

Dental hygiene

DENTAL HYGIENE – DENHY

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Possible career opportunities

The Diablo Valley College (DVC) dental hygiene program prepares students to work as an essential member of the dental team. The dental hygiene program provides an excellent path for those interested in a variety of positions in the dental field. Working in a private dental office continues to be the primary place of employment for dental hygienists. For today’s dental hygiene professional, there are many other career pathways to explore including providing dental hygiene services for patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and public health clinics.

With additional education, dental hygienists can choose to pursue a teaching career in dental education programs, a career in research, public advocacy, or as a sales representative for an oral healthcare company.

Program-level student learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes are subject to change. The most current list of program learning outcomes for each program is published on the DVC website at www.dvc.edu/slo.

**Associate in science degree
 Dental hygiene**

Students completing the program will be able to...

- A. synthesize knowledge from all branches of learning to provide preventative, educational, collaborative, and therapeutic dental hygiene care for individuals and groups in a variety of settings.
- B. develop a desire and ability to provide dental hygiene care applying the highest morale, ethical and legal principals including those outlined by the American Dental Hygienists’ Association and the American Dental Association.
- C. function in the professional dental hygiene roles of the clinician, health promoter/educator and change agent.
- D. develop and maintain professional competence founded in evidence based decision-making and continued education while promoting personal and professional growth.
- E. promote client and community satisfaction with the quality of the dental hygiene education and care process provided by the program.

This is a two-year program of classroom instruction and clinical experience which prepares students to perform the educational, clinical, and laboratory responsibilities of a dental hygienist. The DVC dental hygiene program is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and by the United States Department of Education and has also been approved by the Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC). Skills include direct patient care, patient assessment, dental hygiene care planning, scaling, root planning, radiographs, preventative measures, sealants, local anesthetic administration, nitrous oxide sedation, and customized oral health education for individuals and groups. The program prepares students to take written and clinical licensing exams. The Dental Hygiene curriculum requires two consecutive academic years including summer. Entrance into the DVC Dental Hygiene program is highly competitive with enrollment limited to 20 students.

To be eligible for enrollment into the dental hygiene program, applicants must complete the specified prerequisite courses prior to submitting an application. All science prerequisite courses must be taken within the last seven years and the applicant must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher in these courses. Applications for acceptance to the dental hygiene program are generally accepted in January through mid-February for entrance during the following summer term.

Once accepted into the program students must successfully complete the orientation course DENHY-101 and by August 1st must show: (1) proof of CPR (AHA/Health Care Provider/American Red Cross/Professional Rescuer) certification; (2) required immunizations/titers; (3) proof of negative two-step TB test; (4) results of a recent physical examination/screening; (5) results of a certified background check; and (6) results of a certified drug test. Reporting documents will be handed out during the orientation meeting.

Students who successfully complete the program earn an A.S. degree in Dental Hygiene. A.S. degree requirements include prerequisite courses, general education courses, and the required Dental Hygiene program requirements listed below. Students must achieve a “C” grade or higher in each of the degree conferring courses. Dental hygiene required courses are only available during the day. However, required general education courses are available in the day or evening. It is highly recommended that students complete the required general education course prior to beginning the program. For Dental Hygiene program information and an application packet, contact the Coordinator of Dental Programs, the Counseling office or the DVC website.

<i>major requirements:</i>	<i>units</i>
<i>program prerequisites or equivalents:</i>	
BIOSC-139* Human Anatomy.....	5
BIOSC-140* Human Physiology	5
CHEM-108* Introductory Chemistry	4
CHEM-109* Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry	4
ENGL-122 Freshman English: Composition and Reading	3
NUTRI-160* Nutrition: Science and Applications	3

DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE CATALOG 2017-2018

any updates to this document can be found in the addendum at www.dvc.edu/communication/catalog

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plus at least 4 units from:

BIOSC-119* Fundamentals of Microbiology	4
BIOSC-146* Principles of Microbiology	5

*These courses must have been completed within the past seven years. An overall GPA of 3.0 or higher in these courses is required for program admission.

**total minimum required units
- program prerequisites 28**

program requirements:

DENHY-101 Dental Hygiene Orientation.....	0.5
DENHY-120 Introduction to Dental Hygiene: Theory, Process of Care and Practice.....	1
DENHY-121 Introduction to Comprehensive Clinical Dental Hygiene Care	5
DENHY-122 Clinical Dental Hygiene.....	5
DENHY-123 Oral Health Care Education	2
DENHY-124 Dental Radiography	3
DENHY-125 Head and Neck Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology	4
DENHY-126 Dental Morphology.....	2
DENHY-127 Infection Control: Theory, Practice and Communication	2
DENHY-128 Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist.....	2
DENHY-129 Contemporary Dental Materials for the Dental Hygienist	1.5
DENHY-131 Expanded Functions for the Dental Hygienist..	2
DENHY-133 Behavioral Foundations and Communication Skills	1
DENHY-134 Evaluation of Scientific Research	2
DENHY-135 Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist.....	3
DENHY-136 Dental Hygiene Care of Patients with Special Needs	1
DENHY-219 Pathology	2
DENHY-223 Ethics, Jurisprudence, and Practice Management	2
DENHY-225 Community Oral Health.....	1
DENHY-226 Community Oral Health Service Learning.....	1.5
DENHY-227 Advanced Periodontics and Dental Hygiene Topics	2
DENHY-230 Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene Care I.....	6
DENHY-231 Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene Care II.....	6.5
DENHY-290 Transitioning from Student to Dental Professional.....	1

plus all units from:*

COMM-121 Persuasion and Critical Thinking.....	3
MATH-120 Intermediate Algebra	5
SOCIO-120 Introduction to Sociology.....	3

plus at least 3 units from:

PSYCH-101 Introduction to Psychology.....	3
PSYCH-122 Psychology in Modern Life.....	3

total minimum required units - program 73

**total minimum required units - program
and program prerequisites 101**

*Course substitutions for general education requirements require department chair approval. See a counselor or program advisor.

NOTE: DVC GE Area III must also be completed to satisfy A.S. degree requirements.

The following courses are open only to those accepted into the dental hygiene program.

DENHY-101 Dental Hygiene Orientation

.5 unit P/NP

- 6 hours lecture/12 hours laboratory per term
- Limitation on enrollment: Provisional acceptance into the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program (or as an alternate) is required for registration in this course.
- Note: Refer to the DVC catalog or Dental Hygiene Program website for information concerning program prerequisites and application process.

This course is designed to provide an overview of dental hygiene curriculum. Time and financial commitments necessary to be successful in the dental hygiene program will be emphasized. CSU

DENHY-120 Introduction to Dental Hygiene: Theory, Process of Care and Practice

1 unit LR

- 18 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program includes current TB clearance, hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certificate (basic life support for healthcare provider with automated external defibrillators [AED])

This course provides an introduction to the evolving profession of dental hygiene and focuses on the conceptual framework for dental hygiene and the process of care for the promotion of oral health and wellness. Topics include the history of the dental hygiene profession, institutional accreditation and individual licensing, current dental health trends, health promotion strategies and electronic portfolio development. CSU

DENHY-121 Introduction to Comprehensive Clinical Dental Hygiene Care

5 units LR

- 54 hours lecture/108 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, Tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certificate (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]). Certified background check and negative drug test required as a condition of enrollment in this course.

This course provides an introduction to the application of the dental hygiene process of care guided by the human needs conceptual model. The course includes clinical experiences focusing on assessment procedures related to comprehensive dental hygiene care. Instrumentation skill development with an emphasis on safety for the client as well as the clinician will also be addressed. CSU

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DENHY-122 Clinical Dental Hygiene

5 units LR

- 45 hours lecture/144 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-121 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course provides an introduction to clinical dental hygiene practice. Instruction and experiences will emphasize client assessments, dental hygiene diagnosis, treatment planning implementation, and evaluation of dental hygiene care. Application of knowledge, critical thinking, and basic clinical skills acquired in previous dental hygiene courses will be emphasized. CSU

DENHY-123 Oral Health Care Education

2 units LR

- 36 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 and NUTRI-160 or equivalents
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course provides an introduction to the principles, theory, and practice of oral hygiene care. The focus is to develop educational techniques and technical skills that can be used to assist individuals and groups in becoming integrally involved in their dental/oral care. CSU

DENHY-124 Dental Radiography

3 units LR

- 36 hours lecture/54 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 or DENTL-120 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Assisting or Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course examines the fundamentals of dental radiography. Topics include history, principles, legal considerations, and radiation safety. Clinical applications include exposure techniques, film processing, mounting and interpreting dental radiographs and identifying errors in technique and their methods of correction. CSU

DENHY-125 Head and Neck Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology

4 units LR

- 54 hours lecture/54 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101, BIOSC-139 and BIOSC-140 or equivalents
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course provides an introduction to the structure and functions of the head and neck with special attention given to the oral cavity. General micro-anatomy of the tissue and the embryological development of the head and neck are covered. CSU

DENHY-126 Dental Morphology

2 units LR

- 36 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course provides an introduction to the structures and forms of the human dentition. Aspects related to dental hygiene care such as root morphology, restorative charting, occlusion and dental anomalies are emphasized. CSU

DENHY-127 Infection Control: Theory, Practice and Communication

2 units LR

- 36 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 and BIOSC-119 or BIOSC-146 or equivalents
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course provides an overview of the prevention of disease and disease transmission in the dental environment. This course will include infection control principles, protocols, Center For Disease Control (CDC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommendations/regulations, and an introduction to effective communication techniques as related to infection control and dental hygiene care delivery. CSU

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DENHY-128 Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist

2 units LR

- 36 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course presents a structured study of the discipline of periodontics with a focus on the biological, behavioral and clinical aspects of the periodontal diseases. Topics include normal vs. diseased periodontal structures, etiology, risk factors, classification, and epidemiology. Students will apply periodontal assessment techniques leading to the development of appropriate strategies for planning preventative care, initial treatment and maintenance procedures for the periodontal diseases. Students are introduced to evidence-based decision making as they apply course content to simulated cases. CSU

DENHY-129 Contemporary Dental Materials for the Dental Hygienist

1.5 units LR

- 18 hours lecture/36 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course presents the fundamentals of dental materials. Basic science, behavior and manipulation of dental materials in a framework that enables adaptation to the rapidly evolving array of new dental materials and techniques in the professional arena will be covered. CSU

DENHY-131 Expanded Functions for the Dental Hygienist

2 units LR

- 18 hours lecture/54 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-127 or equivalent; CHEM-108 and CHEM-109 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course presents dental hygiene advanced clinical functions including clinical practice in administration of local anesthetics, topical anesthetic agents, nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia and soft tissue curettage. CSU

DENHY-133 Behavioral Foundations and Communications Skills

1 unit LR

- 18 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 or equivalent

This course introduces students to principles drawn from the behavioral sciences to guide dental hygienist-client communication. The basic components of the communication process, verbal and nonverbal communication, therapeutic and non-therapeutic communication techniques, listening skills, major theories of motivation, and the interrelationship between teaching, learning, and communication will be covered. Focus is on the modification of teaching, learning, and communication techniques appropriate for clients throughout the life span and development of abilities to interact with all members of our multicultural society. CSU

DENHY-134 Evaluation of Scientific Research

2 units LR

- 36 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-120 and ENGL-122 or equivalents
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course is designed to familiarize the student with scientific research methodology and skills to critically review, evaluate and interpret scientific research and professional literature. CSU

DENHY-135 Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist

3 units LR

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course introduces the discipline of pharmacology. The focus is on categorizing drugs by therapeutic use and understanding the physiologic basis for drug action and interaction. Client case scenarios are introduced to allow students to apply course content to simulated clinical situations. CSU

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DENHY-136 Dental Hygiene Care for Clients with Special Needs

1 unit LR

- 18 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course focuses on goals, principles, and treatment modification of comprehensive dental hygiene care for clients with special needs. CSU

DENHY-150 Topics in Dental Hygiene

.3-4 units LR

- Variable hours
- Prerequisite: DENHY-101 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course is a supplemental class in dental hygiene to provide a study of current concepts and problems in dental hygiene and related subdivisions. Specific topics will be announced in the schedule of classes. CSU

DENHY-219 Pathology

2 units LR

- 36 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-120 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course provides an introduction to the principles of general and oral pathology. The focus is to gain skill in recognizing pathologic conditions and to develop an understanding of disease mechanisms, the diagnostic process, referral, and treatment options. CSU

DENHY-223 Ethics, Jurisprudence, and Practice Management

2 units LR

- 36 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-120 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course examines jurisprudence, ethics, and practice management as these concepts relate to dental hygiene care and the dental profession. The importance of professional conduct, continuous quality improvement, self-assessment and peer evaluation are emphasized. Management and leadership skills essential for dental hygienists to participate in the practice management and administration of a dental hygiene practice will be covered. CSU

DENHY-225 Community Oral Health

1 unit LR

- 18 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-120 or equivalent

This course is designed to focus on oral health promotion and disease prevention for a variety of populations with diverse oral health needs. It provides students with an introduction to the dental care delivery system and the significant social, political, cultural and economic forces directing the system. CSU

DENHY-226 Community Oral Health Service Learning

1.5 unit LR

- 18 hours lecture/27 hours laboratory by arrangement per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-134 and DENHY-225 or equivalents
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course provides an introduction to service-learning experiences related to the study of oral health promotion and disease prevention for groups of people. The process of community health program development including assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation will be emphasized. CSU

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DENHY-227 Advanced Periodontics and Dental Hygiene Topics

2 units LR

- 36 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-120 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course presents advanced concepts of dental hygiene theory, comprehensive dental hygiene assessment, and treatment planning. Topics will include evidence-based decision making, powered instrumentation, dentinal hypersensitivity, periodontal pharmacology/chemotherapies to control disease activity, advanced instrumentation techniques and root morphology, sharpening skills, periodontal/restorative relationships, evolving technology for evaluation of oral lesions, and practice with comprehensive dental hygiene treatment planning. CSU

DENHY-230 Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene Care I

6 units LR

- 18 hours lecture/279 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-120 and DENHY-127 or equivalents
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course continues and expands development of dental hygiene skills in preventive therapy, oral prophylaxis, periodontal initial preparation, periodontal maintenance therapy, scaling and root debridement procedures, pain control and gingival curettage as well as adjunct therapeutic skills. Dental hygiene assessment (diagnostic) and dental hygiene care planning skills will continue to be developed leading to clinical competency. Techniques in the use and interpretation of radiographs, infection control and office procedures will be developed. CSU

DENHY-231 Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene Care II

6.5 units LR

- 18 hours lecture/306 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-120 and DENHY-127 or equivalents
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course is a continuation of the advanced clinical dental hygiene care course designed to lead toward the achievement of entry level clinical competence in preventive oral health care, oral prophylaxis, initial therapy and supportive periodontal therapy. Students will become entry level competent in scaling and debridement procedures, administration of local anesthetics and nitrous-oxide sedation, and gingival curettage as well as adjunct therapeutic skills such as the local placement of antimicrobial agents. Dental hygiene assessment, diagnosis (based on human need theory) and dental hygiene care planning skills will be refined. Techniques in use and interpretation of radiographs, infection control and time management will be further developed. CSU

DENHY-290 Transitioning from Student to Dental Professional

1 unit SC

- 18 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-120 or DENTL-180 or equivalent
- Limitation on enrollment: Acceptance to the Diablo Valley College Dental Assisting or Dental Hygiene program, including current TB Clearance, Hepatitis immunization and/or titer, tetanus vaccination, malpractice insurance, and current CPR certification (Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider with Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

This course will prepare students to transition into professional practice in dentistry. Marketing skills, resume and portfolio preparation, interviewing techniques, methods of compensation, malpractice insurance, and navigating licensure applications are emphasized. CSU

DENHY-295 RDH Examination Preparation

.5 unit P/NP

- 27 hours laboratory per term
- Prerequisite: DENHY-231 or equivalent

Advanced clinical dental hygiene experience with emphasis on preparation for the Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) Examination: including patient selection, preparation, self/peer evaluation to enhance performance on the State of California license examination.

DENHY-298 Independent Study

.5-3 units SC

- *Variable hours*
- *Note: Submission of acceptable educational contract to department and Instruction Office is required.*

This course is designed for advanced students who wish to conduct additional research, a special project, or learning activities in a specific discipline/subject area and is not intended to replace an existing course. The student and instructor develop a written contract that includes objectives to be achieved, activities and procedures to accomplish the study project, and the means by which the supervising instructor may assess accomplishment. CSU

DENHY-299 Student Instructional Assistant

.5-3 units SC

- *Variable hours*
- *Note: Applications must be approved through the Instruction Office. Students must be supervised by a DVC instructor.*

Students work as instructional assistants, lab assistants and research assistants in this department. The instructional assistants function as group discussion leaders, meet and assist students with problems and projects, or help instructors by setting up laboratory or demonstration apparatus. Students may not assist in course sections in which they are currently enrolled. CSU