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Program Description and Accreditation

Program Description

The Dental Hygiene Program at Normandale Community College is a selective admissions program which provides academic and clinical educational opportunities for capable individuals to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for the professional practice of dental hygiene. The curriculum focuses on sciences, as well as essential technical and clinical skills in preparation for providing preventive dental hygiene services to the public. Dental hygienists are preventive oral healthcare professionals, licensed in dental hygiene, which provide educational, clinical, and therapeutic services supporting a patient's total health through the promotion of optimal oral health.

The mission of the Dental Hygiene Program at Normandale Community College is to prepare dental hygiene students in the provision of comprehensive dental hygiene care, while emphasizing professionalism, communication, social responsibility, and lifelong learning.

Normandale Community College offers the Associate of Science (AS) degree in Dental Hygiene as a two-year program located within the health sciences division. *NOTE: The Dental Hygiene program is completed in two years **after** admission. Prior to admission, most students spend 1-2 years completing the required prerequisite coursework.*

The dental hygiene coursework requires four semesters to complete and begins each fall semester. Graduates will be eligible to take the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, a Clinical Licensure Examination, and the Minnesota State Board of Dentistry Jurisprudence Examination for licensure in the State of Minnesota.

Following graduation and licensure requirements of the State Board of Dentistry, the dental hygienist becomes a primary healthcare professional, oral health educator and clinician who may choose to work in a variety of settings.

Reasonable accommodations may be available for individuals with disabilities. Information is available in the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#) at 952-358-8625.

Accreditation

The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or 211

E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60611. The Commission's web address is: <http://www.ada.org/en/coda>.



Admissions Criteria, Pre-Requisite Courses, & Additional Required Courses

There are 30 seats available for each new fall cohort. We cannot exceed this number due to accreditation requirements, and we receive over 200 applications each cycle.

Application Process

Dental Hygiene applicants need to complete a two-step application process:

Step 1: Apply to Normandale

Submit the general [Application for Admission](#) to Normandale Community College.

Step 2: Apply to the Dental Hygiene Program

Submit the [application](#) during the application period once you have fulfilled the admissions requirements.

Start Term	Application Opens	Application Deadline	Notification Timeline	Class Start Date
Fall Semester Only	November 1	January 15	March 15	Late August

Minimum Requirements to be Considered for Admission:

- Required pre-requisite coursework completed by application deadline with a 3.25 or higher Grade Point Average (GPA).
 - Note: All courses for the dental hygiene program must have a C grade or higher; C- grades and below will not be accepted.
- A completed **Admission Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH)** Exam with the official score on file by application deadline.
- Current college-level math placement or completion of a college-level math course.

Note: We do not consider work experience or letters of recommendation for admissions decisions.



IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER ABOUT ADMISSIONS



This is a competitive application process.

Admission is **not** guaranteed by completing the minimum eligibility requirements. Admissions decisions will be based on applicant scores as outlined in this document.



Required Pre-Requisite Courses (Grades of C or higher required and a minimum 3.25 GPA)

Course Number and Title	Course Pre-Requisites	Credits
ENGC 1101 College Writing	ENGC/EAP 0960 or college-level English placement	4
CHEM 1050 Foundations of Organic and Biochemistry (Completed CHEM 1061 and 1062 will also be accepted. Grade for CHEM 1062 used in GPA calculation)	CHEM 1020 or complete Chemistry self-assessment for review to be placed into CHEM 1050	3
BIOL 2041 Human Anatomy	CHEM 1050 or CHEM 1061 or concurrent registration AND college-level English placement or ENGC 0960/EAP 0960	4
BIOL 2042 Human Physiology	BIOL 2041 AND CHEM 1050 or CHEM 1061	4
BIOL 2044 Introductory Microbiology (BIOL 2043: Microbiology will also be accepted)	BIOL 2041, or BIOL 1100, or BIOL 2042, or BIOL 1501 AND CHEM 1050 or CHEM 1061	3
COMM 1111 Interpersonal Communication	Recommended: College-level English placement	3
HLTH 1107 Principles of Nutrition	Recommended: College-level English placement	3
PSYC 1110 Introduction to Psychology	Recommended: College-level English placement	4
SOC 1104 Introduction to Sociology	None	3

Grading Scale Used for Pre-requisite GPA Scoring

Letter Grade	A+, A, AP Score 5	A-	AB	B+	B, AP Score 4	B-	BC	C+	C, Pass (P), CLEP, AP Score 3
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.5	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.5	2.33	2.00

If a course has been repeated, only the highest grade earned will be used for admission scoring and prerequisite GPA calculation. Other attempts will be excluded from the GPA calculation.



Admission Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH)

The [Admission Test for Dental Hygiene \(ATDH\)](#) is a standardized admissions exam developed by the American Dental Association (ADA) for students applying to dental hygiene programs. The exam is designed to assess the academic skills and foundational knowledge needed for success in a dental hygiene program.

Exam Content

The ATDH includes the following sections:

Section	Time Allowed (Minutes)	Number of Questions
Introduction and Tutorial	15	—
Reading Comprehension	40	50
Language Usage	40	30
Break (Optional)	15	—
Quantitative Reasoning	40	45
Perceptual Ability	60	45
Break (Optional)	15	—
Biology	30	30
General Chemistry	30	30
Post-Examination Survey	15	—
Total	240	290

Preparing for the Exam

- The ADA provides preparation resources on their website including:
 - [ATDH Candidate Guide](#)
 - [ATDH Practice Test](#)
 - [Recorded webinar for ATDH candidates.](#)
- Additional possible preparation resources:
 - College-level coursework in English, mathematics, biology, and chemistry
 - Dental Admission Test (DAT) study materials (the content on the DAT is similar to the DHAT)
 - [Booster Prep \(DATBooster\)](#)
 - [LearningExpress Database](#)
 - Study sites focused on content areas on the exam such as [Khan Academy](#)

Additional Information

- Applicants are responsible for completing the exam and ensuring official scores are submitted by the program application deadline.
- To take the ATDH, applicants must first obtain a Dental Personal Identification Number ([DENTPIN](#)) and register for the exam through the ATDH website using their legal name as it appears on their identification.
- Exams are offered at authorized testing centers selected through the registration process.

For complete information including registration details, exam fees and partial fee waiver process, and preparation materials, visit the [American Dental Association's ATDH website](#).

Dental Hygiene Application Submission & Scoring Process

Application Submission

The electronic program application will be available on the Dental Hygiene website from November 1- January 15 annually.

- Applications will be reviewed after the January 15 deadline.
- Decisions will be sent no later than March 15 to the student's Normandale email account.
- ***Late applications will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to start and submit application early in case of technical issues.***

Applicant Scoring Guidelines

Applications will be scored using the following criteria for a **maximum score of 110**.

1. **Pre-requisite GPA:** 40 points max (GPA multiplied by 10)
The pre-requisite GPA will be calculated based on the grades from the nine required pre-requisite courses listed on page four.
2. **Science Courses:** 20 points max
The four pre-requisite science courses (CHEM 1050, BIOL 2041, BIOL 2042, BIOL 2044 or accepted alternatives noted on page four) will earn points based on the grade range:
 - A range (Grade of A+, A, or A-): 5 points
 - B range (Grade of B+, B, or B-): 3 points
 - C range (Grade of C+ or C): 1 point
3. **ATDH Exam Score:** 50 points max (applicant score divided by 10)
Scores range from 200-500

Additional information including work experience and letters of recommendation will **not** be considered in application scoring or decisions.

Admissions Notifications

- Admissions notifications will be sent to the applicant's [Normandale student email account](#).
 - Applicants are responsible for activating, accessing, and regularly monitoring their student email for updates and notifications from Health Sciences and the College.
- Applicants will be notified of admission decisions no later than March 15 immediately following the January 15 application deadline.

Transfer Coursework and other Student Situations

Transfer Coursework

Transfer coursework may be accepted to fulfill dental hygiene program requirements.

Normandale's Transfer Team evaluates each transcript to determine the number of credits that will be accepted in transfer and how they will apply toward program requirements. All credit is evaluated in accordance with Minnesota State and Normandale policy and procedure, as outlined in the Transfer Credit Policy in the [Normandale Course Catalog](#).

Official Transcripts

Students are responsible for ensuring all official transcripts and applicable test scores are received by Normandale by the application deadline.

- Official transcripts from private colleges, out-of-state institutions, and the University of Minnesota must be sent to Normandale's [Records Office](#).
- Official transcripts from [Minnesota State Colleges and Universities](#) are typically retrieved automatically and do not need to be sent separately.
Exceptions:
 - Transcripts cannot be retrieved if there is a transcript hold at another Minnesota State institution.
 - Normandale cannot retrieve official transcripts that were previously sent to another Minnesota State Institution. A new official transcript must be sent to transfer@normandale.edu for evaluation.
 - Students who have completed additional Minnesota State coursework after admission to Normandale must submit a [Minnesota State Transcript Retrieval Form](#).
- Applicants with [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#), [College Level Examination Program \(CLEP\)](#), and [International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#) credit must also submit official scores.
- International transcripts must be evaluated by an approved education credential evaluator, such as [WES](#) or [ECE](#), before evaluation by Normandale's Records Office. This is required only if the student would like these credits to be considered for their program/course requirements.

Transcript Evaluation

Transfer is not official until official transcripts have been evaluated by the Records Office Transfer Team at Normandale.

Evaluated coursework can be viewed on a student's [degree audit report](#).

Unofficial transfer information can also be found by creating a free account at www.transferology.com.

Course substitutions may be requested for review by the Academic Dean via Academic Petition for similar coursework that is determined to be not equivalent, for related degrees, or experience.

Current students should contact their assigned advisor for information about the [Academic Petition](#) process.

Common Transfer Situations

- To receive credit for ENGC 1101, students transferring from schools with a two-course sequence will likely need to complete both Composition/Writing I and II.
- To receive credit for BIOL 2041 and BIOL 2042, students typically need to complete both Anatomy & Physiology I and II if enrolled in a combined anatomy and physiology curriculum.

For transfer questions, please email transfer@normandale.edu.



NOTICE ABOUT ONLINE CREDIT VENDORS



For students pursuing a Health Sciences program, such as Nursing or Dental Hygiene, science courses with labs from online credit vendors, such as StraighterLine or Sophia Learning, **do not meet** specific program requirements, including CHEM 1020, CHEM 1050, CHEM 1061, CHEM 1062, BIOL 2041, BIOL 2042, BIOL 2043, and BIOL 2044.

Please review the [Transfer Evaluation website](#) for additional information.

Student Situations

PSEO Students

PSEO students who meet application requirements may apply for the dental hygiene program but must graduate from high school before starting dental hygiene (DENH) courses.

International Students

Students will need to maintain a full-time course enrollment of 12 credits per semester to maintain F1 Visa eligibility. Once admitted to the program, students may need to take courses that are not required for the dental hygiene degree to maintain full-time enrollment during the first semester of the program depending on previous course taking history.

Reapplicants

Students who reapply are in a new applicant pool.

Alternates

Applicants who are not accepted into the dental hygiene program and have met the application requirements will be placed on a ranked alternate list. Applicants who are placed on the alternate list but are not accepted into the program will need to reapply to be considered for any future application cycles.

Suspension

Students with an active Academic Suspension hold will not have their applications scored. Students must also have resolved any Academic Suspensions before the first date of classes to continue in the dental hygiene program once admitted.

Requirements Upon Acceptance

Accepting Program Seat

If admitted to the program, the applicant **must respond within 7 calendar days** to confirm their acceptance. If no response is given, the applicant will forfeit their seat and be placed on the alternate candidate list.

Attend the Dental Hygiene Orientation

- Admitted students are required to attend a mandatory Dental Hygiene Program Orientation and will not be able to register for DENH courses until they have attended orientation.
- The orientation will include a review of program and technical standards.

Required Equipment and Supplies

Students must purchase tools and equipment for use throughout the Dental Hygiene program. The estimated cost for these items is between \$6,000-\$7,000, depending on the magnification loupes selected. Costs are subject to change annually. Purchases must be made directly through the vendor to receive discounted pricing and are not eligible for financial aid charging. Students should be prepared to pay these costs at the time of purchase.

Non-Academic Requirements

The Health Sciences Enrollment Manager will reach out to accepted students to complete these steps when available:

- Submit health and immunization records - including proof of required vaccinations
- Complete and pass a [background check](#)
- Submit current CPR certification (Basic Life Support [BLS] Provider)
- HIPPA Training



Dental Hygiene Required Course Sequence

The Dental Hygiene degree is a full-time, weekday, 4-semester program (2 years) once admitted. Dental Hygiene (DENH) courses must be completed in the order listed and are not available during the summer.

In addition to the required DENH courses, students must complete two courses from [Minnesota Transfer Curriculum \(MnTC\)](#) Goal areas 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10. Courses must satisfy at least two different MnTC Goal areas. These courses may be completed before being admitted to the dental hygiene program.

Semester 1 - Fall Semester	Credits
DENH 1112 Oral and Facial Anatomy	3
DENH 1140 Pre-Clinic Theory	3
DENH 1141 Pre-Clinic Skill Development	4
<i>Total Semester Credits</i>	10
Semester 2 - Spring Semester	Credits
DENH 1142 Clinic 1 Theory	2
DENH 1143 Clinic 1	4
DENH 1150 Dental Radiology	4
DENH 1160 Dental Materials	2
DENH 1162 Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist	2
<i>Total Semester Credits</i>	14
Summer Semester If Needed	Credits
<i>MnTC Course from Goal 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10</i>	3-5
<i>MnTC Course from Goal 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10</i>	3-5
<i>Total Semester Credits</i>	6-10
Semester 3 - Fall Semester	Credits
DENH 2240 Clinic 2 Theory	2
DENH 2241 Clinic 2	6
DENH 2252 Clinical Radiology 1	1
DENH 2263 Pain Management	2
DENH 2264 Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist	2
DENH 2266 General and Oral Pathology	2
<i>Total Semester Credits</i>	15
Semester 4 - Spring Semester	Credits
DENH 2242 Clinic 3 Theory	2
DENH 2243 Clinic 3	6
DENH 2254 Clinical Radiology 2	1
DENH 2281 Preventive Concepts in Community Dental Health	3
<i>Total Semester Credits</i>	12

Bachelor Completion Programs

Metropolitan State University

Students who are admitted to Normandale's Associate of Science (AS) in Dental Hygiene program may choose to be [dually admitted](#) to [Metro State University's Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene \(BSDH\)](#).

One [application](#) grants simultaneous admittance to both the Normandale and Metropolitan State University programs so students can begin working towards their BSDH while completing the dental hygiene program at Normandale.

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene (B.S.D.H.) at Metropolitan State University is also open to those currently working as dental hygienists. Most classes are offered online for added flexibility for students who are working.

Minnesota State University-Mankato

Designed for licensed dental hygienists who have completed a CODA-accredited program, Minnesota State University-Mankato's [Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene online bachelor's degree-completion program](#) helps students develop advanced knowledge and skills for expanded career opportunities while offering flexible scheduling and multiple start dates.

Contact Information and Resources

For questions about becoming a student at Normandale, application status, or completing the general Normandale orientation process, contact Admissions at admissions@normandale.edu.

For questions about transfer credits, transcript evaluation, or receipt of official transcripts, contact the Records Office Transfer Team at transfer@normandale.edu.

For current students with questions about course registration, academic progress, or eligibility for dental hygiene program admissions, schedule an appointment with your assigned advisor or contact advising@normandale.edu.

For other dental hygiene program and application questions, contact healthsciences@normandale.edu.

