

Normandale Community College

Dental Hygiene (AS) Degree

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: Most students complete their required science and liberal arts courses prior to acceptance into the program. 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.

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>.

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

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Normandale Dental Hygiene Website: normandale.edu/dentalhygiene

Application Deadline:

November 1, 2026- January 15, 2027 for Fall 2027 semester cohort

Decisions sent by March 15, 2027

- Applicants to the dental hygiene program give Normandale the right to communicate about the status of their application through personal and [student email](#) addresses.
- Students should make sure their contact information is up to date in [e-Services](#) under "Account Management".

Admission Information:

- Normandale admits **30 students** every fall semester and typically receives 100 to 200 applications every application cycle.
- PSEO students who meet application requirements may apply for the dental hygiene program but must graduate high school before starting dental hygiene (DENH) courses.
- Because of the competitive nature of this selective admission program, students are encouraged to work with their [assigned Academic Advisor](#) to create a parallel plan for another major or program.
- 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 for the program to be considered for any future fall semester starts.
- Students have the option to be dually admitted to Normandale's Associate of Science (AS) in Dental Hygiene and Metropolitan State University's Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH).

Application Requirements:

- [General admission/acceptance](#) to Normandale by [completing the online application](#).
- Submission of all official transcripts from private colleges, out-of-state colleges, or the University of Minnesota to the [Records Office](#) by **January 15, 2027**.
 - Official transcripts from [Minnesota State Colleges and Universities](#) will be automatically retrieved and do not need to be sent to Normandale.
 - Applicants with [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#), [College Level Examination Program \(CLEP\)](#), and [International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#) credit must also submit official scores.
 - Applicants with international university credits must have these official transcripts evaluated by an approved education credential evaluator such as [WES](#) or [ECE](#) and then submitted to the Records Office.
- Prior to the Dental Hygiene application deadline, the following Normandale courses (or equivalent transfer courses) must be completed with a C or higher:
 - ENGC 1101 College Writing
 - CHEM 1050 Foundations of Organic and Biochemistry, **OR**
CHEM 1061 Principles of Chemistry 1 **AND** CHEM 1062 Principles of Chemistry 2
 - BIOL 2041 Human Anatomy
 - Official transcript must show applicant has registered for BIOL 2042 Human Physiology by the application deadline for the following spring semester (must be completed or taken in spring semester before fall start)
- Current college-level math placement or completion of a college-level math course.
- A cumulative 2.75 grade point average (GPA) or higher in all college-level coursework.

Prerequisite Courses and Requirements:

The following requirements must be **complete** at time of the **January 15, 2027** application deadline.

- Applicants must earn a 2.75 cumulative GPA or higher in all college-level coursework. For students with a Bachelor's degree, their last 30 credits are considered and any college courses taken after completion of the Bachelor's degree.
- Current college-level math placement or completion of a college-level math course. MATH 1080 Introduction to Statistics (or equivalent course) is strongly recommended. College-level math eligibility requirement can be met by:
 - Completion of college-level mathematics course with a grade of C or higher.
 - Eligibility to take a college-level mathematics course at the time of the application deadline through:
 - An active placement through the [Normandale course placement process](#); expired placements will not be accepted.
 - Completion of an appropriate developmental math course (MATH 0630, 0990, or 0995) within 2 years of the January 15, 2027 admission deadline with a C, P or higher.
- The following courses must be complete with a C or higher:

Course # / Title	Prerequisites	Credits
ENG 1101 College Writing*	ENG 0960 or college-level English placement	4
CHEM 1050 Foundations of Organic and Biochemistry (CHEM 1061 Principles of Chemistry 1 AND CHEM 1062 Principles of Chemistry 2 will also be accepted)	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 (Advisor or Student Services assistance needed for concurrent registration) and college-level English placement or ENG 0960/EAP 0960	4
BIOL 2042 Human Physiology Must be complete at time of application or in progress spring semester before program start	BIOL 2041 and CHEM 1050 or CHEM 1061	4

*Students from institutions with Composition/Writing 1 and 2 courses will likely need to complete both courses to receive credit for ENG 1101 College Writing.

Students completing an equivalent sequence of Anatomy & Physiology 1 **and Anatomy & Physiology 2 at another college or university may apply to Dental Hygiene with Human Anatomy & Physiology 1 completed by the January 15, 2026 application deadline, as long as the applicant has registered for Human Anatomy & Physiology 2 for the following spring semester by the application deadline.

Important Note:

While the above items are the minimum requirements before being able to apply to the program, please note that in past applicant pools, nearly every admitted applicant had also completed all of the courses listed on the next page with A or B grades at the time of application and a cumulative GPA above 3.0. In the most recent application pool, all students had cumulative GPAs above 3.7.

Other Required General Education Courses:

The following courses can be taken before being admitted to the dental hygiene program. These do not need to be completed before applying or being admitted, but having them done beforehand with the highest possible grades will make a student a more competitive applicant and can help lighten a student's credit load once in the dental hygiene program. Students who apply with just the prerequisite coursework complete (p. 3) will likely not be competitive applicants.

All courses for the dental hygiene program must have a C grade or higher; C- grades and below will not be accepted.

Course # / Title	Prerequisites	Credits
COMM 1111 Interpersonal Communication	Recommended: College-level English placement	3
BIOL 2044 Introductory Microbiology (BIOL 2043, Microbiology, will also be accepted)	BIOL 1100, BIOL 1501, or BIOL 2041 and CHEM 1050 or CHEM 1061	3-4
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
General Education Course from Goal 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 Strongly Recommended: MATH 1080 Introduction to Statistics or equivalent	Varies; Dependent on Course	3,4, or 5
General Education Course from Goal 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 Second general education course must be from a different goal area than the first	Varies; Dependent on Course	3,4, or 5

Additional coursework in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics **with labs** will also be scored favorably on the dental hygiene application.

Students are encouraged to check their [Degree Audit](#) in [e-Services](#) to check on remaining requirements and credits.

Use [Transferology.com](https://www.transferology.com) to check how transfer courses will be counted at Normandale.

[Academic Advisors](#) can assist with questions on transfer credits, application requirements, and graduation: normandale.edu/advising.

Requirements Upon Acceptance/Admittance:

- Attend dental hygiene orientation - admitted students will not be able to register for dental hygiene (DENH) courses until they have attended orientation
- Submit health and immunization records - including proof of required vaccinations
- Complete a background check
- Submit current CPR certification (Basic Life Support [BLS] Provider)

Course Sequence While in the Program:

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. General education courses can be completed before being admitted to the dental hygiene program or in an earlier semester than listed. To be a competitive applicant, it is recommended that students have all prerequisite and general education courses complete with the highest possible grades by the application deadline.

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
COMM 1111 Interpersonal Communication	3

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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
BIOL 2044 Introductory Microbiology *	3
* BIOL 2043, Microbiology, and/or its transfer equivalents will alternatively fulfill this requirement	---
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Semester 3 - Summer Semester	Credits
PSYC 1110 Introduction to Psychology	4
MnTC Course from Goal 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10	3, 4, or 5

	7, 8, or 9
Semester 4 - Fall Semester	Credits
DENH 2240 Clinic Theory 2	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
HLTH 1107 Principles of Nutrition	3

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Semester 5 - 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
SOC 1104 Introduction to Sociology	3

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Dental Hygiene Scoring Guidelines:

Applicants are scored based on the following criteria. Items such as work experience and letters of recommendation will not be considered. Please note that Academic Advisors will not calculate application scores.

Program Ranking (out of a possible 100 points)

1. **Science Courses** (maximum of **46 points**)
 - Required courses (CHEM 1050, BIOL 2041, BIOL 2042, and BIOL 2044) equal to 8 points each if all completed with C or higher
 - Extra biology, chemistry, or physics courses (must include lab), or one statistics course, equal to the number of credits per course if completed with a C or higher (maximum 4 points per class)
 - Add up points based on the grades of the above science courses A = 8, A- = 7, B+ = 6, B = 5, B- = 4, C+ = 3, C = 2, then divide by the number of courses
2. **Cumulative Grade Point Average** (maximum of **40 points**)
 - Multiply cumulative GPA of all college-level courses by 10
 - For students with their Bachelor's degree, the last 30 credits and any college courses taken after completion of the Bachelor's degree will be used for calculating cumulative GPA
3. **Non-Science Courses** (maximum of **14 points**)
 - Each non-science course is equal to two points if completed with a C grade or higher
 - ENGC 1101, COMM 1111, HLTH 1107, SOC 1104, PSYC 1110, two elective courses from Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) Goal Areas 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10

Previous Score Ranges of Admitted Applicants:

Term	Science Score	GPA Score	Non-Science Score	Cumulative Score	Qualified Applicants	% Admitted
Fall 2025	43.80 - 46	37.16 - 40	12 – 14	97.16 - 100	188	12.8%
Fall 2024	43.20 - 46	36.53 - 40	12 - 14	96.35 - 100	126	19.0%
Fall 2023	42.40-46	33.49 - 40	12 - 14	93.49 - 100	97	24.7%

Normandale Dental Hygiene Application & Additional Information:

- www.normandale.edu/academics/degrees-certificates/dental-hygiene/degrees/apply.html
- **Health Sciences Enrollment Manager** (healthsciences@normandale.edu)