



2026 ADMISSION PACKET

Dental Hygiene Program

- ! Application & Requirements Deadline - **January 31, 2026****
- ! Please allow 2 weeks to complete all application requirements.**

APPLICATION & REQUIREMENTS DEADLINE- JANUARY 31, 2026

It is the student's responsibility to monitor the completion of the Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR) whether enrolled at CVCC or elsewhere. CVCC reserves the right to change curriculum and admission requirements without prior notice. Applicants are responsible for completing admission requirements and ensuring all materials have been submitted by the deadline.

This packet provides information to assist you with the admission and selection process for the Dental Hygiene program. For questions regarding the program, contact the Department Head of Dental Education at (828) 327-7000 extension 4631 or by email at jhicks@cvcc.edu. For questions regarding admission requirements, please contact Student Services at extension 4216 or email healthcare@cvcc.edu.

How do I find information about Dental Hygiene and employment opportunities? For general information refer to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook – Dental Hygienists at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm>.

What is the class schedule/length for the Dental Hygiene program?

The core dental hygiene courses are only offered during the day on a full-time basis. The program consists of five semesters, which require two years to complete after all program pre-requisites are satisfied. The program begins in the Fall term. Graduates of the program are eligible, with approval of the Dental Hygiene Program Department Head, to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and the ADEX Examination, as well as other state or regional examinations depending upon requirements. Graduates applying for NC Licensure will be required to undergo criminal record checks and fingerprinting.

What is the Dental Hygiene curriculum/course sequence?

The Dental Hygiene course sequence can be found online in our catalog at http://mycatalog.cvcc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=13&poid=3700&returnto=615

How much does the program cost?

How much does the program cost? College tuition is set by the North Carolina State Legislature and is subject to change. Dental Hygiene students must purchase a variety of books, instruments, clinic uniforms, malpractice insurance, accident insurance, and other fees as set by the College. The approximate cost for the program is \$10,500 (this figure is based upon current in-state tuition rates and reflects an approximate cost only). Information regarding the estimated additional program costs is listed on CVCC's [Dental Hygiene webpage](#).

How do I apply for Financial Aid?

All applicants are encouraged to apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For information about financial aid, contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at financial_aid@cvcc.edu or call 828-327-7000 ext. 4860.

Do I need a computer?

Yes, access to a computer is required for this program. Once the CVCC application has been activated, students are assigned a CVCC email address and MyCVCC Portal account. Communication between students, faculty and any other college personnel will be by CVCC email, so students must frequently check their CVCC email accounts for admission status updates.

The following technology resources are recommended for successful completion of this program:

A laptop computer with

- Windows 10 or later with at least 4GB of RAM (6GB or more preferred) and at least 3GB Hard Drive capacity (more preferred)
- Web Camera and Microphone
- Installation of Microsoft Office Suite & Teams (provided by CVCC)

- Installation of the free Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or newest Microsoft Edge browser (Chrome recommended)
- Reliable Internet Access and Printer Access

Cell phones are not a substitute for laptops; they cannot be used to complete assignments for this program.

Will I be required to complete a Criminal Background Check/Drug Screening?

Yes. Clinical facilities may require students to undergo criminal background checks, drug testing and have certain immunizations/vaccines. The NC State Board of Dental Examiners uses LiveScan to complete the criminal background check. A student is required to complete a criminal background check when applying for a NC Dental Hygiene license.

Students will be required to pay fees associated with background checks/drug screenings.

Clinical facilities may refuse access to clinical experiences based on the results of a criminal background check, drug screening, or immunization/vaccination status.

Should any facility refuse to allow a student access to a clinical experience, the student will be unable to continue in the CVCC Dental Hygiene program.

Predetermination of Eligibility for Licensure: Individuals with a criminal history may petition the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners any time prior to applying for a license to determine if the individual's criminal history will likely disqualify them from obtaining a license. Individuals may receive such a predetermination through either a formal or an informal process. Visit here to learn more before applying to the Dental Hygiene program <https://www.ncdentalboard.org/Predetermination.htm>.

How does undocumented immigrant status or DACA status affect application to the program?

Current North Carolina Community College System policy allows DACA and undocumented applicants to enroll at CVCC at the out-of-state tuition cost. However, acceptance to the college does not guarantee acceptance to a specific program. Students with an unexpired DACA status are eligible to apply to an Allied Health program. Students must keep active DACA status to remain enrolled in an Allied Health program. Professional licensure is granted by state licensing boards. Students MUST inquire with the appropriate licensure board for specific licensure requirements. Undocumented students are not eligible for admission to an Allied Health program.

According to North Carolina and Federal laws, undocumented students are not eligible for North Carolina professional licensure. This policy is subject to change without notice based upon federal and state regulations.

When and how will I be notified of acceptance to the program?

Applicants will be notified of acceptance to the program within 2 to 6 weeks of the deadline via an email to their CVCC email account. Applicants chosen as alternates or not accepted for the program will also be notified at that time. Students may apply to only one healthcare program at a time. Should acceptance to that program be denied, the student may apply to another healthcare program whose application deadline has not yet occurred.

What if I am not admitted to the program?

Applicants not admitted will need to re-apply by completing the MAR Checklist for the year of reapplication. Students are responsible for following the guidelines for reapplication. Students are required to submit a new MAR Checklist each year to apply.

What am I required to do before the first day of class if accepted?

Accepted applicants must attend a mandatory Orientation Session with the Dental Hygiene Program Department Head and Faculty at which time the student will be provided with information concerning other program requirements, including Healthcare Provider CPR certification, health examination form certifying that they appear to be able to participate in the activities of a health profession in a clinical setting. Students not attending the Orientation Session and/or unable to meet any additional requirements listed above will be unable to enter the Dental Hygiene program.

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (MAR) EXPLAINED

To be considered for acceptance, all applicants must complete Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR) by the published deadline.

- 1. Get your CVCC Student ID#:** If you are a new student (have never taken classes at CVCC before) please complete the [Apply Now](#) process. Choose “Dental Hygiene” as your program of study. Returning students with a CVCC Student ID# do not need to complete another application to the college.
- 2. High School Transcript:** Submit an official High School/High School Equivalency transcript in a sealed envelope issued by the school, electronically through a 3rd party vendor to transcripts@cvcc.edu or by postal mail. Plan accordingly to ensure transcripts arrive by the deadline. For information on how to request transcripts, visit [How to Request Official Transcripts](#).
- 3. College Transcripts:** Submit ALL official college transcripts in a sealed envelope issued from EVERY school ever attended (except CVCC), or electronically through a 3rd party vendor to transcripts@cvcc.edu, or by postal mail. Plan accordingly to ensure transcripts arrive by the deadline.
- 4. Attend the CVCC Dental Hygiene Information Session:** Applicants must attend a mandatory Dental Hygiene Information Session. Refer to the [Dental Hygiene webpage](#) for complete listings.
- 5. Complete Shadowing Requirement:** All applicants must “shadow” a licensed Dental Hygienist (minimum of 4 hours per day on 3 separate days or the equivalent of 12 hours). Use the enclosed Dental Hygiene –Shadowing Documentation form and submit the completed form by the deadline.
- 6. Meet Required CVCC Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00:**

Students previously or currently enrolled at CVCC must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 on all CVCC coursework. Applicants who have not attended CVCC but have completed at least 6 curriculum course credit hours at another regionally accredited college or university and earned a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 or higher may use that GPA. Combined GPA will be used for applicants who have taken pre-admission coursework at multiple regionally accredited colleges or universities. The combined GPA must be a minimum of 3.00.
- 7. Completed all required courses listed in the Pre-Admission Coursework Guide with a minimum grade of “C” or higher.**
- 8. Complete the ATDH (Admission Test for Dental Hygiene). Every applicant must take the ATDH before the deadline.**

ATDH exams can be taken at any Prometric Test Center in the U.S. and its territories and Canada. Please refer to the [ATDH webpage](#) for information on how to apply for the ATDH and other pertinent information. Applicants taking the ATDH must ensure Catawba Valley Community College Dental Hygiene program is selected as a school your official scores are sent to. Official scores must be received by the deadline. It may take up to four (4) weeks from the testing date for selected schools to receive official results/scores, so please plan accordingly. Scores are good for two years from the initial testing date. Download and review the ATDH Guide on the ATDH webpage.
- 9. Submit the completed [MAR Checklist Form](#) before the deadline. Students who do not submit the form before the deadline are unable to be considered for a spot in the program.**

COMPETITIVE SELECTION AND RANKING

The following criteria will be used to evaluate and select the best-qualified applicants from those who completed all Minimum Admission Requirements (MAR) by the deadline. Applicants receiving the highest number of points will be admitted to the program until the class is filled. The number of students accepted each year may vary depending on clinical space.

1. **Points for completion (with a "C" or better) of ALL Dental Hygiene Program prerequisite General Education Courses.** Applicants are not considered for the program if the courses are not completed. (Found on the Pre-Admission Coursework Guide)

2. **Applicants who graduated with a diploma from a CODA-accredited Dental Assisting Program or who have earned DANB's Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or completed CVCC's Dental Assisting I Program and earned DANB's National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA) certification will earn extra points in the competitive admission process.**

CVCC will only consider a CODA-accredited or a DANB-accepted program for CDA or NELDA certification at the time of the applicant's graduation/completion. Visit www.danb.org for a list of accredited schools. Transcripts showing coursework and graduation date from the CODA-accredited Dental Assisting Program must be provided and received by the published deadline date. Applicants who completed the Dental Assisting I Program at CVCC do not need to submit transcripts but will need to submit the NELDA certificate by the published deadline date.

3. **Applicants will be awarded points according to their score on the ATDH.**

Please review the ATDH Guide for the number of times the ATDH can be taken within a calendar year. To be considered, official results/scores sent electronically by ATDH must be received by the deadline date. The highest score will be used.

4. **Interview process (invitation only).**

The interview process serves as a critical component in the competitive admissions process by providing an additional, structured metric for evaluating applicants beyond academic performance and prerequisite completion. Through standardized questions and scoring rubrics, interviews will assess essential qualities such as communication skills, ethical reasoning, and commitment to patient care, which are not fully captured by grades or ATDH scores. This approach will help differentiate highly qualified candidates in a large applicant pool where academic achievements alone may be very similar. Interviews will allow the admissions committee to select a well-rounded cohort, ensuring the program admits students best suited for success in dental hygiene and patient-centered practice.

DENTAL HYGIENE- INFORMATION FOR DENTAL ASSISTANT I OR II DOCUMENTATION

All documentation must be submitted by the published deadline.

Applicants who completed the Dental Assisting I (DA I) Program at CVCC **AND** obtained the DANB NELDA certification will earn extra points. The applicant must upload the NELDA certificate into the MAR Checklist. This is not required and is optional for applicants.

Applicants who are a Dental Assistant II (DA II) in NC will earn extra points in the competitive admission process. This is not required and is optional for applicants.

The Applicant (and Dentist, where specified) must complete the documentation outlined below to confirm the Applicant's DA II status.

There are two ways an Applicant may provide documentation for DA II status:

1. Applicants who successfully completed an ADA CODA accredited Dental Assisting Program and obtained a DANB CDA certificate must submit both of the following documents:

- a. The official transcript from the ADA CODA accredited Dental Assisting program along with the CDA certificate must be submitted to CVCC (electronically through a 3rd party vendor or sent in postal mail from the issuing school to CVCC); and
- b. Complete **Section A** of the "Dental Hygiene—DA II Documentation Form" and upload it into the MAR Checklist Form.

OR

2. Applicants who did not complete the Dental Assisting I program at CVCC and obtain the DANB NELDA certificate, nor graduated from an ADA CODA accredited Dental Assisting Program, nor have a DANB CDA certificate, must provide evidence of all four of the following items per NC Law in order to be considered for a DA II:

- a. Complete **Section B** of the "Dental Hygiene—DA II Documentation Form" to provide evidence of full-time employment and experience as a chairside assistant for two years (3000 hours) within the past 5 years. The Applicant and the Dentist must complete the form. Applicants may upload the document(s) into the MAR Checklist Form.
- b. Upload the following three (3) certificates into the MAR Checklist Form when submitting.
 - A 3-hour course in sterilization and infection control
 - A 3-hour course in dental office emergencies
 - Radiology Training consistent with G.S. 90-29(s)(12)

DENTAL HYGIENE- DA II DOCUMENTATION FORM

All documentation must be submitted by the published deadline.

The applicant must upload the completed form into the MAR Checklist Form. Late submissions will not be considered.

Applicants may need to copy this form if full-time employment and experience as a chairside assistant for two (2) years occurred at multiple dental practices. Applicants are responsible for ensuring all documentation is submitted as directed and by the deadline.

Section A: Complete this section to document completion of a Dental Assisting program:

Applicant: _____ **CVCC ID#:** _____

Name of ADA CODA Accredited Dental Assisting School:

OR

Section B: Complete this section to document full-time employment and experience as a chairside assistant for two years:

Applicant: _____ **CVCC ID#:** _____

Name of Dental Practice: _____

Address of Dental Practice(s): _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number of Dental Practice: _____

Dates of Employment at the practice: _____

To be completed by the Dentist:

I, _____, attest that the Dental Hygiene applicant,
(Print Dentist's Name)

_____, has worked as a chairside assistant for
(Print Applicant's Name)

_____.
(employment term, specify months and years)

Dentist Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Applicant: _____ **CVCC ID# or LAST 4 DIGITS of SS#:** _____
(Please print.)

- To meet minimum admission requirements, applicants must shadow a licensed Dental Hygienist for at least **four (4) hours per day on three (3) different days. The same hygienist cannot be shadowed for all three days.**
- Contact any dental professional to arrange your shadowing.
- It is strongly recommended that shadowing sessions are not with the same office.
- Hours must be noted for each session.

There are no exemptions from shadowing.

Dental Hygienist Certification

This certifies that the above named applicant completed _____ hours of shadowing on _____.
Date

Name: _____	NC License #: _____
Address: _____	Telephone: _____
Signature: _____	Date: _____

This certifies that the above named applicant completed _____ hours of shadowing on _____.
Date

Name: _____	NC License #: _____
Address: _____	Telephone: _____
Signature: _____	Date: _____

This certifies that the above named applicant completed _____ hours of shadowing on _____.
Date

Name: _____	NC License #: _____
Address: _____	Telephone: _____
Signature: _____	Date: _____

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM– ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL PROGRAM COSTS

(Estimates only, subject to change without notice)

SUPPLIES

COST

First Year-Fall Semester

Vaccines & Titers 9 (cost can vary widely)	\$300.00
Physical Exam (cost can vary widely)	\$200.00
CastleBranch	\$187.00
Malpractice Insurance	\$20.00
Scrub Tops & Pants & Leather Shoes	\$400.00
Instrument Kit and Nitrile Gloves	\$1200.00
Dentoform Models	\$700.00
Anatomically Shaped Teeth	\$77.00
Gleason Guide	\$160.00
Nametag	\$10.00
Operator and Patient Eyewear	\$25.00
Digital Thermometer	\$15.00
Blood Pressure Kit	\$50.00
Clinical PPE & Supplies (Based on usage – face shields, disposable gowns, etc.)	\$150.00
Miscellaneous Items: (Red/Blue Pencil, Magnetic Clips, Hand Sanitizer, etc.)	\$30.00
American Dental Hygienists' Association – Student Member (Mandatory membership)	\$80.00

First Year – Spring Semester

Malpractice Insurance	\$20.00
Dentsply Student Kit	\$1700.00
Radiology Kit	\$200.00
Oraqix Dispenser	\$40.00

Summer Semester

Malpractice Insurance	\$20.00
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Second Year – Fall Semester

Malpractice Insurance	\$20.00
American Dental Hygienists' Association – Student Member – (Mandatory membership)	\$80.00
Clinical PPE & Supplies (Based on usage – face shields, disposable gowns, etc.)	\$150.00

Second Year – Spring Semester

Malpractice Insurance (included in tuition)	\$20.00
National Board Dental Hygiene Exam	\$490.00
CDCA-WREB-CITA Examination (State Examination)	\$1400.00
NC Licensure Fee	\$75.00

Please Note:

These cost estimates are in addition to the costs any student attending CVCC will incur each semester, such as tuition, activity fees, accident insurance, books, and class supplies such as pens, paper, etc.

Students applying for graduation will pay diploma fees.

Estimates for these costs may be found in the [CVCC Catalog](#).

DENTAL HYGIENE - TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Catawba Valley Community College does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities and will attempt to provide reasonable accommodations as required by law. The following activities are examples of the kind of activities which a student in the Dental Hygiene program will be required to perform in order to successfully complete the program. If an accepted applicant believes that he/she cannot meet one or more of the standards without accommodations, the applicant should consult the counselor of the program for students with disabilities.

CRITICAL THINKING	Cognitive ability sufficient to recognize deviations from normal cases, co-diagnose, and plan treatment.	Respond quickly and appropriately to medical emergencies. Utilize assessment information to identify pathology, individualize treatment, and suggest referral when necessary.
COMMUNICATION SKILLS	Written, verbal & auditory communication skills to permit effective interaction with others.	Communicate with staff members, patients and other students while wearing high filtration masks. Ascertain medical/dental history information. Monitor patient needs during treatment. Provide individualized homecare instructions.
MOBILITY	Sufficient mobility to maneuver in small areas.	Access patient within confines of dental operatory and radiographic room, which involves a variety of sitting and; standing positions, including bending, twisting and reaching. Access darkroom for development of radiographs.
MOTOR SKILLS	Fine and gross motor skills sufficient to perform complex psychomotor tasks.	Exploring and scaling teeth with small diameter instruments. Manipulating power-driven instruments. Placing dental radiographs.
VISUAL	Visual ability sufficient to read medical information and assess dental conditions.	Annotate chart entries on paper and/ or computerized medical records. Assess intraoral conditions. Interpret dental radiographs.
OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES	The dental hygiene student may be exposed to communicable diseases, bodily fluids, toxic substances, latex and medicinal preparations. Students shall use appropriate precautions at all times.	Provide care, using standard precaution, for a client/patient with a communicable disease.

Please note: Examples are not all-inclusive.

If you have a disability and need accommodation, please contact the Counselor for Students with Disabilities and Special Programs at least 72 hours in advance at (828) 327-7000, ext. 4222 or accommodations@cvcc.edu.

FALL 2026

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

PRE-ADMISSION COURSEWORK GUIDE

The information provided below is for planning purposes only. Admission and curriculum requirements are subject to change without notice.

The following courses **must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher** by the published deadline:

BIO 168 – Anatomy and Physiology I (4 credit hours)

BIO 163 with a "C" or higher will substitute.

BIO 275 – Microbiology (4 credit hours)

BIO 175 with a "C" or higher will substitute.

CHM 130 & 130A – Gen. Org. & Biochemistry & Lab (4 credit hours)

CHM 131, 131A & 132 are the only substitutions for CHM 130 & 130A.

Completing all 3 courses with a "C" or higher in every course will substitute.

COM 110 – Introduction to Communication (3 credit hours)

COM 120 (3 credit hours) or **COM 231** (3 credit hours) will substitute.

ENG 111 – Writing and Inquiry (3 credit hours)

ENG 112 – Writing/Research in the Disciplines (3 credit hours)

OR

ENG 114 – Professional Research and Reporting (3 credit hours)

Humanities/Fine Arts Elective (3 credit hours)

HUM 115 – Critical Thinking – Preferred Course

PSY 150 – General Psychology (3 credit hours)

2026 FALL
DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
MAR CHECKLIST

MAR Checklist Submission Deadline – January 31, 2026, at 11:59pm EST

Name: _____ **Student ID#:** _____

Admission requirements are subject to change without notice, and it is the student's responsibility to monitor program information whether enrolled at CVCC or elsewhere.

1. Get your CVCC Student ID#.
2. Submit official [High School/High School Equivalency Transcript](#).
3. Submit all official, sealed [College Transcripts](#) submitted from EVERY college ever attended (except CVCC). If additional coursework is completed after submission of transcripts, an official updated transcript must be submitted to CVCC to ensure all possible transfer credit is awarded.
4. Attend the **mandatory** CVCC Dental Hygiene [Information Session](#).
5. Shadowing Requirement
6. Meet the minimum GPA requirement of 3.00.
7. Complete EVERY general education class listed on the Pre-Admission Coursework Guide of the Admission Packet with a grade of "C" or higher.
8. Complete the [ATDH exam](#).
9. Submit the completed [MAR Checklist Form](#) before the deadline. Students who do not submit the MAR Checklist Form are unable to be considered for a spot in the program.