Dental Hygiene

Think PCC First

April 2016
A GUIDE TO THE PCC DENTAL HYGIENE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 17, 2017 at 5 p.m.

We do not accept faxed, emailed or electronically delivered applications or materials. If submitting your application within 2 weeks of the application deadline, hand delivery is the only way to guarantee your application will arrive by the deadline date. Due to PCC’s centralized mailing distribution system, expedited mailing options aren’t directly received by the Health Admissions Office on delivery confirmation date.

Minimum application requirements for the program beginning Fall 2017

Course completion deadline:
- All required prerequisite courses must be complete by the end of the winter term prior to the application deadline.

Grade requirements:
- Individual prerequisite courses must be taken for a letter grade and must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher.

Prerequisite Courses with a 7-year expiration: for 2017 application, the last year accepted is 2010

BI 234 Microbiology:
Microbiology must be complete by the end of the winter term prior to the application deadline. Completion of BI 112 is required prior to BI 234.

*Courses with no expiration date

CH 102 or CH 106 Organic Chemistry
At PCC applicants can take CH 102 Organic Chemistry Principles or CH 106 the final course in the CH 104-106 Allied Health Chemistry sequence to fulfill this prerequisite. MTH 95 is a co-requisite/prerequisite to start the Allied Health Chemistry sequence. Due to course number systems varying by institution, applicants taking Organic Chemistry at other institutions are required to include the course syllabus with application.

BI 231 and BI 232 Anatomy & Physiology I and II:
PCC program prerequisites do not include BI 233, Anatomy & Physiology III, the final course in the full series.

WR 121 English Composition:
Remedial English such as sentence structure and punctuation will not be accepted as sufficient to meet the prerequisite.

MTH 65 Introductory Algebra, Second Term:
Applicants may also use MTH 70, 95, 105 or higher to fulfill this requirement.

Prerequisite Electives in Psychology, Sociology and Communications:
PSY 101, SOC 204 and COMM 111 are recommended but other courses under each subject category are acceptable.

*Dental Hygiene degree requirements that must be taken prior to acceptance

All students must complete the general education requirements for the Associate of Applied Science Degree. To view requirements, please visit: http://www.pcc.edu/admissions/health/general-ed.html

Gaining healthcare experience

Applicants are encouraged to earn additional points and increase their competitiveness by ONE of the following ways:
- job shadow a registered dental hygienist for at least 20 hours
- gain work experience in a dental setting for a minimum of one year
- attend a CODA accredited dental assisting program
- obtain a certification in dental assisting (CDA)

Please see the FAQ section for more information regarding gaining healthcare experience.
Tier I

Prerequisite Course Points
Courses must be completed with a C grade or higher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Points (A = 15, B = 10, C = 5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry (CH 102 or CH 106)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology I (BI 231)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology II (BI 232)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology* (BI 234) *(7 year expiration)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Prerequisite Courses /60

Optional Course Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition (FN 225)</td>
<td>/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL COLLEGE GPA Points

Applicants are awarded up to 20 points based on their overall college GPA. The overall GPA is calculated using the cumulative GPA’s from any and all institutions where a prerequisite course/requirement is completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA Range</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.00 – 3.80</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.79 – 3.60</td>
<td>18 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.59 – 3.40</td>
<td>16 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.39 – 3.20</td>
<td>14 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.19 – 3.00</td>
<td>12 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL COLLEGE GPA Points /20

PRIOR DEGREE: Students with a bachelor’s degree or higher at time of application. Official transcripts documenting degree must be provided. /5

REAPPLICANT ALTERNATES

1 point for each year selected as an Alternate; must be within 3 years of current application. /3

EXPERIENCE POINTS: 5 to 10 points possible (Documentation required: see page 7). Applicants will only receive points for ONE of the following options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A minimum of 20 hours job shadowing a practicing dental hygienist</td>
<td>/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Assistant Certification (CDA) or at least one year work experience in a dental office (Up to 10 points possible, based on evaluation filled out by employer or instructor: see page 7)</td>
<td>/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL TIER I POINTS /100

Tier II Selection

PROCTORED ESSAY – Worth 25 points. Approximately 40 students with the highest points in Tier I are invited to the proctored essay. The essay evaluates written communication skills, transferrable skills, motivational fitness, and other criteria. Tier I and II points are combined and the top 20 students are offered admission.

Tier III Selection

Only for the 20 students offered admission (Please see page 6.)

Information is subject to change. Visit www.pcc.edu/dh for updated program information. PCC will not consider degrees, work experience, certifications, or courses earned for points after Winter term.

Program selection for PCC’s Dental Hygiene program is a three-tier process. Tier I is based on a point system worth up to 100 points as detailed below. Based on the 100 points, we select the top 40 applicants to participate in Tier II of selection, a timed, proctored essay worth 25 points. Based on the combined score of Tier I and Tier II points, the Dental Science Department selects 20 applicants for admission to the program that complete Tier III requirements (see page 6).
**2017 – 2019 Dental Hygiene Program Prerequisite Planning Sheet**

The following courses must be complete by the end of the WINTER TERM of application year with a C grade or higher. ALL prerequisite transfer courses are subject to review by PCC Student Records Office, the Dental Sciences Department and the Health Admissions Office to determine transfer equivalency. Students with transfer courses are encouraged to meet with a Health Admissions Advisor to verify equivalency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIC CHEMISTRY –Choose ONE Lecture and lab required</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Term/Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ CH 102 Organic Chemistry Principles</td>
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</table>

OR

| □ CH 106 Allied Health Chemistry (part of CH 104, 105, 106 series. MTH 95 co/prerequisite) | | |

**BIOLOGY Lecture and lab required**

| □ BI 231 Anatomy and Physiology I                      | | |
| □ BI 232 Anatomy and Physiology II                     | | |
| □ BI 234 Microbiology WITHIN 7 YEARS                    | | |

**ADDITIONAL REQUIRED COURSES**

| □ Psychology elective (recommended PSY 101)            | | |
| □ COMM elective (recommended COMM 111)                 | | |
| □ Sociology elective (recommended SOC 204)            | | |
| □ WR 121 English Composition                           | | |
| □ MTH 65 Introductory Algebra (A math class of MTH 65 or higher is required for graduation.) | | |

**OPTIONAL COURSE**

(Not a prerequisite: OPTIONAL for additional points)

| □ FN 225 Nutrition                                     | | |
Before you apply

- Admission to PCC’s Dental Hygiene program is highly competitive with 20 students chosen each year from a pool of approximately 100 applicants. Competitive applicants have high grades in their science prerequisites, a strong overall college GPA, and some job shadowing or work experience. **Completion of the prerequisites and program requirements does not guarantee admission into the program.**

- Applicants can gain extra points and increase their competitiveness by either obtaining work experience in a dental setting for at least one year, attending a CODA accredited dental assisting program, obtaining their certification in dental assisting (CDA), or job shadowing a registered dental hygienist for at least 20 hours.
Admission Process

Tier I: Application Evaluation
- Applications are evaluated on a 100 point scale based on academic achievement in science prerequisite, overall college GPA and health care experience (see page 3).
- Applicants must meet minimum eligibility requirements.
- Only complete applications submitted by the application deadline (April 17) will be considered.

Tier II: Proctored Essay
- 40 students who score the highest in Tier I of selection will be invited to participate in a mandatory, timed proctored essay at the Sylvania campus worth up to 25 points.
- The proctored essay evaluates written communication skills, transferrable skills, motivational fitness, and other criteria.
- Applicants will be notified of invitation to the proctored essay via their PCC email address. This is the only method of notification. Applicants who do not check their PCC email address regularly should forward their PCC email address to one they check more frequently.
- After the proctored essay, points from Tier I and Tier II will be combined and the 20 students with the highest combined scores will be offered a seat in the program.

Tier III: Post-Selection Requirements
Applicants offered a seat in the program must meet the following requirements prior to beginning the Dental Hygiene Program in the Fall:
- Attend the summer orientation for the Dental Hygiene Program.
- Pass a criminal background check and drug screening prior to practicum and/or field training as a condition of acceptance into a medical, dental or community facility.
- Submit proof of current immunizations.
- Submit proof of current CPR for Health Care Providers certification

Applicants should NOT pursue Tier 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. For more information on required immunizations please visit www.pcc.edu/dh

While in the program students must follow all OSHA and State regulations regarding bloodborne and infectious diseases. Refer to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Table 1) for related policies: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5217a.htm Specific PCC Infection Control Policies and Procedures are also available upon request.

Application Timeline
- Early December – Applications are available online at www.pcc.edu/dh
- January 1st through April 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. – Applications are accepted.
- April 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. – APPLICATION DEADLINE This is NOT a postmark deadline. We do not accept faxed or emailed applications or materials. Mailed applications must be received in the Health Admissions Office by the 5 p.m. deadline on April 17, 2017.
- Early May – Applicants notified by PCC email of invitation to proctored essay.
- Mid-May – Proctored essay takes place at Sylvania campus.
- Mid-June – Applicants informed of their admission status via PCC email address.
- Summer – Admitted and Alternate applicants attend Orientation. Students offered placement in the program must meet the post-selection requirements before final admission status is complete.
- Fall Term—Dental Hygiene Program begins. The Dental Hygiene Program consists of 7 consecutive quarters.

How to apply
- Apply to Portland Community College online at www.pcc.edu/admissions. ALL students must be admitted to PCC prior to applying to the PCC Dental Hygiene Program.
- Complete the PCC Dental Hygiene Program Application Packet. Applications will be available online at www.pcc.edu/dh in early December.
- Students should submit their dental hygiene application, final official transcripts (other than PCC), supporting documentation, and a $25 non-refundable application fee to the Health Admissions Office by the 5pm deadline on April 17, 2017. If submitting your application within two weeks of the application deadline, hand delivery of your application materials is the only way to guarantee receipt by the 5pm application deadline. Due to PCC centralized mail distribution system, expedited mailing options are not directly received by the Health Admissions Office on the delivery confirmation date.
- All official transcripts, other than PCC, must be submitted from each school (even if PCC has evaluated them) with the program application. Transcripts mailed separately or submitted to departments other than the Health Admissions Office will not be accepted.
**PCC DENTAL HYGIENE FAQ’s**

**How many spaces to you have in your program?**

PCC’s Dental Hygiene Program selects **20 students** to begin the program each Fall.

**How competitive is PCC Dental Hygiene program?**

Admission to PCC Dental Hygiene program is competitive with approximately 100 students applying each year for 20 spots. Points are awarded for several criteria and 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 experience in the dental setting. Selection is based primarily on grades in the prerequisite science courses, overall GPA, healthcare experience and essay scores.

**How do I get dental setting experience points?**

There are several ways students can acquire dental setting experience points:

- Contact your personal Dental Hygienist and request a 20 hours shadowing opportunity. Up to 7 hours may be obtained in PCC’s Dental Clinic subject to availability. Call 971-722-4909 to schedule.
- Obtain a Dental Assisting certification.
- Obtain a minimum of one year of full time employment in any position in a dental office or clinic.

**How do I get dental setting experience points?**

- For job shadowing points, students must submit a list of dates and times shadowing took place on the organization’s letterhead, signed by the dentist or dental hygienist, sealed in an envelope and include with the application materials.
- For Dental Assisting students and those employed in a dental setting, there is an evaluation form included in the application packet that must be filled out completely and signed by the dental instructor or dentist and included with the application materials.

**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.

**What skills and abilities are required of dental hygiene students?**

Students are required to meet technical standards for the dental hygiene program. These are “non-academic” criteria which include physical capabilities required of dental hygiene students and professionals. 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 list of technical standard please refer to page 8 of this guide.

**How many PCC graduates pass the licensure exam?**

Graduates of the Dental Hygiene program have maintained a 100% pass rate of the Dental Hygiene licensure examinations.

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

Please go to [www.oregon.gov/dhs/chc/docs/crimelist.xls](http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/chc/docs/crimelist.xls) for information that explains the crimes that disqualify students from admission to the Dental Hygiene Program.

For more frequently asked questions about the Dental Hygiene Program, please visit the Dental Hygiene homepage [www.pcc.edu/dh](http://www.pcc.edu/dh)

For PCC general questions, visit [www.pcc.edu/askthepanther](http://www.pcc.edu/askthepanther)

**Additional Resources**

- American Dental Association: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)
- American Dental Hygienists Association: [www.adha.org](http://www.adha.org)
- Oregon Board of Dentistry: [www.oregon.gov/dentistry](http://www.oregon.gov/dentistry)
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.

Students 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 Disability Services department for assistance. If you are accepted into the program and your functional abilities change please meet with the Radiography Program Director for assistance.