

Vermont Technical College’s training program is evidence based and builds on a national model curriculum and national education standards.

In 2010, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) convened a panel of national dental educators and experts that reviewed the education and training programs for Alaska Dental Health Aid Therapists and other successful international midlevel dental provider models. The panel then created an evidence-based framework for dental therapy education in the U.S.

In a 2011 paper published in the Journal of Public Health Dentistry, the AAPHD panel recommended:

- A two-year dental therapy curriculum that culminates with an Associate’s degree.
- A one-year curriculum for dental hygienists to be trained in the additional scope of practice needed to become a dental therapist or in Vermont a licensed dental practitioner.

Additionally, the AAPHD developed a national model curriculum. Below, you will see that courses recommended by the panel are incorporated in the draft education program developed by Vermont Technical College.

AAPHD Model 3 Year DT/DH Curriculum	Proposed VTC 4 Year LDP (DH+DT) Curriculum
Fundamentals of Dental Therapy, Cariology and Periodontology I	Pre-clinical Dental Hygiene, Clinical Dental Hygiene I, Periodontics
Oral Anatomy, Physiology, Embryology & Histology	Oral Tissues I, Oral Tissues II, Anatomy & Physiology I, Anatomy & Physiology II
Microbiology, Immunology & Infection Control	Microbiology, Pharmacology/General Pathology, Periodontics, Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene, Clinical Dental Hygiene I
Radiology I	Radiology (Lecture and Lab)
Dental Materials for Dental Therapists	Dental Materials (Dental Hygiene curriculum), Dental Materials I, Dental Materials II
Fundamentals of Dental Therapy, Cariology and Periodontology II	Clinical Dental Hygiene II, Clinical Dental Hygiene III, Periodontics
Clinical Dental Therapy I	Clinical Dental Hygiene II, Clinical Dental Hygiene III, Clinical Dental Hygiene IV, Clinical Dental Hygiene V
Medical & Dental Emergencies, Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Medical Emergencies I, Medical & Dental Emergencies for the Dental Practitioner, Pharmacology I, Pharmacology for the Dental Practitioner, Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene, Clinical Dental Hygiene I, Clinical Dental Hygiene II, Clinical

	Dental Hygiene III
General & Oral Pathology	General Pathology, Oral Pathology
Community Dentistry and Dental Health Education	Community Oral Health I
Radiology II	Clinical Dental Hygiene III, Clinical Dental Hygiene IV, Clinical Dental Hygiene V, Dental Practitioner Operative I & Radiography
Clinical Dental Therapy II	Dental Practitioner Operative I & Radiology, Health Assessment and Oral Diagnostic Reasoning
Technical Writing and Communication	Technical Communication
Nutrition in Oral Health	Nutrition, Applied Nutrition & Cariology, Clinical Dental Hygiene I, Clinical Dental Hygiene II, Clinical Dental Hygiene III
Dental Anesthesia	Clinical Dental Hygiene IV
Clinical Dental Therapy III	Dental Practitioner Operative I & Radiology
Professionalism, Ethics and Behavioral Science for the Dental Therapist	Bioethics, Clinical Dental Hygiene III, Clinical Dental Hygiene IV, Clinical Dental Hygiene V
Telehealth	Information Technology elective, Practice Management for the Dental Practitioner, Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene, Clinical Dental Hygiene I, Dental Practitioner Operative I & Radiology
Community Prevention Project	Community Oral Health II, Advanced Community Oral Health
Clinical Dental Therapy IV	Dental Practitioner Operative II
Dental Therapy Seminar	Evidence Based Decision Making for the Dental Practitioner, Dental Practitioner Operative II, Dental Practitioner Operative III
Clinical Dental Therapy V	Dental Practitioner Operative III
Preceptorship Experience	Preceptorship follows Licensing