion of an accredited dental assisting program
- Certification from the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. as a “Certified Dental Assistant” in all three components of the Board Exam.

Once the applicant is scored then they are ranked according to that score.

ADMISSION PRIORITY

The college admission policy for programs with limited enrollment states that students are accepted on the following priority basis:

1. Legal residents domiciled in cities and counties supporting the College(s)
2. Other legal residents of Virginia
3. Out-of-state applicants
4. International students requiring Form I-20

Note: Students holding visas not requiring Form I-20 may obtain clarification regarding their status from Student Services.

APPLICATION PERIOD

- The application period for submitting applications for admission to the Dental Hygiene program is February 1–February 15th of each year.
- Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted online.
- Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by February 15th of the current year in order to be accepted.
- Once application is submitted, please continue to check your email for any updates regarding your application.

Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Supporting documentation submitted with the Dental Hygiene Application after February 15 of the current year will not be considered.

The supporting documentation includes:

- All high school/college transcripts
- Documentation of chairside dental assisting work experience
- The Certified Dental Assisting Credential (CDA) issued from the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB)
- TEAS Test results

Note: Only include the required documentation as listed above. All other documents will not be considered.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Once accepted into the Dental Hygiene program, students will be expected to attend an orientation session during the summer.

Specific program requirements include:

- Current 2-year certification in basic life support for the Health Care Provider from the American Heart Association
- Provide evidence of good physical and mental health
- Provide evidence of medical insurance throughout the program
- Documentation of Hepatitis B, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, as well as varicella vaccinations and/or documented immunity
- Documentation of a current PPD or a QuantiFERON-TB Gold (QFG) test or Chest X-Ray
- Provide evidence of professional liability insurance

ESTIMATED EXPENSES

The following information is a list of approximate expenses prospective students can expect to spend:

- Tuition In-State for Two Years: \$16,707.60 (\$232.05/credit)
- Tuition Out-of-State for Two Years: \$34,560.00 (\$480.40/credit) — both include student fees
- Parking: \$90 per semester
- Instruments and Supplies: \$8,200.00 for 1st and 2nd Year Kits
- Lab Coats: \$100.00
- Uniforms: \$100.00
- Uniform Shoes: \$50.00
- Name Tag: \$25.00
- Liability Insurance: \$75.00
- Textbooks: \$200.00 to \$400.00 per semester (this can be bundled with All Access through the bookstore)
- National Board Dental Hygiene Exam: \$565.00
- Dental Hygiene License Board Exams: \$1150.00

CTE COURSE-SPECIFIC FEES

Beginning with the Fall 2026 semester, Career and Technical Education (CTE) course-specific fees established by the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) will be charged per credit hour for selected courses. Please refer to the course list for details on which courses are subject to these fees.

[Course List](#)

NOVA ALL ACCESS FOR TEXTBOOKS

NOVA All Access is a course material model that lowers the cost of materials for you and ensures you'll have access to all your required course materials on or before the first day of class. Through this new program, physical books will be conveniently packaged and provided to you on a rental basis, and digital materials will be delivered directly within Canvas. Costs will be applied as a course charge. At the end of the term, you'll receive email reminders to return your physical course materials to the bookstore.

- Receive all your course materials before the first day of class.
- Save 35-50% on the cost of course materials each term.

CLINICAL SAFETY INFORMATION

By the nature of the profession, applicants accepted into the Dental Hygiene program may be exposed to blood and body fluids while working or providing services during clinical, preclinical, and laboratory sessions. Policies and procedures have been established to ensure the working environment is safe in order to minimize the risk of disease transmission.

Applicants wishing to obtain copies of policies related to bloodborne infectious diseases may contact the Dental Hygiene Program Administrative Assistant at (703) 822-6627.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Services

**Northern Virginia Community
College - Medical Education
Campus**

Phone: (703) 822-6531

MECCounseling@nvcc.edu

[NOVA Student Resources Link](#)

Dental Programs

**Northern Virginia Community
College - Medical Education
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INFORMATION SESSION CODE

The code for the information session is:

211105

Record this code for your Dental Hygiene application.