Dental Hygiene
2-year Diploma Program

Start Date and Application Deadline
The program starts in September and runs until the end of May each year. Applications will be accepted between November 15 and March 31. For further information regarding late applications and program contacts, check the Program Availability List.

Special Expenses
Students will need to purchase required textbooks, dental instruments, uniforms, shoes, general supplies, etc. In addition, students will be required to pay a mandatory supply fee. Students are responsible for travel expenses during any practica and may also wish to travel to attend a Dental Conference. A registration fee to the College of Dental Hygienists of BC will be required prior to employment. Students must write the National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination (NDHCE) at an additional cost.

Graduation Requirements
To be eligible for a diploma in Dental Hygiene, students must have met all of the learning outcomes and completed all program courses with a minimum "B-" in each course.

Financial Assistance
Financial assistance is available to students demonstrating financial need. Applications should be made eight to ten weeks prior to the start of your program. Please visit www.viu.ca/financialaid.

Further Information
The Vancouver Island University Calendar is available online. Visit our website at www.viu.ca/programs.

How to Apply
Students can apply online at applybc.ca or obtain an Application for Admission form, which is available from regional secondary schools, or from Vancouver Island University Registration Centres at the Nanaimo, Duncan, Powell River or Parksville-Qualicum campuses.

When the Registration Centre confirms that you have been admitted, you will also be advised of when and how to register and pay for your courses.

About Vancouver Island University
Vancouver Island University is a comprehensive post-secondary institution located on beautiful Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Our main campus is located in Nanaimo, and we have regional campuses in Duncan and Powell River and a campus centre in Parksville. More than 14,000 full-time and part-time students are enrolled in academic, applied, career/technical, vocational, trades and developmental programs leading to certificates, diplomas and degrees.

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Nanaimo, BC V9R 5S5
Switchboard: 250-753-3245 | Toll-free: 1-888-920-2221
Advising: 250-740-6410
Financial Aid & Awards: 250-740-6423
Registration Tel: 250-740-6400 | Fax: 250-740-6479
www.viu.ca

The information contained in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. Vancouver Island University reserves the right to make such changes as necessary, including cancellation and adjustment of courses.

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This program prepares graduates for a rewarding career as a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH). This accredited program (Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada) provides education in the application of preventative and therapeutic methods of oral disease control and health promotion. The concepts of health education, professionalism, critical thinking, lifelong learning, and community service are strongly encouraged in the program curriculum. Students have the opportunity to apply knowledge and gain practical experience in public dental clinics and health activities in the community. Strong computer literacy is highly recommended prior to admission to the program.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be granted a diploma that makes them eligible to apply for registration with the College of Dental Hygienists of BC (as per their criteria). More information can be found on the website at www.cdhbc.com.

Career Opportunities
Registered dental hygienists are key members of the oral health team. Graduates can work in a wide variety of practice settings, including: general and specialty dental offices; independent dental hygiene practices; residential care facilities; hospitals, public health, and community health agencies; research; insurance and dental supply companies; and educational institutions. There are exceptional career opportunities for dental hygienists around the world. More career information can be found on the British Columbia Dental Hygienists’ Association (BCDHA) website at www.bcdha.bc.ca.

Admission Requirements
Prerequisites
- English (6 credits)*
- Anatomy and Physiology (8 credits)*
- Chemistry (8 credits)*
- Psychology (6 credits)*
- Statistics (3 credits)*
- Elective (3 credits)*

* For more information, visit our website at www.viu.ca/calendar/Health/dentalhygiene.asp.

Notes on Admission
Acceptance into the Dental Hygiene Diploma program is competitive and will be determined by a combination of GPA and Personal Profile scores. Once accepted into the program, students will be required to submit the following information by mid-August:
- A completed Immunization Requirements Form.
- Evidence of successfully completing a nationally recognized WHMIS course.
- Evidence of current CPR Level “C” certification or Level HCP (health care provider).
- Criminal Record Check. Fieldwork, practicums, or clinical practice will require a satisfactory criminal record check prior to placement. Criminal record checks are requested through VIU. The Registration Centre at VIU will contact prospective students by mail regarding the requirements for a criminal record check. Criminal records checks are processed through the Ministry according to the Criminal Records Review Act. A check completed through the RCMP is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Act.

Notes: Students laddering into a degree completion program after the Dental Hygiene Diploma need to check with the receiving institution for transferability of prerequisites.
- General admission requirements apply.
- Students must have completed the minimum requirements listed in the prerequisites, or equivalent.
- Biology and Chemistry prerequisites must have been completed within the last 5 years (prior to admission).
- Students must have completed a minimum “B” average on prerequisite courses, and no individual course grade lower than a “C+”.
- Submission of a Personal Profile form.

Program Outline
YEAR 1
Semester 1
- Dental Hygiene Foundations I
- Oral Sciences I
- Professional Issues I
- Dental Sciences I
- Head and Neck Anatomy
- Microbiology

Semester 2
- Dental Hygiene Foundations II
- Oral Sciences II
- Pathologies I
- Prevention
- Communications
- Radiology

Intersession 1
- Dental Hygiene Foundations III
- Dental Hygiene Clinic I
- Research Methodology

YEAR 2
Semester 1
- Dental Hygiene Foundations IV
- Dental Hygiene Clinic II
- Pathologies II
- Dental Sciences II
- Community Health I

Semester 2
- Dental Hygiene Foundations V
- Dental Hygiene Clinic III
- Professional Issues II
- Pathologies III
- Community Health II

Intersession 2
- Dental Hygiene Foundations VI
- Dental Hygiene Clinic IV
- Special Topics Seminar