



Dental Hygiene

Opportunity – Then. Now. Always.

2024 Application Cycle

LEARN MORE: pcc.edu/dh



PCC Dental Hygiene Program Overview

Before You Apply

Admissions to PCC's Dental Hygiene program is highly competitive with 20 students chosen each year from a pool of approximately 150 applicants. Competitive applicants have high grades in their science prerequisites and some job shadowing or work experience. Completion of the prerequisites and program requirements does not guarantee admission into the program. All Dental Hygiene courses will take place at the Vanport Building located in downtown Portland at SW 4th and Montgomery.

Minimum Application Requirements

Prerequisite course completion deadline:

- All prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the winter term prior to the application deadline.

Grade requirements:

- Prerequisite courses must be completed with a letter grade of "C" or higher. Courses taken Pass/No Pass will not be accepted.

Application Deadline: April 17, 2024 at 8:59pm (PST), 11:59pm (EST)

PCC's Dental Hygiene application is only available online through the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Dental Hygiene Centralized Application Service (DHCAS). Applicants must create a DHCAS account at adea.org/dhcas. Applicants are required to send all official transcripts and upload all supporting documents to DHCAS.

Admissions Process

Program selection for PCC's Dental Hygiene program is a three-phase process which is detailed below. **Information is subject to change.** Visit pcc.edu/dh for updated program information and application instructions. PCC will not consider degrees, work experience, certifications, or courses in-progress after the end of **winter term**, prior to the application deadline.

Phase I: Application Evaluation

- Applications are evaluated on a 111-point scale based on academic achievement in specified prerequisite courses, dental experience, and more (see page 5).
- Applicants must meet minimum eligibility requirements (see page 2).
- Only complete DHCAS applications submitted by the 8:59 pm (PST) application deadline (April 17, 2024) will be eligible. Application deadline appeal requests will not be considered.

Phase II: Health Science Reasoning Test (HSRT)

- 40 applicants who score the highest points in Phase I of the selection process will be invited to take part in the Health Sciences Reasoning Test (HSRT).
- After the HSRT is evaluated, 20 of the highest scoring applicants from Phase II of the selection process will be offered a seat in the program.

Phase III: Post-Selection Requirements

Applicants offered a seat in the Dental Hygiene program must meet the following requirements prior to beginning the full-time program in the Fall:

- Attend the two mandatory in-person summer orientations for the Dental Hygiene program.
- Pass a criminal background check and ten-panel drug screening from an agency and lab designated by PCC (**this is a condition of acceptance into a medical, dental or community facility**).
- Submit proof of current immunizations (including COVID-19 vaccination).
- Submit proof of current CPR for Healthcare Providers certification.

To confirm admissions status, admitted students must meet the Phase III requirements prior to starting the program in the fall. Failure to successfully complete the phase III requirements will result in a rescinded seat offer.

Applicants should **NOT** pursue Phase III requirements prior to being admitted to the Dental Hygiene program. Admitted students will receive specific directions from PCC's Dental Hygiene department on how to meet these requirements during the first orientation. For more information on required immunizations please visit pcc.edu/dh.

While in the program students must follow all OSHA and State regulations regarding blood borne and infectious diseases. Refer to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Table 1) for related policies:

osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens/standards. Specific PCC Infection Control Policies and Procedures are also available upon request.

Fall 2024 PCC Dental Hygiene Application Timeline

November 1, 2023: DHCAS application cycle opens adea.org/dhcas. Applicants are encouraged to begin building their common application sections prior to the PCC open application period.

January 2, 2024: PCC's DHCAS application opens and will be visible/available online at adea.org/dhcas.

New!! March 18, 2024: PCC general admissions deadline, students must be admitted to PCC as a credit seeking student prior to the applying to the Dental Hygiene Program. For [general admission](#) deadlines, visit pcc.edu/enroll. For PCC general application deadlines, please view the [academic calendar](#) or visit pcc.edu/calendars/.

March 24, 2024: Deadline for prerequisite completion and job shadowing/work experience.

April 17, 2024 8:59pm (PST), 11:59pm (EST): PCC Dental Hygiene Program Application Deadline.

Mid-May: Applicants notified of invitation Phase II via the email account designated in DHCAS.

Early June: Applicants are invited to take part in the HSRT.

Late-June: Applicants informed of their admission status via the email account designated in DHCAS. Admitted and alternate applicants attend the first mandatory in-person orientation. To confirm admissions status, admitted students must meet the Phase III requirements prior to starting the program in the fall.

September, 2024: Second mandatory in-person orientation.

Fall Term 2024: Program starts. The Dental Hygiene program delivered across two academic years.

Prerequisite courses with a 7-year expiration:

(2017 is the last year accepted for the 2024 application cycle)

BI 234 Microbiology:

Microbiology must be complete by the end of the winter term prior to the application deadline. BI 112 or BI 211 and BI 212 are prerequisite for BI 234 at PCC.

Prerequisite courses with no expiration date:

College Level Chemistry: CH 102 or Higher

To fulfill the college level chemistry prerequisite at PCC, applicants can take CH 102 Organic Chemistry Principles or a higher level chemistry course. Learn more about choosing a chemistry course in the FAQ section.

Anatomy & Physiology I and II: BI 231 and BI 232

BI 112 or BI 211 and BI 212 are prerequisites for BI 231 at PCC. The PCC Dental Hygiene program prerequisites do not require Anatomy & Physiology III (BI 233).

Nutrition: FN 225

Class should cover biological functions, dietary sources of essential nutrients and the relationship of diet to health. PCC requires that BI 112, WR 121Z and MTH 60 be complete prior to registering for FN 225.

Introductory Algebra, Second Term: MTH 65 or Higher

Applicants may also use MTH 70, 95, 98, 111Z or higher to fulfill this requirement.

One Prerequisite Elective Course from Psychology, Sociology and Communications:

Applicants must successfully complete one course from each of the following categories with a grade of C or higher: PSY, SOC, and COMM. A comprehensive list of Associate of Applied Science (AAS) approved courses can be found by viewing the [general education list](#).

English Composition: WR 121Z or Higher

Completion of WR 121Z, previously numbered WR 121. See the FAQ section for more details on common course numbering. Completion of a U.S. bachelor's degree or higher from a U.S. regionally accredited institution can be used to meet the WR 121Z competency.

For long-term academic planning students should meet with a Healthcare and Emergency Professions (HEP) pathway advisor. Each transfer course is subject to review by the PCC Student Records Office to determine transfer equivalency.

Degree requirements that may be taken prior to acceptance

All students must complete the general education requirements for the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree. We encourage you to meet with a HEP advisor to see what classes you may or may not need to take. To view degree requirements, please visit: catalog.pcc.edu/generaleducationdisciplinestudies/.

Academic Advising

If you are new to PCC

Please sign up for a Panther Registration Session. Academic advisors will be present to help with first-term academic advising for our students with prior college credits* and who have never taken college courses before. To sign up for a Panther Registration Session, please visit: pcc.edu/first-term/new-student-advising/.

*If you have prior college credits

It is important that your official transcripts are evaluated by student records **before** meeting with an academic advisor. To learn more, please visit: pcc.edu/student-records/transfer/.

2024 Dental Hygiene Program Point Distribution

Phase I: Application Evaluation	
Prerequisite Course Points	Points (A=15, B=10, C=5)
Nutrition (FN 225)	
Introductory Algebra – 2nd Term (MTH 65 or Higher)	
College Level Chemistry (CH 102 or Higher)	
Anatomy & Physiology I (BI 231)	
Anatomy & Physiology II (BI 232)	
Microbiology (BI 234) 7-year expiration	
Total Prerequisite Points	/90
Prior Degree: Applicants with a U.S. or equivalent associate's degree or higher at time of application will qualify. Official transcripts documenting degree must be provided.	
	/1
US Military Active Duty or Veteran: DD214 Member 4 Copy required documenting service and honorable discharge. See FAQs for more information and follow up with a HEP advisor.	
	/2
Re-applicant Alternatives: 1 point for each year selected as an Alternate; must be within 3 years of current application.	
	/3
Experience Points: (See FAQs for more information) Applicants will receive points for ONE of the following options:	
A minimum of 20 hours job shadowing a practicing dental hygienist	/5
A minimum of 800 hours work experience in a dental office or clinic	/6
Dental Assistant Certification (DANB CDA complete or in-progress)	/7
PCC Dental Clinic Experience Points: (See FAQs for more information and details about each option) Applicants will be awarded points for participating in a clinical experience at the PCC Dental Clinic and completing one or both of the following options:	
Shadow a Dental Hygiene student for a minimum of 10 hours	/3
Complete treatment at the PCC Dental Clinic	/5
Total Phase I Points	/111

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Where does the Dental Hygiene program take place?

All Dental Hygiene courses will take place at the Vanport building located in downtown Portland at SW 4th and Montgomery. Students should anticipate being at the Vanport building 4-5 days a week for the duration of the program.

How does parking work at the Vanport Building?

Dental Hygiene students and clinic patients have access to the PCC shuttle system. The orange line drops off a few blocks west of the Vanport building on the Portland State University Campus. All shuttles meet at the PCC Sylvania campus where they can transfer to the orange line. Please note, the shuttle does not run in the summer term. Reminder for all who park at one of the main campuses and travel via the shuttle; a valid parking permit must be displayed. Parking downtown can be challenging. Students and patients can purchase daily street parking passes or can also purchase passes at surrounding parking garages near the Vanport building.

How many spaces do you have in your program?

PCC's Dental Hygiene program selects **20 students** to begin the program each fall.

How competitive is the PCC Dental Hygiene program?

Admission to the PCC Dental Hygiene program is competitive. Approximately 150 students apply annually for 20 spots. Points are awarded across several criteria. It is difficult to predict the chances of acceptance in advance. It is important to be as successful as possible in your prerequisite coursework and gain dental setting experience. See the Admission Process section on pages 2-3 for selection details. All requirements (prerequisites and dental experience) must be completed by the end of winter term at PCC prior to the application deadline.

What skills and abilities are required of Dental Hygiene students?

Students are required to meet "non-academic" technical standards for the Dental Hygiene program. Students should be aware that they must be able to meet these standards in order to successfully complete the program. Students are encouraged to carefully review these technical standards to ensure they can meet each requirement. For the list of technical standards please refer to page 9 of this guide.

Once I complete the program will I be licensed or certified?

Once you complete the program you will be eligible to take the national board written examination and regional licensure examinations.

Are exceptions made for applicants that miss the application deadline?

Application deadline appeals will not be considered. If an applicant misses the application deadline, they must wait until the following year to apply.

How does PCC track the Phase III requirements?

PCC uses a system called CastleBranch to document the Phase III requirements. Final admissions status is reliant on students creating a CastleBranch account and providing proof of compliance with the Phase III requirements prior to starting the program in the fall.

What if I have a criminal record? Can I still be accepted to the PCC Dental Hygiene program?

For a specific list of disqualifying crimes, please visit oregon.gov/dhs/chc/docs/crimelist.xls

How do I obtain PCC Dental Clinic experience points?

Applicants can also earn points by uploading the [PCC Dental Clinic Experience Form](#) and showing completion of **one or both** of the following experiences:

1. Shadowing a PCC Dental Hygiene student at the PCC Dental Clinic for 10 hours.
2. Completing treatment at the PCC Dental Clinic. Applicants are required to go through an entire dental hygiene process of care which includes teeth cleaning from start to finish. Each appointment lasts approximately 4 hours and may require multiple appointments.

Call 971-722-4909 to schedule or visit pcc.edu/dental-clinic/ to learn more. A one-page reflection is required to be uploaded with the PCC Dental Clinic Experience form. If an applicant completes both experiences, they combine experience reflections in one document rather than writing two separate reflections.

What if I can't schedule all 20 hours of job shadowing experience at the same dental clinic?

To earn points, applicants may participate in a minimum of 20 hours of job shadowing a dental hygienist at a dental clinic. A maximum of 10 hours can be completed at the PCC Dental Clinic. If needed, applicants can upload multiple shadowing forms to document completion of all 20 hours.

Can I combine the 20 hours of job shadowing experience and the PCC Dental Clinic experience?





No, these experiences must be distinct and separate to be eligible for points in each section.

How do I document dental setting experience points?

All documentation forms can be found at the [Apply to Dental Hygiene](#) page and must be uploaded to PCC application under the documents section of the DHCAS application. See the "Upload tips" box below.

- To document job shadowing experience, applicants must upload and submit the [Dental Hygiene Shadowing Hours Form](#). The form must be signed by the Dental Hygienist that was shadowed.
- To document 800 hours of work experience in a dental setting, current enrollment in a DANB CDA program, or DANB CDA certification, applicants must upload and submit both pages of the [Dental Experience Documentation Form](#). This form must be signed either by your Supervisor, DANB CDA Instructor, or Dentist. If applicable, applicants must upload a copy of their CDA certification for verification.

💡 UPLOAD TIPS

 Review Uploaded Documents The uploading process may have altered your formatting. Please review before submitting.	 Accepted File Types .doc, .docx, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .jpg, .jpeg, .png. The size limit for each file upload is 15MB.	 Do Not Password Protect Your Documents Protected documents will not be sent with your application.	 Conceal Your Social Security Number (SSN) Only use correction fluid or a redacting marker to conceal your SSN before uploading.
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What documents can I submit for Military Active Duty or Veteran points?

DD214 Member 4 Copy is required for documenting service and honorable discharge. Active duty, military personnel need to submit a formal letter on branch letterhead from their commanding officer. Documentation must be uploaded to PCC application under the documents section of the DHCAS application.

What if I take a prerequisite course pass/no pass?

Individual prerequisite courses must be successfully completed with a letter grade of "C" or higher. Pass/no pass grading options are not accepted as proof of successful course completion.

If a prerequisite that I have taken in the past now have the letter Z attached to it, do I need to retake it?

No. If your course has not expired, applicants will not need to repeat their prerequisite courses. For example, prerequisite courses such as MTH 111Z was previously numbered as MTH 111 and would not need to be retaken. Courses such as WR 121Z, WR 122Z, STAT 243Z, and many others are now part of the new Oregon Common Course Numbering system. Visit the Common Course Numbering page by going to pcc.edu/common-course-numbering/ for more information and a list of current course changes. Reach out to a HEP pathway advisor with specific course transfer inquiries.

Which chemistry course is right for me?

PCC's Dental Hygiene program requires completion of a chemistry course numbered as CH 102 or a higher. Chemistry courses at PCC have different reading/writing and math prerequisites. It is important that you meet with your HEP pathway advisor to plan which chemistry course is the best fit for your application and/or transfer plans.

Can I transfer after completing the program to get my Bachelor's degree?

PCC Dental Hygiene students can use their credits from general education and Dental Hygiene program electives to transfer to various institutions for Bachelor's degree completion programs, such as: Portland State University (Public Health or Business), Pacific University (Health Management), Oregon Institute of Technology, University of Idaho, Idaho State University, and Eastern Washington University. Students are encouraged to speak with an advisor at the institution they plan to transfer to. Only that institution can determine which of the PCC credits are transferable and accepted.

Please note that it is recommended to complete the full Anatomy & Physiology series (BI 231 – BI 233) and the full Allied Health Chemistry series (CH 104 – CH 106) if you are planning to apply and/or transfer to a 4-year program.

How do I submit official transcripts as part of my DHCAS application?

Submit official transcripts from all colleges attended, including PCC. **It is recommended to send transcripts as early as possible. Transcripts should be sent no later than two weeks before the application deadline.** DHCAS takes 7-10 business days to post transcripts. Transcripts must be posted prior to the application deadline. If you are currently enrolled in prerequisite courses, you must wait until Winter term grades have posted on your official transcript before requesting your transcripts to be sent to DHCAS. Applicants who have transcripts from previous colleges (and are no longer taking classes there) should send those transcripts immediately. Do not wait to send your transcripts until you submit your DHCAS application. This may extend the time it takes DHCAS to process your application and may cause your application to be incomplete. Details on transcripts' status, can be found at: help.liaisonedu.com/ADEA_DHCAS_Applicant_Help_Center.

How will I be notified of my DHCAS application status?

All program application correspondence will be sent to the designated email used in your DHCAS application. Check your email often and remember which email address you used to sign up for your DHCAS account. Once admitted to the Dental Hygiene Program, all program related correspondence (including Financial Aid, post-selection requirements, etc.) will be sent through your MyPCC email address (located in the upper right-hand corner of your MyPCC account). Applicants are responsible for consistently checking their email address used to sign up for DHCAS and their MyPCC email. Applicants are responsible for understanding and responding to communication around admissions related dates and deadlines.

Where can I get more information about a career in Dental Hygiene?

American Dental Education Association DHCAS: adea.org/dhcasapp/

American Dental Hygienists Association: adha.org

Oregon Board of Dentistry: oregon.gov/dentistry

For more frequently asked questions about the Dental Hygiene program, visit: pcc.edu/programs/dental-hygiene/

For PCC general questions, visit: pcc.edu/programs/get-in-touch/?discipline=Dental+Hygiene

Dental Hygiene Technical Standards

The following standards are capabilities related to successful practice in the Dental Hygiene profession. They are “non-academic” criteria and include physical capabilities required of Dental Hygiene students and professionals.

Applicants should be aware that they **must be able to meet these standards** in order to successfully complete the program. Please read each item carefully to determine if you are able to meet each requirement.

- **Critical Thinking** ability for clinical judgment
- **Interpersonal Abilities** sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds
- **Communication Abilities** sufficient for effective interaction with others in spoken and written English
- **Physical Endurance** to remain continuously on task for several hours while sitting, standing or moving
- **Physical Abilities** sufficient to move from clinic area to clinic area and maneuver in small space with full range of motion; manual and finger dexterity, and hand-eye coordination
- **Motor Skills** gross and fine abilities, sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care and operate equipment
- **Hearing Ability** sufficient to monitor and assess health needs
- **Visual Ability** normal or corrected, sufficient for observation of oral conditions, patient observation and assessment; ability to discriminate between subtle changes in oral conditions and density in radiographs; see in darkroom conditions
- **Tactile Ability** sufficient for the use of small instruments with control, sufficient with light touch when using instruments in the mouth to perform and detect swellings in tissues by palpitation
- **Olfactory Senses** (smell) sufficient for maintaining environment and patient safety; as diagnostic tool for oral diseases
- **Professional Attitude and Demeanor** ability to present professional appearance and implement measures to maintain own physical and mental health and emotional stability; ability to demonstrate emotional health required for the utilization of intellectual abilities and exercise good judgment

If you need reasonable accommodations, please contact PCC’s [Accessible Ed & Disability Resources](#) for assistance. If you are accepted into the program and your functional abilities change, please meet with the Dental Sciences Dean for assistance.

Portland Community College is an affirmative action equal opportunity institution. Students are admitted without discrimination as to age, race, religion, gender, sexual preference, national origin or marital status.