

Dental hygiene

**DENTAL HYGIENE – DENHY**

Charles Ramos, Dean  
 Sciences Division  
 Physical Sciences Building, Room 263

**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.

**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.

The dental hygiene curriculum requires two consecutive academic years including Summer. The program includes classroom, clinical, and laboratory instruction as well as hands-on experience providing dental hygiene services in the DVC Dental Programs Community Clinic. The dental hygiene program is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and approved by the Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC).

Entrance into the dental hygiene program is highly competitive with enrollment limited to 20 students. To be eligible, students must complete the specified prerequisite courses prior to submitting an application. 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 pass the orientation course DENHY-101 and submit the following to the Dental Programs Department by the beginning of fall classes: (1) CPR/BLS certification for Health Care Providers; (2) current immunizations/titers; (3) proof of satisfactory tuberculosis (TB) screening; (4) current physical examination; (5) passing background check; and (6) passing certified drug test.

Students must achieve a “C” grade or higher in each course used to meet program requirements. The dental hygiene program classes are taught during the day; however, the general education and prerequisite courses may be offered in the evening. For more information and an application packet visit the DVC dental hygiene 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 First-Year College Writing and Reading .....	3
or	
ENGL-122A First-Year College Composition and Reading for Multilingual Students .....	3
NUTRI-160* Nutrition: Science and Applications .....	3
SOCIO-120**Introduction to Sociology.....	3

*plus at least 4 units from:*

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

*plus at least 4 units from:*

MATH-135*** College Algebra.....	4
MATH-135SP***College Algebra – Self-Paced .....	4
MATH-142*** Elementary Statistics with Probability .....	4

*plus at least 3 units from:*

COMM-120** Public Speaking .....	3
COMM-130** Small Group Communication.....	3

*plus at least 3 units from:*

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

*All overall GPA of 3.0 or higher in science, English, and communication studies is required for program admission.*

*\*Science courses must have been completed within the past seven years.*

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

*\*\*\*Higher-level math courses are accepted without need for course substitution.*

<b>total minimum required units</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>- program prerequisites</b>	

Dental hygiene

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.....	5.5
DENHY-122	Clinical Dental Hygiene.....	6
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 and Practice.....	2.5
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.....	5
DENHY-231	Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene Care II.....	5.5
DENHY-290	Transitioning from Student to Dental Professional.....	1
	<b>total minimum required units - program</b>	<b>59</b>
	<b>total minimum required units - program and program prerequisites</b>	<b>100</b>

NOTE: DVC GE Area IB and III must also be completed to satisfy associate 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**

5.5 units LR

- 54 hours lecture/144 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

**DENHY-122 Clinical Dental Hygiene**

6 units LR

- 54 hours lecture/168 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

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**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 and Practice**

2.5 units LR

- 36 hours lecture/27 hours laboratory 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. Infection control principles, protocols, Center For Disease Control (CDC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommendations/regulations are presented. CSU

**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

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**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

**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

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**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

**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

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**DENHY-230 Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene Care I**

5 units LR

- 18 hours lecture/224 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**

5.5 units LR

- 18 hours lecture/256 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-181 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-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