

**Community College of Philadelphia**

*Proposal for a Minor Revision to the*

**Dental Hygiene Program**

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June 17, 2009

## **I. Abstract**

The Dental Hygiene Program is proposing the following curricular changes:

- Increase the clinic hours in DH 191 by adding three additional clinical hours for a total of six hours per week to comply with the Commission on Accreditation's Standards . In keeping with the standard used for other Allied Health Programs the previously designated laboratory hours (2-3-0-3) will now become clinical hours (2-0-6-3)
- Re-designating the laboratory hours in DH 192 to clinical hours (from 2-6-0-4 to 2-0-6-3).

The tasks that students are performing and skills that students are learning are not changing in these courses; rather the students are being provided with more time to become competent in these tasks and skills. Since the students are either working on each other or actual patients the lab hours are more appropriately redesignated as clinical hours. These changes will decrease the total credits needed to graduate with an AAS degree from 81 to 80 credits.

## **II. Overview of the Existing Program**

The Dental Hygiene Program provides a high-quality integrated collegiate level academic and professional education, to a diverse student population. Students develop competence in providing effective oral health care to individuals in the community and serving as integral members of the dental team.

## **III. Description of the Proposed Revision**

In November 2008, the College approved a Dental Hygiene (DH) Program minor curriculum revision that resulted from the Commission on Dental Accreditation establishing a new standard that required students to have at least 6 hours of clinical practice per week during their first year of education. In February 2009, the Dental Hygiene Program underwent an accreditation site visit that resulted in a recommendation made by the site team visitors to increase the number of clinical hours in DH 191 from three to six hours per week.

### *DH 191*

After consultation with staff at the Commission on Dental Accreditation and careful review of DH 191's current format, it is clear that increasing the number of clinical hours in DH 191 from three to six hours per week is necessary to comply with the Commission's Accreditation Standards. The increase in clinical hours will provide students with time to review, practice and further enhance the required skills in DH 191 during the fall semester. DH 191 would be revised to reflect this change from 2-3-0-3 to 2-0-6-3.

### *DH 192*

The faculty have also identified an error in the designation of laboratory versus clinical hours in DH 192, Clinical Dental Hygiene II. It was determined that the types of activities performed while students are assigned to the clinic should be reflected as clinical hours rather than laboratory hours. Therefore, DH 192 would be re-designated as 2-0-6-3. As a result of these changes, the number of credits for DH 192 would decrease from four to three credits and the total number of credits needed to graduate would also decrease by one. The credit hour adjustment is aligned with the Department's policy which states six hours of clinical experience are equivalent to one credit hour.

### **IV. Effects of the Revision**

These proposed revisions will more accurately reflect the hours spent in the clinic sessions interacting and performing various skills with clients/patients. Students will have three additional hours to practice their required tasks and competencies. The re-designation of the laboratory hours in DH 192 to clinical hours will reduce the number of credits in the course from 4 to 3. This in turn will decrease the total number of credits required for graduation from 81 to 80.

## **V. New Catalog Page**

### **Dental Hygiene**

The Dental Hygiene Program prepares graduates to be competent oral health clinicians and educators with the ability to develop effective oral health programs that can be utilized in private practice sites, schools and alternative practice settings in the community.

The clinical training is conducted on campus in a 16-chair, free dental hygiene clinic. Students have the opportunity to treat diverse patient populations, many with advanced periodontal disease.

The Dental Hygiene Program is designed so that students, upon matriculation, can complete the Program in 24 consecutive months.

Graduating Dental Hygiene students are eligible to take the Northeast Regional Board Examination and the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination.

#### **Accreditation:**

The Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-2719 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60611.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this program graduates will be able to:

- Qualify for all National and regional examinations required to obtain licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) in the State of Pennsylvania.
- Work effectively as a team member and make decisions regarding dental hygiene services that reflect critical thinking and problem solving.
- Demonstrate quality patient care and disease prevention for patients with a variety of oral health needs while using the phases of assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation in a safe and service oriented environment.
- Review contemporary scientific literature in the dental hygiene field which will enable the graduate to remain mindful of current trends.
- Formulate informed decisions using evidenced-based patient-centered dental hygiene care for all.
- Manage patient treatment and information, ensuring confidentiality and compliance with relevant legislation and ethical responsibilities.

#### **Program Entry Requirements:**

Admission is selective and requires that potential students fulfill all admission requirements of the College. The requirements for admission to the Dental Hygiene Program are:

1. High school diploma or general education diploma (GED).
2. A minimum of one year of high school biology and chemistry or a four-credit biology college level course and college preparatory math, all with C or better grades, within the past ten years.
3. Applicants must demonstrate readiness for ENGL 101 and MATH 118 as determined by the College's placement tests or by successfully completing identified developmental course work.
4. Applicants with previous college experience must have a minimum of a 2.50 grade point average.
5. All applicants are required to participate in the pre-entrance Allied Health testing program.

Students are admitted to the Program on a competitive basis as space allows.

**Conditions for Acceptance:**

1. Results of complete physical and dental examinations, including laboratory test results of a complete blood count, serology, urinalysis, tuberculin PPD test and immunizations must be on file in the Program office before the start of any dental course (September of starting year).
2. Verification of medical insurance is mandatory.
3. Applicants must attend a scheduled Program orientation prior to entry.
4. Students must purchase uniforms and a Dental Hygiene supply kit prior to the start of the program. (August of starting year)
5. Students must attend a Fall and Spring Study Skills Workshop.
6. Students must obtain a Criminal Record Check, FBI (federal) Clearance and a Child Abuse Clearance prior to entrance into the Program. This Dental Hygiene requirement is mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania per 24 P.S. 1-111 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code and 23 Pennsylvania C.S.A. 6355 of the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law.

The College, in its admission process, will consider information regarding criminal conviction and/or crimes of moral turpitude. Admission is conditional pending receipt and evaluation of a criminal background check, FBI (federal) clearance and child abuse clearance to determine whether there is any conviction which may bar the student from the Dental Hygiene Program and/or State Licensure. The following guidelines are used in making decisions about an applicant's criminal and child abuse background.

**Child Abuse Clearance**

Any record results in denial of admission into the DH Program.

**Criminal Background Check**

Any felony conviction within the past ten years results in denial of admission to the DH Program. Any felony conviction more than ten years old will be evaluated based on the nature of the offense, length of time since the offense and any explanatory letters/materials submitted by the applicant or student. Any misdemeanor will be evaluated based on the nature of the offense, length of time since the offense, and explanatory letter/materials submitted by the applicant or student. (Any punishment over one year indicates a felony according to federal sentencing guidelines.)

**Reconsideration:**

An applicant who believes that an error of fact has been made in terms of the information provided to the decision making committee can request reconsideration by the committee. This request must be made in writing within ten days from the date of the letter notifying the applicant of the decision. The reconsideration should address what the applicant considers to be errors of fact.

Following reconsideration by the decision making committee, the applicant can appeal the committee's decision to the Vice President for Academic Affairs whose decision is final.

Any official change or the initiation of any governmental proceeding affecting the information revealed by the required criminal or child abuse background check must be reported immediately to the DH curriculum supervisor.

Involvement in any incident which resulted in a disciplinary action against a student at Community College of Philadelphia or any post-secondary institution is considered in the admissions process. The DH Program reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant who has a history of violating College rules and regulations or who has been previously suspended or expelled from the College or any other post-secondary educational institution.

**Readmission:**

1. One time readmission into the Dental Hygiene program is permitted.
2. Students requesting a readmission must meet Program entry requirements, conditions for acceptance and are selected on a competitive basis as space permits.
3. Students may be required to retake dental or general education courses as determined by the program director.

4. Students who were dropped for unprofessional conduct or safety issues may not be considered for readmission.
5. The Program must be completed within 5 years of initial enrollment.

**Program of Study Requirements:**

1. Students exhibiting unprofessional conduct or violation of safety policies may be dropped from the curriculum pending review by the program faculty and the advisory committee.
2. To continue in the Dental Hygiene Curriculum, students must maintain an overall 2.50 GPA.
3. Students will not be permitted to continue in a clinical course without a yearly medical and dental exam and proof of medical insurance on file.
4. Dental Hygiene students must follow the curriculum sequence according to courses listed in each semester, unless approval is granted by the program director.
5. Dental Hygiene students must submit proof of two-year CPR certification prior to entering the first year's spring semester.

**Graduation Requirements:** To qualify for the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Dental Hygiene, students must complete 80 credit hours as prescribed and must maintain an overall 2.50 GPA and no grade below a C in any course.

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
<b>Summer Session II</b>			
(Summer II) CIS-PC Applications		3	Tech Comp
(Summer II) ENGL 101-English Composition I		3	ENGL 101
<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>			
(Fall) DH 115 - Oral Head and Neck Anatomy	ENGL 101, CIS 103	3	
(Fall) DH 135 - Dental Radiology	ENGL 101, CIS 103	3	
(Fall) DH 150 - Dental Auxiliary Practices	ENGL 101, CIS 103	4	
(Fall) DH 191 - Clinical Dental Hygiene I	ENGL 101, CIS 103,CPR Certification	3	
(Fall) BIOL 109 - Anatomy and Physiology I		4	Science
<b>SECOND SEMESTER</b>			
(Spring) DH 165 - Nutrition and Biochemistry	BIOL 109, DH 115, 135, 150, 191	4	
(Spring) DH 192 - Clinical Dental Hygiene II	BIOL 109, ENGL 102, DH 115, 135,150,191	3	
(Spring) DH 121-Oral Histology and Embryology	BIOL 109, DH 115,135,150,191	2	
(Spring) BIOL 110 - Anatomy and Physiology II	BIOL 109	4	
(Spring) ENGL 102 - English Composition II	ENGL 101	3	ENGL 102 & Information Literacy
<b>Summer Session I</b>			
(Summer I) BIOL 241 - Principles of Microbiology	BIOL 109	4	
(Summer I) PSYC 101 - Introduction to Psychology		3	Social Science
<b>Summer Session II</b>			
(Summer II) SOC 101 - Introduction to Sociology		3	Am/Glob Diversity Writing Intensive & Interpretive
(Summer II) Math 118-Intermediate Algebra or higher		3	Math
<b>THIRD SEMESTER</b>			
(Fall) DH 241- Oral Pathology	BIOL 110, DH 121 165,192,ENGL 102	2	
(Fall) DH 245-Dental Pharmacology and Pain Management	BIOL 110, DH 121 165,192,ENGL 102	2	
(Fall) DH 247-Periodontics	BIOL 110, DH 121 165,192,ENGL 102	4	
(Fall) DH 293-Clinical Dental Hygiene III	BIOL 110, DH 121 165,192,ENGL 102	6	



FOURTH SEMESTER			
(Spring) ENGL 115-Public Speaking	ENGL 101	3	Humanities
(Spring) DH 271-Community Dentistry	BIOL 241,DH 241,245,247,293 ENGL 115 which may be taken concurrently	3	
(Spring) DH 294-Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	BIOL 241,DH 241,245,247,293 ENGL 115 which may be taken concurrently	6	
Summer Session I			
(Summer I) DH 295-Clinical Dental Hygiene V	DH 271,294, ENGL 115	2	
<b>MINIMUM CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE</b>		<b>80</b>	

**GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

All General Education requirements are met through required courses (as indicated above).

For More Information Contact:

The Division of Math, Science and Health Careers, Room W2-7, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130, Telephone 215-751-8431; or the College Information Center, 215-751-8010.