



Dental Hygiene Program

Overview of the Clinical Education Process

An integral, demanding, and rewarding part of the Dental Hygiene Program at Northampton Community College is clinical education (approximately 737 hours). Clinical education is divided into a total of four (4) clinical courses and three (3) labs in Oral Radiology, Local Anesthesia and Preventive Oral Health Services II.

The assigned clinical education site is primarily housed at the NCC Litwak Dental Hygiene Clinic, 3rd floor, NCC Fowler Southside Center, and at associated enrichment sites through the Bethlehem Partnership and Star Wellness, affiliated with St. Luke's University Health Network. The Dental Hygiene program provides facilities for the student to learn to competently and proficiently perform a full range of dental hygiene procedures on a variety of clients: children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.

Assignments to a Clinical Site

Each clinical/lab course has a coordinator whose duty is to assign students to a experiences that gives them an appreciation and marketability in being "cross-trained" in a variety of roles within the dental environment. Students will be providers of dental hygiene services for the majority of clinical hours, including rotations on a mobile dental van providing placement of sealants, a rotation through Star Wellness, affiliated with St. Luke's University Health Network, and providing preventive maintenance care through interprofessional collaboration with Star Wellness dentists and staff of the dental residency program. Students will complete assignments presenting dental health education at area schools as part of the Community Dental Health curriculum. Students also will be educated and act in the role of office assistant, instrument processing assistant, and radiology assistant.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19, flexibility of instruction allows and necessitates using remote instruction for didactic courses and a change to the frequency students are on campus related to clinical instruction. Although the total number of hours is the same, students are provided with the clinical education during full day clinics vs. the traditional half day sessions for the academic year 2020-2021 and/or until further notice.

Sequence of Clinical Education Courses

The Dental Hygiene Program's clinical education courses are sequential in nature as follows:

Pre-Clinic (First-year, Fall Semester): Students begin to work toward achieving client assessment and instrumentation competencies while working on mannequins and student partners. Learning is assessed by hands-on demonstration of skills and achievement of competencies through formative feedback, journaling, and evaluation of processes and end-products. A weekly "tutorial" is included that provides for small group and active learning experiences that further aid in refinement and clinical application of dental hygiene theories. Students are randomly assigned (at orientation) to either the morning (8-11 a.m.) or the afternoon (12 noon-3 p.m.) session that meets on Tuesdays/Thursdays for the 15 weeks in the semester. Students meet twice per week for this pre-clinical experience for a total of six hours weekly in clinic and once a week for tutorial in an assigned classroom.

Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services I (First-year, Spring Semester): Students begin to work on clients, providing assessment, diagnosis, planning, and implementation and evaluation of dental hygiene therapies for clients with gingivitis and early periodontal disease. Students will continue to develop competency in client assessments and instrumentation (hand and power scaling). Learning is assessed by hands-on demonstration of skills and achievement of competencies through formative feedback, journaling, and evaluation of processes and end-products. A weekly "tutorial" continues to provide for small group and active learning experiences that further aid in refinement and clinical application of dental hygiene theories. Students continue as assigned at orientation to the morning (8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) or the afternoon (1:00-5:00 p.m.) session that meets on Tuesdays/Thursdays for the 15 weeks in the semester. Students meet twice per week for this clinical experience for a total of eight hours weekly in clinic and once a week for tutorial in an assigned classroom.

Oral Radiology Lab (First-year, Spring Semester): Students will apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to competently expose and process diagnostically acceptable radiographs and to identify radiographic landmarks and radiographic evidence of dental disease processes. Students demonstrate competent radiographic technique on mannequins prior to performing supervised client exposures. Learning is assessed by hands-on demonstration of skills and achievement of competencies through formative feedback, journaling, and evaluation of processes and end-products. Students choose one of two available four-hour sections on a Tuesday or Thursday opposite one of their assigned clinic session times to complete the lab requirements over 11 weeks. Attendance at a mandatory one-hour orientation meeting is required prior to client exposures.

Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services II (Second-year, Fall Semester): Students continue to work on clients, further developing competency in clinical dental hygiene, with emphasis on assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation of dental hygiene therapies for the client with early-moderate chronic periodontal disease. New skills are introduced: impression taking, study models, pit and fissure sealants, root planing, tobacco cessation, tooth whitening, and intraoral camera imaging. Learning is assessed by hands-on demonstration of skills and achievement of competencies through formative feedback, journaling, and evaluation of processes and end-products. Students continue as assigned at orientation

to the morning (8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) or the afternoon (1:00-5:00 p.m.) session that meets on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays for the 15 weeks in the semester. Students meet three times per week for this clinical experience for a total of 12 hours weekly in clinic.

Preventive Oral Health Services II Lab (Second-year, Fall Semester): Students work in a lab setting on mannequins and student partners to learn new skills for periodontal screening and recording, indices, periodontal risk assessment, root planing/root debridement, chemotherapeutic agent placement, impression taking, study models, advanced power scaling, pit and fissure sealants, tobacco cessation, tooth whitening, and intraoral camera imaging. Learning is assessed by hands-on demonstration of skills and achievement of competencies through formative feedback, journaling, and evaluation of processes and end-products. Students meet once per week on Thursdays (3:30-6:30 p.m.) for the 15 weeks in the semester.

Local Anesthesia Lab (Second-year, Fall Semester): Lab experiences prepare dental hygiene students to administer effective and safe infiltration and conduction anesthesia. Students meet for a total of seven (7) labs that generally are 2.5 hours in length on Tuesdays (3:30-6:00 p.m.) as assigned; one of the 7 labs is 2 hours in length.

Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services III (Second year, Spring Semester): Students continue to practice toward entry-level competency in clinical dental hygiene for a variety of clients with emphasis on providing comprehensive dental hygiene care for periodontally involved clients. Learning is assessed by hands-on demonstration of skills and achievement of competencies through formative feedback, journaling, and evaluation of processes and end-products. Students will also experience simulated private practice to aid in the acclimation to the workforce. Students continue as assigned at orientation to the morning (8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) or the afternoon (1:00-5:00 p.m.) session that meets on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays for the 15 weeks in the semester. Students meet three times per week for this clinical experience for a total of 12 hours weekly in clinic.

Class Projects, Service Learning and Guest Lecturers

In addition to working with the public during clinical sessions, students will have a minimum of four (4) opportunities to participate in dental health education and presentations to a variety of target audiences through class projects and to volunteer in organized service learning experiences. The projects are explained fully, along with the expectations, during Oral Health Care for Medically Complex Clients and Clients with Special Needs (first year), Nutrition for the Dental Provider (second year) and Community Dental Health I/II (second year). Approximately 10 times, guest lecturers and leaders in the dental field will present information that serves as an enrichment experience; attendance is mandatory at the sessions.

Typical Classroom and Clinical/Lab Education Schedules – Subject to Change
Sample

Northampton Community College
 Department of Dental Hygiene
 Dental Hygiene Program Lecture Schedule
 Summer Semester

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			8:00-10:50 DENH 212 (2nd yr) Pharmacology <i>Bethlehem; Room TBD</i>	

NOTE: Chemistry of Life (CHEM 135) and English I (ENGL 101C) must be scheduled and completed PRIOR to taking any DENH coursework. First time college freshman must also take NCC's College Success course.

NOTE: 2nd year schedule appears in shaded area. Pharmacology (DENH 212) MUST be completed during Summer I/II and Speech Communication (CMTH 102) may need to be added during the summer semester upon individual need.

Northampton Community College
 Department of Dental Hygiene
 Dental Hygiene Program Lecture Schedule
 Fall Semester

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>8:00-8:50 First Year Test Block <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>9:00-10:50 DENH 104 (1st yr) Foundations of Preventive Oral Health Services <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>11:30-1:20 DENH 110 (1st yr) Oral Radiology <i>Fowler 340</i></p>	<p>8:00-8:50* 2nd Year Test Block <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>9:00-10:50 DENH 206 (2nd yr) Local Anesthesia <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>11:30-12:20 DENH 240 (2nd yr) Community Dental Health I <i>Fowler 340</i></p>	<p>8:00-8:30 First Year Test Block <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>8:30-10:20 DENH 106 (1st yr) Oral Anatomy <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>10:30-12:20 DENH 104 (1st yr) Foundations of Preventive Oral Health Services <i>Fowler 340</i></p>	<p>11-11:50 OR 12:00-12:50* 2nd Year Test Block and/or Class Meetings/Speakers as announced <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>1:00-2:50 DENH 205 (2nd yr) Nutrition for the Dental Health Care Provider <i>Fowler 340</i></p>	<p>8:00-8:50 DENH 105 (1st yr) Oral Histology <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>9:00-10:00 DENH 103 Tutorial (1st yr) Q1 Fowler 340 Q2 Fowler 621</p>
	<p>1:00-2:50 DENH 211 (2nd yr) Preventive Oral Health Services II <i>Fowler 340</i></p>			

NOTE: 1st year schedule appears in non-shaded area. Human Biology (BIOS 160) may need to be added during 1st year fall semester upon individual need.

NOTE: 2nd year schedule appears in shaded area. Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 103) may need to be added during 2nd year fall semester upon individual need.

***Test block will be either Tuesday morning or Thursday mid-morning.**

Northampton Community College
 Department of Dental Hygiene
 Dental Hygiene Program Clinic/Lab Schedule
 Fall Semester

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-12:00 DENH 210 (Q1) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services II <i>Fowler 314</i>	8:00-11:00 DENH 103 (Q1) (1st yr) Pre-clinical Preventive Oral Health Services <i>Fowler 314</i>	8:00-12:00 DENH 210 (Q1) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services II <i>Fowler 314</i>	8:00-11:00 DENH 103 (Q1) (1st yr) Pre-clinical Preventive Oral Health Services <i>Fowler 314</i>	8:00-12:00 DENH 210 (Q1) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services II <i>Fowler 314</i>
1:00-5:00 DENH 210 (Q2) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services II <i>Fowler 314</i>	12:00-3:00 DENH 103 (Q2) (1st yr) Pre-clinical Preventive Oral Health Services <i>Fowler 314</i>	1:00-5:00 DENH 210 (Q2) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services II <i>Fowler 314</i>	12:00-3:00 DENH 103 (Q2) (1st yr) Pre-clinical Preventive Oral Health Services <i>Fowler 314</i>	1:00-5:00 DENH 210 (Q2) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services II <i>Fowler 314</i>
	3:30-6:00 DENH 206 (2nd yr) Local Anesthesia Lab <i>Fowler 314/312</i>		3:30-6:30 DENH 211(2nd yr) Preventive Oral Health Services II Lab <i>Fowler 314/312</i>	

NOTE: 1st year schedule appears in non-shaded area.

NOTE: 2nd year clinical schedule appears in shaded area.

Northampton Community College
 Department of Dental Hygiene
 Dental Hygiene Program Lecture Schedule
 Spring Semester

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>8:30-9:20 First Year Test Block <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>9:30-11:20 DENH 153 (1st yr) Periodontology <i>Fowler 340</i></p>	<p>8:00-8:50 2nd Year Test Block <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>9:00-10:50 DENH 251 (2nd yr) POHS III <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>11:30-12:20 DENH 240 (2nd yr) Community Dental Health II <i>Fowler 340</i></p>	<p>9:00-9:50 DENH 154 (1st yr) Oral Health Care for Medically Complex Clients and Clients with Special Needs <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>10:00-11:50 DENH 152 (1st yr) Preventive Oral Health Services I <i>Fowler 340</i></p>	<p>No lectures</p>	<p>8:00-9:00 First Year Test Block <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>9:00-10:50 DENH 155 (1st yr) General & Oral Pathology <i>Fowler 340</i></p> <p>11:00-12:00 DENH 150 Tutorial (1st yr) Q1 <i>Fowler 340</i> Q2 <i>Fowler 621</i></p>
<p><i>2:30-5:20</i> BIOS 202 (1st yr) <i>Microbiology for Allied Health Lecture</i></p>		<p><i>2:30-5:20</i> BIOS 202 (1st yr) <i>Microbiology for Allied Health Lecture</i></p>		

NOTE: 1st year schedule appears in non-shaded area. English II (ENGL 151) may need to be added during 1st year spring semester upon individual need.

NOTE: 2nd year schedule appears in shaded area. Principles of Sociology (SOCA 103) and/or General Education Elective may need to be added during 2nd year spring semester upon individual need.

Northampton Community College
 Department of Dental Hygiene
 Dental Hygiene Program Clinic/Lab Schedule
 Spring Semester

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-12:00 DENH 250 (Q1) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services III <i>Fowler 314</i>	8:00-12:00 DENH 150 (Q1) (1st yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services I & DENH 109 (U1) (1st yr) Oral Radiology Lab* <i>Fowler 314/312</i>	8:00-12:00 DENH 250 (Q1) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services III <i>Fowler 314</i>	8:00-12:00 DENH 150 (Q1) (1st yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services I & DENH 109 (U3) (1st yr) Oral Radiology Lab* <i>Fowler 314/312</i>	8:00-12:00 DENH 250 (Q1) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services III <i>Fowler 314</i>
1:00-5:00 DENH 250 (Q2) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services III <i>Fowler 314</i>	1:00-5:00 DENH 150 (Q2) (1st yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services I & DENH 109 (U2) (1st yr) Oral Radiology Lab* <i>Fowler 314/312</i>	1:00-5:00 DENH 250 (Q2) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services III <i>Fowler 314</i>	1:00-5:00 DENH 150 (Q2) (1st yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services I & DENH 109 (U4) (1st yr) Oral Radiology Lab* <i>Fowler 314/312</i>	1:00-5:00 DENH 250 (Q2) (2nd yr) Clinical Preventive Oral Health Services III <i>Fowler 314</i>

NOTE: 1st year schedule appears in non-shaded area. Students will select ONE radiology lab* on a Tuesday OR Thursday that is OPPOSITE to their pre-assigned AM or PM clinic section.

NOTE: 2nd year clinical schedule appears in shaded area.

Please note that enrollment in the Dental Hygiene program does not necessarily eliminate the need to take additional required courses during the day and/or evening. Days/times for clinical and lab sessions/classes are subject to change with notice.

**Northampton Community College
Dental Hygiene Program
Essential Functions for Student Continuance and Graduation**

The Dental Hygiene curriculum requires students to have adequate communication, motor, sensory, cognitive, behavioral and ethical abilities in order to ensure the health and safety of clients/peers and to successfully complete the program of study. The Essential Functions reflect the required abilities that are compatible with effective performance as an entry-level dental hygienist.

Abilities/Attributes	Standard	Some Examples of Necessary Activities/Attributes (not all inclusive)
Motor Skills/Sensory	<p>Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care and documentation.</p> <p>Tactile ability sufficient for client assessment and treatment.</p> <p>Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaches, manipulates and operates equipment & instruments competently • Performs CPR/BLS • Performs all treatment to OSHA and OSAP standards • Performs palpation • Detects intraoral deposits and removes with hand and/or power instrumentation • Detects dental caries clinically, radiographically and/or through technology • Observes client responses • Discriminates color changes and shades of gray, i.e., lesion and gingival description, x-ray interpretation • Accurately reads measurements on instruments, i.e., probe • Develops eye/hand coordination and skills with dominant and non-dominant hands
Communication	<p>Communication abilities in English sufficient for appropriate interaction with others in verbal and written form.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reads, understands, spells, writes and speaks English proficiently • Establishes rapport with clients and colleagues • Explains treatment procedures and recommendations in a manner that other healthcare providers, as well as clients, understand • Implements dental health education, diet & tobacco dependence counseling • Documents client responses, clinical findings and services rendered with correct spelling, punctuation and grammar • Validates responses/messages with others • Demonstrates basic computer and documentation skills (i.e., logging on, typing, Microsoft® Office programs, BlackBoard, emailing, Dentrix Enterprise, Dexis, etc.)
Behavioral/ Emotional	<p>The ability to perceive events realistically, to think clearly and rationally and to function appropriately in routine and stressful situations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies changes in client health status • Handles multiple priorities in stressful situations • Adapts quickly to change; flexible • Uses good judgment • Empathizes with clients • Demonstrates initiative to find clients for clinic and/or for course requirements • Demonstrates flexibility, positivity and responsiveness • Manages class time appropriately and follows clinical time guidelines independently

Abilities/Attributes	Standard	Some Examples of Necessary Activities/Attributes (not all inclusive)
Cognitive/ Critical Thinking	<p>Critical thinking/problem solving ability sufficient for sound clinical judgment.</p> <p>Comprehend, analyze, apply, synthesize and evaluate information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies cause-effect relationships in clinical situations • Develops care plans • Evaluates treatment outcomes • Seeks consultation in a timely manner • Computes basic mathematical problems • Comprehends data in tables, graphs, charts and analog/digital displays (i.e., analog clock, sphygmomanometer, etc.) • Uses critical thinking skills in both the classroom and in the lab/clinical setting • Achieves clinical competency through independent organization of clinical requirements
Professional Conduct	<p>The ability to practice dental hygiene ethically and to abide by the professional standards of practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepts personal responsibility for actions - accountable • Is courteous; appropriately open and candid • Is honest; presents own work (i.e., does not plagiarize, does not photograph or video record “test materials”, does not cheat, etc.) • Does not erase or modify data from any record or file, or remove any record from where it is maintained • Does not share confidential information with any individual(s) who does not need to know • Manages conflict constructively • Functions interdependently with other healthcare providers • Meets deadlines; attends class/lab/clinic on time and/or preferably early • Is tolerant; has respect for all human beings • Accepts criticism maturely • Maintains decorum in front of clients/peers • Complies with the clinical dress code; demonstrates good personal hygiene • Complies with classroom rules and program policies • Interacts with faculty in a non-confrontational manner • Understands and accepts role as both operator/clinician and as a client for a peer while in clinic/lab (i.e., giving and receiving of local anesthetic injections AND learning clinical skills and providing and receiving instrumentation with student partners). • Volunteers time toward curriculum-related and/or professional association activities • Obtains necessary vaccinations, including influenza • Does not practice under the influence of alcohol, controlled or dangerous drugs/substances

Penalty: If a student does not meet the essential functions in a pre-clinical, clinical or lab course the faculty member will issue an “F” grade for the course. The student will be referred to the program director and depending on the essential function deficiency the student may be dismissed from the dental hygiene program. The student has the right to appeal the “F” grade or dismissal from the program by following the procedural steps listed in the College’s Student Handbook under: Appeal Procedure - Charges of Academic Dishonesty.