Vancouver College™
of Dental Hygiene Inc.

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. (VCDH)

The information regarding our Dental Hygiene program is within this package.

Currently there is a promotion where the entrance exam is FREE!

At Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. our goal is to put your needs and your career success first.

Whether you are applying from within the city, the province, Canada or internationally, our friendly admissions staff will assist and guide you throughout the entire admissions process.

We look forward to speaking with you about attending the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc.

If you require further information or assistance, please visit our webpage at http://www.vancouver-college-dental.org or to speak with us directly, please contact us at 604-215-7611 or toll free at 1-800-457-3189.

Sincerely,

Admissions Coordinator,
Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc.

History of the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc.

The Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. has been in operation since December 2005. It was founded by Dr. Boris Pulec, a licensed dentist and Ms. Lidia Di Nicolo, a former registered dental hygienist who both work and lives in Ontario. Together, they have over 65 years of experience in the dental field.

The VCDH has a designated certificate with the Private Training Institutions Branch.

The VCDH Dental Hygiene program has received accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.

The VCDH curriculum has met the approval of the British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals and the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia.

We encourage all applicants who are interested in the **Dental Hygiene program at VCDH** to please read the comprehensive admission information within this package. Applicants that have specific questions or would like additional information regarding the Dental Hygiene program should call the admissions department at **604-215-7611** or **1-800-457-3189** (toll free in North America).

International Students

VCDH accepts international students if they meet all the entry requirements. VCDH is designated by the International Student Program (ISP) as a Designated Learning Institution with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

Successfully completing the Dental Hygiene Program at VCDH does not guarantee the ability to work and/or to live in Canada.

Please see the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) website for information on studying, working and living in Canada.

VCDH reserves an additional number of seats per intake to students who fall under the below category:

3 Seats: International students

Program Prerequisites & Requirements

Applicants Educated in Canada

Applicants **must** have completed the **30** first year university transfer credits listed below:

- **English** (6 credits)
- **Anatomy and Physiology** (6 credits with lab components)
- **Chemistry** (6 credits with lab components)
- **Psychology** (6 credits)
- **Statistics** (3 credits)
- **One Elective** (3 credits)

Applicants must provide proof of prerequisite courses by submitting an original transcript. The official transcript must come directly from the issuing Institution. The transcript must be emailed to admissions@vancouver-college-dental.org or mailed directly to 1205-6th Ave. New Westminster B.C. V3M 2C1.

Applicants Educated Outside of Canada

Applicants who have graduated from a post-secondary institution in a foreign country are required to have their diplomas evaluated on a course-by-course basis by the International Credential Evaluation Service (ICES). This is to determine if their foreign education is equivalent to the first year university transfer courses listed above, which are required for admission into the Dental Hygiene program.

All applicable fees associated with ICES are the responsibility of the applicant. Both Comprehensive and Supplemental Evaluations are required. Applicants must arrange to have copies of the evaluation forwarded to the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. directly from ICES by the required deadlines.

Indigenous Applicant Eligibility

VCDH is dedicated to creating an inclusive learning environment that lifts and honours the Indigenous worldview and ways of knowing to support First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students who choose to study here.

For this reason, and to continue to improve our support of Indigenous students as they strive to reach their educational goals and dreams, we invite you to identify if you are of Indigenous ancestry within the meaning of the Canadian Constitutional Act of 1982.

Self-identifying Indigenous ancestry on your application for admission will allow us to stay connected throughout your college career and provide information on topics such as Indigenous student scholarships, bursaries and more.

Applicants applying must meet the following requirements:

• Provide documentation of Indigenous heritage (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit). This could include but is not limited to, Indian or Métis status cards, official Inuit identification, official letters from Indigenous organizations, or a combination of proof.

• Complete the application process and the admissions test.

• Complete the prerequisites required to be eligible for admission into the program.

VCDH reserves two seats per intake to Indigenous students (First Nations, Inuit, Métis)

English Proficiency

English is the language in which the Dental Hygiene program is taught at the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene and Inc. VCDH does not teach English as a second language to the students.

The Dental Hygiene program is fast paced. In order to complete the program, it is imperative that the student has a strong grasp of the English language, both verbal and written. Lack of English proficiency may result in poor academic performance and potential release from the program.

The student must be able to handle the delivery and retrieval of information by communicating effectively with clients and instructors. Lack of comprehension or communication skills may jeopardize the safety of the clients. This may result in the college taking necessary measures to ensure client safety, which may include release from the program.

English Proficiency Requirement

A student must provide one of the following English Proficiency Requirements:

• Evidence that 3 years of full-time secondary (Grades 8-12) or post-secondary education has been completed in the program's language of instruction in a country where the program's language of instruction is one of the principal languages. (Language courses cannot be included in this calculation)

• Where English is the program's language of instruction, evidence of achievement in a recognized standardized language test/assessment at an overall level equivalent to IELTS 6.5 (academic) or higher.
  • All language tests/assessments are listed below with a minimum score/level specified for each.
  • Tests must include assessments of reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

• Evidence of graduation from a language program with an established pathway/articulation agreement allowing direct entry (no further testing required) to a diploma or degree program at a public institution in Canada.

Test	**Minimum score**
IELTS - International English Language Testing System (Academic)	6.5 (no part less than 6.0)
TOEFL - Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based test TOEFL Tests Taken after January 21, 2026	Overall: 79 Reading: 18 Listening: 17 Writing: 17 Speaking: 20 4.5, no part less than 4
CAEL or CAEL Online - Canadian Academic English Language Assessment	Overall, 60

The English Proficiency Requirement is not a substitute for the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. applicants' Pre-admissions exam.

Prior Learning Assessment

Applicants of the Dental Hygiene program with a dental background or other related courses will not be granted advanced standing or exemptions.
All courses must be taken and completed successfully in order to graduate from the program offered at VCDH.

Recommended Admission Requirements

- Good vision and visual perception with or without corrective lenses
- Manual dexterity that allows manipulation of small instruments with repetitive motions
- Good interpersonal communication skills
- Confidence speaking in front of individuals and/or groups
- Problem solving and critical thinking skills
- Emotional maturity with an internal value of helping and caring for others
- Ability to co-operate with others
- Ability to handle responsibility
- Self-motivation
- Good organizational and time management skills
- Attention to detail

Mandatory Pre-admission Exam

In addition, all applicants that meet the minimum admission requirements will be required to write the mandatory dental hygiene pre-admission exam.

Applicants are able to book the pre-admission exam online with the Admissions Coordinators or through our online scheduler after they submit the application form. To get started, click "Request Application" on our website.

The Admissions coordinator will add the applicant to our online portal EduLink. This will send the applicant a link to complete their online forms.

Once the applicant completes the Application form and Online Pre-Admission exam forms they are welcome to book the pre-admission exam directly through the scheduler, or speak with their Admissions coordinator to book it.

The applicant is then able to complete the pre-admission exam through Microsoft TEAMS fully monitored by the Admission Coordinators.

There is no fee associated with the mandatory Dental Hygiene pre-admission exam.

Applicants are required to provide photo identification for viewing by the Admission Coordinator.

Testing times available are as follows:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 6:00 PM PST
Thursday, Friday: 1:00 PM PST

Admission Department hours of operation are as follows:
Monday to Thursday: 9:00AM-8:00PM
Friday: 8:30AM-5:00PM

The pre-admission exam consists of the following:

- English Questions
- Biology Questions
- Spatial Relations Questions
- Written Component

In order to be successful on the pre-admission exam, the applicant must achieve a score of 70% or above.

The Applicants' Pre-admissions exam is not a substitute for the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. English Proficiency Requirement.

Applicants Located Outside of the City

Applicants that are located a far distance from the College or are from out of province or from out of country area are eligible to follow the same process as above for the online pre-admission exam. The applicant may also use a qualified testing center that will supervise their pre-admission exam. Please call a VCDH admissions coordinator for more information at 604-215-7611 or toll free at 1-800-457-3189. Also, please feel free to e-mail questions to info@vancouver-college-dental.org There is currently **no fee** associated with the mandatory dental hygiene pre- admission exam.

Mandatory Pre-Admission Interview

Applicants must achieve above 70% on the mandatory pre-admission exam in order to be granted a pre-admission interview.

Applicants will be evaluated on their knowledge of the profession and their communication and critical thinking skills. Applicants will be evaluated according to their responses and the overall impression made during the interview.

Selection

Applicants who achieve above 70% on the mandatory pre-admission exam will be asked to participate in the mandatory pre-admission Interview. To be successful, applicants must achieve 70% or above during the mandatory pre-admission interview.

Other considerations in the selection process include:
Proof of English Proficiency Requirement
Completion of First Year University Pre-requisites

Any applicant who has met the minimum requirement level will be considered a qualified applicant.

Selection Process

1. Submit the application through the Edulink Portal.
2. Submit evidence of English Proficiency Requirement
3. Write the mandatory pre-admission examination and successfully achieve a score of 70% or greater.
4. If successful, participate in a mandatory pre-admission interview and successfully achieve over 70%.
5. Submit post-secondary transcripts showing evidence of successful completion of first year university pre-requisites
6. If successful in #1-6, the applicant is deemed a qualified applicant.
7. Qualified applicants will be offered conditional acceptance status until all entry requirements are met.

8. Full acceptance status is granted once all the conditional acceptance entry requirements are completed.
9. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds the program's capacity the qualified applicant will be placed on a waitlist.
10. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified.

Unsuccessful Applicants

Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of their status in person, by e-mail or by telephone.

Conditional Acceptance Status

A qualified applicant will be offered conditional acceptance into the program. There are documents and payment requirements that must be met prior to the qualified applicant being offered full acceptance into the program.

Once the applicant is offered conditional acceptance they will be given a set period of time to respond to the college if they wish to accept the offer.

Once the candidate has accepted the conditional acceptance offer, they will be sent the requirements and documents that need to be read, signed and returned within a specified period of time.

In addition, the qualified applicant must submit evidence of their status in Canada by providing a copy of one of the following documents:

- Canadian Passport;
- Canadian Citizenship Card;
- Canadian Birth Certificate;
- Documentation of Permanent Residence Status;
- Documents of Landed Immigration Status; or
- Documentation of Study Visa*
  *Study Visa must be valid in Canada for the duration of the program
- International applicants only: Proof of Health Insurance
- International students must submit proof of health insurance upon receipt of a valid study visa. Most health insurances are only valid for one year from the start date and therefore must be renewed for the remaining duration of the program.

Additional documents that must be submitted prior to the start of the program are as follows:

- Proof of current Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) BLS Certification
- A completed Immunization Report provided by VCDH
- Criminal Record Check (CPIC) and Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS)*

The requirements cannot be waived by either the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. or the applicant.

Any fees associated with completing these documents are the responsibility of the applicant

*Registration with the British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals (BCCOHP) is mandatory to practice as a dental hygienist in British Columbia. A history of criminal offenses or charges of professional misconduct in another jurisdiction or profession may interfere with your ability to become registered in British Colombia or other provinces or countries.

It is the applicants' responsibility to contact the BCCOHP (or the regulatory body they intend to register with post-graduation) if they have a criminal history to determine if it will jeopardize being registered as a dental hygienist post-graduation.

Applicants that require clarification can contact VCDH and speak with an admissions coordinator.

Full Acceptance Status

Full Acceptance Status into the Dental Hygiene program at the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. is granted once the qualified applicant has signed the Student Enrolment Contract and completed all the entrance requirements stated in the conditional acceptance offer. This includes any required payments prior to the commencement of the program.

Waiting List

A waiting list of qualified applicants will be established any time that the number of qualified applicants exceeds the program's capacity. These qualified applicants will receive an e-mail or telephone call informing them that they have been placed on the program waitlist.

Qualified applicants that are still on the waitlist once the available spaces have been filled and the selection process is complete will receive an e-mail indicating that they will not be admitted to the program. Qualified applicants will be permitted to have their application forwarded to the next available intake.

Closing of Intake

Entry into an intake will be deemed closed when all the available seats are filled. Qualified applicants on the waitlist will be notified that the program is full.

Please Note: The Dental Hygiene program does not accept transfer credits

Career Opportunities

Dental hygiene is a dynamic and challenging health care profession which allows for a wide range of opportunities. Dental hygienists have both employment and self-employment opportunities. The dental hygiene profession is desirable due to its flexible hours. There are options for part-time or full-time career opportunities. As a dental hygienist, graduates may work interdependently and collaboratively with health care professionals in a variety of practice settings.

There are numerous post-graduate opportunities, including:

- General dental office and/or clinic
- Specialty dental office and/or clinic i.e. Periodontics, Orthodontics, Paedodontics, and Prosthodontics.
- Independent dental hygiene practice
- Independent business owner
- Community health settings
- Public health departments
- Research
- Educational institutions
- Sales and marketing
- Administration
- Private Consulting

VCDH does not guarantee employment for any student who successfully completes the Dental Hygiene program.

Program fees

The Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. anticipated fees for the Dental Hygiene program are as follows:

Tuition:	$49,050.00
Additional fees	
Books:	$3,850.00*
Uniforms and Equipment:	$2,875.00
Expendable Materials:	$1,300.00
Other Compulsory Fees:	$850.00
Total Dental Hygiene program costs:	**$57,925.00**
International Student Fee:	$8,000.00 (if applicable)

*Book fees may be subject to change due to price increases by book publishers

VCDH accepts monthly payments to assist students with their finances.

VCDH is affiliated with all student loans across Canada.

The National Student Loans Service Centre address is as follows:
P.O. Box 4030, Mississauga, Ontario, L5A 4M4

Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the Dental Hygiene program offered at VCDH accredited?

The Dental Hygiene program offered at the VCDH has been granted Accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.

Students that graduate from our accredited Dental Hygiene program in Canada may apply to write the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board Exam with the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board (NDHCB). Once the student successfully passes this national examination they may apply for registration with the province of their choice. Applicants would need to meet all of the regulatory body's requirements prior to registration in British Columbia or any other province.

You may also have the option to write the American National Board exam as well. Applicants would need to meet all of the requirements to be eligible to write the American Board exam.

Is VCDH certified with the Private Training Institutions Branch?

Yes, VCDH has a designated certificate with the Private Training Institutions Branch.

Do students receive a certificate or a diploma once they complete the program at the VCDH?

Upon successfully completion of the Dental Hygiene program offered at the VCDH, the student will receive an official diploma.

How long is the Dental Hygiene program offered at VCDH?

The Dental Hygiene program offered at VCDH is 76 weeks or approximately 18 months in duration. The program is divided into four semesters with one week off between semesters.

Students are able to complete the program in approximately 18 months because VCDH does not take extended summer vacations or holiday breaks.

Other programs in Canada that take extended breaks within their program may take up to 3 years to complete.

Students that attend VCDH appreciate the fact that they are able to finish the program in a shorter period of time. This allows the graduate the opportunity to seek employment sooner.

What is the cost of the program offered at the VCDH?

The total program cost is **$56,075.00.** This includes everything from tuition, textbooks, insurance, instruments and clinical fees.

Are there any hidden fees that we should be aware of at the VCDH?

NO! There are no hidden fees. VCDH believes that the student should know what their financial situation is well in advance so that they can prepare themselves for the financial commitment of the Dental Hygiene program.

Does VCDH have payment options?

YES! VCDH accepts monthly payments as an option to assist students with their finances during the program.

Does VCDH accept student loans?

YES! All provincial student loans across Canada are available as an option for payment at VCDH.

Students that reside in British Columbia may be eligible for loans, grants, or awards granted under StudentAidBC. Financial assistance may be available for those who qualify. For more information, please visit the StudentAidBC website at https://studentaidbc.ca/

Students from other provinces may be eligible for loans, grants, or awards granted under their province's student aid. Please visit your province's student aid website for more information.

The National Student Loans Service Centre address is as follows:
P.O. Box 4030, Mississauga, Ontario L5A 4M4

Does VCDH assist students with bank loans or line of credit applications?

YES! There are several financial institutions that will assist students with student loans and a student line of credit. Most financial institutions will require a co- signer when applying for a student loan or line of credit.

VCDH admissions coordinators assist applicants with all of the available financial options. They can be reached at 604-215-7611 or toll free at 1-800-457-3189.

Does everyone write the National Dental Hygiene Certification Exam (NDHCE)?

Yes! All graduates of all the Dental Hygiene programs across Canada must write the NDHCE, with the exception of graduates in Québec.

The NDHCE is intended to fulfill the written examination requirement. However, requirement of the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board (NDHCB) for licensure or registration is completely at the discretion of each provincial or territorial dental hygiene regulatory authority. Dental hygiene regulatory authorities in all provinces except Québec require the NDHCB Certificate as one requirement for licensure or registration.

Are there fees associated with writing the NDHCE?

YES! There is a fee associated with writing the NDHCE. This fee is the responsibility of the student. These are not included in the Dental Hygiene program fees. The fees are determined by the NDHCB and may change annually. The fees are paid directly to the NDHCB.

Is there a fee associated with the admission testing and interview?

No! Currently there are no fees associated with the admission test and interview.

Sample questions are available by contacting the Admissions Department at info@vancouver-college-dental.org or 604-215-7611 or toll free at 1-800-457-3189.

Does the Dental Hygiene program accept out of province students?

Yes! VCDH accepts students from all across Canada. VCDH understands that there is a lot of planning involved with attending the Dental Hygiene program away from home. The admission staff will assist the applicant throughout the entire process until arrival at VCDH.

Does the Dental Hygiene program accept International students?

Yes! VCDH accepts international students if they meet all the entry requirements.

Successfully completing the Dental Hygiene program at the Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene Inc. does not guarantee the ability to work and/or to live in Canada. Please see the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) website for information on working and living in Canada.

Study visas must be valid in Canada for the duration of the study period.

How many students are accepted into the Dental Hygiene program?

54 students are accepted into the Dental Hygiene program at VCDH.

How many dental chairs does VCDH have?

VCDH has 27 fully operational dental chairs, 3 of which include digital radiographic rooms. There is also an additional 8 radiographic units.

The dental hygiene clinic is 100% paperless using all the latest technology that a modern dental office would use. This includes digital photography, digital x-rays, 3D Consult-Pro patient education software, signature pads and fingerprint scanners. Each dental chair is equipped with its own computer.

What are the university pre-requisites that are required prior to entering into the Dental Hygiene program?

Applicants **must** have completed the **30** first year university transfer credits listed below:

- English (6 credits)
- Anatomy and Physiology (6 credits with lab components)
- Chemistry (6 credits with lab components)
- Psychology (6 credits)
- Statistics (3 credits)
- One Elective (3 credits)

Where can I get these credits?

The VCDH has no preference as to where your credits are achieved as long as they are university transfer courses.

Please contact an admissions coordinator for further information on where to complete the credits.

How do students get their Dental Hygiene Registration after graduation?

The student would attend the Dental Hygiene program and having successfully completed the program would be offered an official diploma from our accredited program. The individual would then be required to write the National Dental Hygiene Certification Exam and pass.

The graduate can then apply to register in one of the other provinces in Canada. They must meet all registration requirements prior to registration. Another option would be to apply to register in the USA or internationally. Each

country may have differences regarding the registration requirements that need to be met prior to being granted registration.

VCDH has many students that apply from all across Canada and internationally to the Dental Hygiene program.

How is it different if I attend the Dental Hygiene program in Ontario?

There are many provinces and or states that require the students to have their first year university transfer courses. If a student attends the Dental Hygiene program at the Toronto College of Dental Hygiene and Auxiliaries Inc. in Ontario, then the student is not required to take their first year university transfer courses prior to applying.

In Ontario, however, local anesthetic is not a course that is required to be taken since dental hygienists in Ontario cannot practice this procedure. Therefore, if the graduate is returning to a province where this is a requirement, then the student would still be allowed to register and practice in the province but they would be given a certain period of time (approximately 2 years) to complete a local anesthetic course.

Does VCDH provide employment assistance?

YES! VCDH provides assistance with job placement in the following ways:

1. VCDH post all job openings and opportunities on the internal job posting board.
2. Current students are informed of potential job opportunities through e-mails.
3. VCDH maintains alumni information and notifies former graduates of potential job opportunities through e-mail.
4. VCDH allows students to utilize the facilities to contact potential employers and print resumes.
5. VCDH may provide a letter of reference for graduates.

VCDH does not guarantee employment for any student who successfully completes the Dental Hygiene program.

Additional Information

Please visit the VCDH website at www.vancouver-college-dental.org or call 604-215-7611 or toll-free at 1-800-457-3189 to speak to an Admissions Coordinator.

It is recommended, if possible, to schedule an individual tour and pre-admission exam date. This can be done by contacting a VCDH Admissions Coordinator