

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM**ADMISSION GUIDELINES FOR FALL 2026**

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Dental Hygiene (DLH) Program at Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC). Graduates of this program earn an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene.

The College has an open admission policy; however, there are some programs which have additional entrance requirements. Attached you will find an information packet about the DLH program at IVCC.

To be considered for admission in the full-time program beginning Fall 2026, an applicant must meet the following criteria and submit their application and associated credentials to the designated office by March 1, 2026. The only exception to this deadline is required coursework and DANB testing that may be in progress during summer semesters prior to admission.

The application cycle for the Dental Hygiene Program runs from October 1 through March 1 for subsequent fall admission.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lyndsey Beetz, M.Ed., BSDH, RDH, CDA
Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator
Illinois Valley Community College

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

- ❑ Application to IVCC
 - Submit a completed application electronically for enrollment in Illinois Valley Community College and Limited Admissions Program by visiting www.ivcc.edu/apply.
- ❑ Application to Dental Hygiene
 - Using the online application portal, submit the Limited Admissions Application by selecting Dental Hygiene from the options.
- ❑ Transcripts
 - Submit official high school transcripts with graduation date.
 - Submit final official transcripts from all previously attended college or universities.
 - Current transcript if presently a college student, showing courses in which, you are currently enrolled.
 - All degrees must be awarded by the end of the Spring semester to be considered for admissions points. i.e., Current dental assisting students will not receive a point for the AAS degree, as coursework will not be completed and degrees conferred until August.
- ❑ Placement Testing
 - Eligible for ENG 1001: English Comp I or
 - Eligible for ENG 1001: English Comp I with ENG 0909 supplement or
 - Eligible for MTH 0920 to concurrently enroll in CHM 1004; students who test into MTH 1003: College Algebra or higher are exempt from taking a math course.
- ❑ Dental Assisting Program
 - Currently enrolled in an Illinois ADA/Commission on Dental Accreditation dental assisting program; *or*
 - Graduate from IVCC's ADA/CODA dental assisting program no more than five (5) years prior to application; *or*
 - Graduate from an Illinois ADA/CODA dental assisting program no more than three (3) years prior to application, and approval of coursework by IVCC Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator.

- If the applicant has no previous CODA approved dental assisting education, they must first apply for and complete IVCC's Dental Assisting Program regardless of experience in the field.
- Completion of Pre-Requisite Courses
 - Completion of the following courses with a "C" or better.
 - Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO 1007)
 - Anatomy and Physiology II (BIO 1008)
 - Must be completed by the end of the spring semester immediately preceding the start of DLH courses.
 - BIO 1007/1008 or equivalent will not be evaluated if taken seven (7) years prior to admission, unless student successfully completes BIO 1200 refresher.
- General Education Courses
 - Points are awarded based on grade received after successfully completing the following courses prior to admission. All courses must be completed with a "C" or better.
 - ENG 1001 English Comp I OR ENG 1205 Technical Writing
 - BIO 1009 Microbiology
 - CHM 1004 Chemistry
 - PSY 1000 General Psychology
 - SOC 1000 Intro to Sociology
 - For more information on the ranking system, please see the Points Calculation Sheet at the end of this document.
- Pre-Entrance Exam
 - Take the HESI Admission Assessment (A²) Exam
 - This test can be taken one time per application cycle during the time it is offered at the IVCC Assessment Center.
 - The student is required to pay for the exam fee at the time of application submission. This fee is non-refundable.
 - Ranking for acceptance to the program is based on the pre-admission aptitude score.
 - See Points Calculation Sheet
- Dental Assisting National Board

- Provide proof of successful completion the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Certified Dental Assistant (CDA). All three portions of the CDA Exam must be passed to receive certification: Infection Control (ICE), General Chairside (GC), Radiology Health and Safety (RHS).
- If an applicant is currently enrolled in IVCC's Dental Assisting Program, they will take the CDA exam in May. Admission to the program will be conditional depending upon the applicant showing proof of a passing DANB CDA exam prior to and no later than June 1.
 - If a student fails one or all sections during the first attempt of the CDA exam, the student must reapply and retest prior to the deadline of submission CDA certification by July 1 to be considered for the August cohort.
- Dental Hygiene Challenge Exam ****not all applicants****
 - The Dental Hygiene Challenge Examination tests proficiency of current knowledge in dental materials, tooth morphology, head and neck anatomy, dental radiology, medical and dental emergencies, oral histology and embryology oral pathology, and preventative dentistry.
 - All applicants will be required to pass the Infection Control Challenge exam if they have been out of the program for more than one year.
 - The number of sections assigned will be determined by the coursework completed, and the time lapsed since completion of the Dental Assisting program. Each applicant may have different requirements.
 - The applicant will need to obtain a score of at least a 75% in each section. If this is not achieved on the first attempt, they will have the opportunity to retake the exam section(s) one more time after 2 weeks. If the applicant does not obtain a score of 75% in all sections after the second attempt, the applicant will not be admitted during the current application year. The student would be permitted to apply for the following academic year. If the applicant does not complete the assigned sections at 75% or higher by July 1, the student will forfeit their seat in the Dental Hygiene program and be required to reapply the following year.
 - If an applicant has graduated from the IVCC Dental Assisting Program more than one (1) years prior to application, they will need to successfully complete at least one section of the Dental Hygiene Challenge Examination.

- If an applicant has graduated from another ADA/CODA accredited dental assisting program, they must successfully complete all sections of the Dental Hygiene Challenge Examination.
 - A study guide for the Dental Hygiene Challenge Exam will be made available to applicants once all other admissions requirements are met in the Orientation Group on Brightspace (D2L).

ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE

- The Dental Hygiene Program accepts a maximum of 8 students for entry each Fall semester.
- Applicants are conditionally accepted based upon their completion of the first 9 steps of the admission requirements.
- The applicants will be ranked by their Individual Index Number.
- Notification of the applicant's admission status will be sent by email by the end of May.
- Applicants that are selected will have ten business days from the date mailed, to return the response form enclosed in the acceptance letter. If no response is obtained, the applicant will not be considered for that academic year and the applicants on the alternate list will be notified of acceptance, in the order in which they appear.
- Conditional acceptance in the program is possible for current dental assisting students who score high enough to be ranked in the top 8, contingent upon successful completion of the CDA exam and the summer coursework, DLA 2208 and DLA 2202.
- Applicants who apply to the Dental Hygiene Program and do not rank in the top 8, will be placed on the waitlist.
- If any of the applicants who have been accepted to the program should forfeit their acceptance, those applicants on the waitlist list will be contacted in the order in which their names appear and will be given an opportunity to enroll.
- If an applicant whose name appears on the waitlist is not afforded an opportunity to begin classes during the year in which he or she has made application, that applicant will need to submit another application for admission in the year he or she wishes to be considered for admission (Admission requirements may change from year to year.), and will receive a point for prior application. See Point Calculation Sheet.

- Any applicant who forfeits his or her acceptance will not be guaranteed acceptance in any subsequent year. The applicant must reapply if he or she wishes to be considered for acceptance at a later date.
- Applicants that are placed on the waitlist will be considered up until one week prior to the fall semester start.

It is extremely important to abide by the deadline dates outlined in this packet. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that these documents have been received in the designated office by the published deadline.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE:

- Set up IVCC Email
 - Communication is conducted via email and Brightspace Orientation Group prior to the start of the program. It is imperative that students have their IVCC email accounts set up correctly and check them daily for any updates or reminders.
- Access Brightspace
 - Upon acceptance, you will be enrolled in DLH 0001-150, Dental Hygiene Orientation. This will allow you immediate access to your school email and Brightspace. Follow the steps found at www.ivcc.edu/shd
- Submit Completed Physical Form and Immunization Record
 - Submit to the Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator a properly completed physical form with a completed immunization record, found on the Dental Hygiene Webpage, and through Brightspace Orientation Course after acceptance to the program. The physical form must be completed within two years prior to acceptance into the program and is to be signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner and received by the Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator via CastleBranch or Brightspace by July 31st. Failure to meet this deadline will result in being removed from the list.
- Healthcare provider level CPR.
 - All students must have a current Healthcare Provider CPR card. Students are required to find a class at a local hospital and complete the training before the first day of class. If you fail to provide a current Healthcare Provider CPR card, you will be removed from the roster. Please note: you **cannot** obtain a healthcare provider CPR certification online. This must be completed face-to-face
 - The card must be valid through the duration of the program

- ❑ Criminal Background Check and 10-panel Drug Screen
 - All students admitted into the IVCC Dental Hygiene Program will be required to submit required information for a background check and drug screen. Information will be submitted to www.castlebranch.com prior to the start of the fall semester. This background check will be good for two consecutive years. If a student has already completed this process for the Dental Assisting Program within 2 years, this step can be skipped.
 - Go to www.castlebranch.com
 - In the upper right corner where it says “Place Order” enter the Package Code IL37 and hit Submit.
 - Follow the directions and submit by the deadline of July 31st.
 - The fee is approximately \$166.00
 - If the student has not completed a background check and drug screen within 2 years, the following steps will be followed.
 - All background checks and drug screens will expire after two years and must be renewed. You will log into your current CastleBranch account and enter package code IL37BG for the background check and IL37REDT for the drug screen. The cost is \$54 and \$63 respectively.
 - The cost for the 10-Panel Drug Screen is included in the CastleBranch fee, and the registration form must be printed and presented at your appointment. If you fail to provide the registration form, the additional cost incurred will be the student's responsibility, and the results will not be sent to the Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator. Drug screenings conducted without the CastleBranch Registration Form will not be accepted and must be repeated using the proper documentation. If a prospective student refuses to complete the drug screen, the student will be dismissed from the program. Following the initial drug screen students may be subject to random drug screening and/or for reasonable suspicion. Drug Screenings must be completed at one of the published testing sites provided by CastleBranch.
- ❑ All students must become members of the American Dental Hygienist’s Association (ADHA). This association will support the student throughout the program with online study courses, student guides, access to online communities with live exam review courses, and more.

- Go to mymembership.adha.org
 - Click “Join Now” and then “Create Account.”
 - Complete this page with your contact information and create a username and password.
 - Pick “Student Membership” on the next screen.
 - Complete the following page which requests an alternate email address and educational information (required).
 - Continue on to finalize your membership and submit a payment with a credit card.
 - The cost of a two-year membership is \$120
- ☐ All students will be required to purchase their own professional liability insurance. This insurance can be purchased through the ADHA website after becoming a member. Costs will vary.

PROFESSION

- The DLH program educates dental assistants to become hygienists who have developed a high degree of clinical competence and knowledge of the dental practice. Upon completion of the DLH program, students will be awarded an Associate in Applied Science Degree. A career as a dental hygienist offers a wide range of challenges. In the dental office, the dentist and the dental hygienist work together to meet the oral health needs of patients. Duties include cleaning teeth, imaging of teeth, providing dental care instructions to patients and maintaining patient records. Additional duties may be found within the Illinois Dental Practice Act.
- Demand for the dual-trained Certified Dental Assistant/Registered Dental Hygienist offers the graduate the opportunity to choose the type of practice, the area, and the environment in which to work.
- Dental hygienists use a variety of interpersonal and clinical skills to meet the oral health needs of many different patients each day. Hygienists have opportunities to help special population groups such as children, the elderly and the disabled. They may also provide oral health instruction in primary and secondary schools and other settings.
- Flexible scheduling is a distinctive feature of this job, with full-time, part-time, evening and weekend work widely available.
- An Associate in Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene is sufficient for practicing in a private dental office. A bachelor's or master's degree is required for research, teaching or clinical practice in public or school health programs. Speak with the Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator for active partnerships to obtain a BS in Dental Hygiene.

DENTAL HYGIENE ECONOMICS

- The services that dental hygienists provide are needed and valued by a large percentage of the population. There is currently a great demand for dental hygienists. Employment opportunities will be excellent well into the future. Due to the success of preventive dentistry in reducing the incidence of oral disease, the expanding older population will retain their teeth longer, and will be even more aware of the importance of regular dental care. With the emphasis on preventive care, dentists will need to employ more dental hygienists than ever before to meet the increased demand for dental services.
- According to the Illinois WorkNET Center (2024)
 - Wages Earn \$45.32 hourly, \$92,260 per year
 - Employment Large occupation
 - 10 Year Growth Much faster than average
 - Annual Openings High

<https://www.onetonline.org/link/localwages/29-1292.00?st=IL>

- The US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2025 data indicates the average hourly salary for dental hygiene in the United States is \$42.08 per hour with an annual mean wage of \$89,890.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The goals of the DLH program are to comprehensively prepare competent graduates in dental hygiene who:

1. Prepare students, through proper academic and clinical educations, to be qualified dental professionals.
2. Provide comprehensive dental hygiene care to patients to enhance the clinical education of students.
3. Develop health education skills for students and faculty through participation in the delivery of clinical and educational services in the community.
4. Utilize skills to assess, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate treatment that are essential to the maintenance of patients' health.
5. Instill an appreciation and motivation for lifelong learning and professional growth in the students.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

- Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association- Initial Accreditation Granted
- United States Department of Education
- Higher Learning Commission

TUITION AND FEES

Category	Estimated Cost
In-district tuition at \$140 per credit hour 27 hours (general courses)	\$3,780.00
Dental Assisting Program Tuition, Fee's, Textbook, Supplies, Uniform	\$6,000.00
In-district tuition at \$140 per credit hour 29 hours (DLH courses)	\$4,060.00
Lab Fees	TBD
Books	\$600.00
White Leather Shoes (estimate)	\$30.00-\$80.00
Uniform (2 sets required) (estimate)	\$120.00
Uniform Name Pin	\$10.00
Loupes	\$1,300.00
Instrument kit	\$2,000.00
Registration fee for HESI A2 Entrance Exam	\$54.00
National Board Dental Hygiene Examination	\$490.00
ADEX Dental Hygiene examination including Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide Computer based exam	\$1,270.00
Total Estimated Cost	\$19,714

Additional costs may include:

- Medical and dental exams, immunizations and CPR.
- ADHA membership and liability insurance.

- Computer and internet required for Blackboard courses.
- Supplies: gowns, combination master lock, patient hand mirror, 2 pairs of safety glasses, clipboard, red, blue & green colored pencils.
- Licensure examinations.
- Upon successful completion of all board exams, a fee of approximately \$100.00 to the State of your choice for licensure.

Note: All costs listed above are estimates and subject to change. The DLH student should plan for meeting these financial obligations before entering the DLH program.

LEGAL LIMITATIONS

Felony convictions that Dental Hygiene graduates have may adversely affect their ability to sit for licensure exam and to receive employment.

CURRICULUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants are selected for classes beginning in August of every year.
- The length of the full-time program is sixteen (16) months, after successful completion of a CODA-Approved Dental Assisting Program.
- The DLH student has a very concentrated schedule and will also complete 12-16 hours of clinical each week in an on-campus dental hygiene clinic for three (3) semesters.
- Students will need to provide transportation to and from the IVCC campus. Classes will be held on the IVCC campus.

DLH students must earn a minimum of a C grade in all courses listed in the curriculum guide, including prerequisite and general education courses.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

BIO 1007 –Anatomy and Physiology I	4 credits
CHM 1004 – Chemistry 1	3 credits
ENG 1001 – English Comp I	3 credits
BIO 1008 –Anatomy and Physiology II	4 credits
BIO 1009 –Microbiology	4 credits
SOC 1000 – Introduction to Sociology	3 credits
PSY 1000 – General Psychology	3 credits

No prior credit will be given for BIO 1007 or 1008 Anatomy and Physiology I and II if these courses were completed more than 7 years prior to admittance into the program without the completion of BIO 1200. Earned grade must be a C or higher.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to successfully complete the general education courses with a minimum of a C grade prior to the fall semester they plan to start the program, so that they may increase their probability of success in the program.

IVCC DENTAL HYGIENE POINTS CALCULATION SHEET

Applicant Name: _____ IVCC Student ID #: _____

A.) Grades earned in required general education courses.

- Applies to each of the following courses: ENG 1001 English Comp I OR ENG 1205 Technical Writing, BIO 1007 Anatomy and Physiology I*, BIO 1008 Anatomy and Physiology II*, BIO 1009 Microbiology, CHM 1004 Chemistry, PSY 1000 General Psychology, SOC 1000 Intro to Sociology

**Must be completed prior to acceptance.*

ENG 1001/ENG 1205 _____ BIO 1007 _____ BIO 1008 _____

BIO 1009 _____ CHM 1004 _____ PSY 1000 _____ SOC 1000 _____

Number of points earned for:

Grade A = 3

Grade B = 2

Grade C = 1

Points earned (max 21): _____

B.) Completion of related courses.

- In this category, points are awarded for courses taken that may help the student throughout the dental hygiene program. These courses are not required to complete the program. 1 point will be awarded for each course completed with a "C" or higher.

ALH 1000 Intro to Nutrition

ALH 1001 Terminology of the Health Field

ALH 1002 Human Growth & Development for Health Workers

Points earned: (max 3): _____

C.) Prior Educational Experience.

MA/MS Degree = 3 points

BA/BS Degree = 2 point

AA/AS/AAS Degree = 1 point

Points earned (max 3): _____

D.) Previous Application

- If you applied last year to the Dental Hygiene program and were qualified but not accepted, you will be awarded 1 point.

Points earned (max 1): _____

E.) Score received on the HESI A2 Exam

- Current topics: Grammar (6%), Anatomy (6%), Reading Comprehension (6%), Vocabulary (4%), & Mathematics (2%)

Points earned (max 24): _____

F.) Work experience in a dental related field.

- In this category points are awarded based on your work and/or volunteer experience in a dental office, dental lab, mobile dental clinic, or other dental related fields. Full time is considered 32 hours or more per week. Part time is considered less than 32 hours per week. A work verification form must accompany your application. (If a student works part-time for 5 or more years, they will be awarded 2 points)

Work Full Time for one or more years = 2 points

Work Part Time one or more years = 1 points

Points earned (max 2): _____

Total Points Earned in All Categories

A.) Points earned: _____

B.) Points earned: _____

C.) Points earned: _____

D.) Points earned: _____

E.) Points earned: _____

F.) Points earned: _____

Total Points earned (max 54): _____

An online Points Calculator can be found at <https://www4.ivcc.edu/dentalcalculator/>

IVCC DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM**WORK VERIFICATION FORM (POINTS CALCULATION CATEGORY F)**

Supervisor's name: _____

Company's name: _____

Company's phone number: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Applicant's name: _____

Job Title: _____

Applicant's address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

I, _____ (supervisor's name), confirm that
_____ (employee's name) has been/was employed with
_____ (company's name) from _____/
(month/year) until _____/_____ (month/year). _____
(employee's name) holds/held the title of _____ and
works/worked on a _____ (full-time or part-time) basis at
_____ hours per week.

Supervisor's signature: _____