

DENTAL HYGIENE

NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S FIRST DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

EDUCATING PROFESSIONALS | EXPANDING CARE

2026-2028



As Northern Michigan faces a growing dental hygienist shortage, NCMC is committed to building the region's workforce through education, clinical training, and family-sustaining career opportunities that strengthen oral and overall community health.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S FIRST DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

NCMC is committed to building the region's dental hygiene workforce through a high-quality educational program designed to keep local talent local. By providing hands-on clinical training, modern learning environments, and pathways to meaningful careers, the program will prepare students to meet critical workforce needs while improving oral and overall community health.

Northern Michigan is facing a growing shortage of dental hygienists, leaving many communities with limited access to preventive oral healthcare. At the same time, students interested in healthcare careers often lack access to affordable, local educational pathways that lead to high-wage, family-sustaining careers. Without opportunities close to home, talented students are forced to leave the region for education and employment—many never returning to live and work in Northern Michigan.



Average salary of a
Dental Hygienist in Michigan:

\$79,000

(BLS 2025 Michigan Occupation
and Wage Data)



7.2%

Projected Growth Thru 2032
(Michigan hot jobs data outlook)



Projected Annual Openings:

545

(Michigan hot jobs data outlook)

PROGRAM INFORMATION

PROGRAM LENGTH: 5 SEMESTERS
FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF PREPROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

COHORT SIZE: 15 Students

Building on the success of our 60 year nursing program as well as our Workforce and Community Education department dental assisting program, we aim to create a comprehensive career ladder approach, offering students multiple levels of career entry and progression into the dental field. There is tremendous demand for hygienists locally and throughout the State of Michigan. We expect the program to serve local students and attract students on waiting lists at other schools throughout the state to move to the northern region.

Guided by a dedicated Dental Hygiene Advisory Board, NCMC is partnering with local dental professionals, the health department, and regional low-cost clinics to ensure the program meets the evolving oral healthcare needs of Northern Michigan.



*Pending CODA and HLC Accreditation Approvals

MEETING NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S DENTAL CARE NEEDS

A shortage of dental hygienists affects more than oral health—it impacts workforce productivity, healthcare costs, and access to care across the entire community.

RESIDENTS ACROSS NORTHERN MICHIGAN ARE FACING BARRIERS TO BASIC DENTAL CARE:

Many local dental offices have had hygienist job openings for more than a year.

Patients often wait 12 months+ for preventative dental services.

Without care, untreated oral health issues increase long-term risks, especially for low-income and uninsured families.

The development of NCMC's Dental Hygiene program will have a lasting impact on the health and economic vitality of Northern Michigan. By educating and retaining skilled dental hygienists locally, the program will help address workforce shortages that currently strain dental practices, limit patient appointments, and contribute to rising healthcare costs caused by delayed preventive care. Increasing access to oral healthcare services strengthens overall community wellness while supporting local employers and healthcare systems.

In addition, access to quality healthcare and educational opportunities makes communities more attractive to young families, retirees, healthcare professionals, and new businesses seeking strong infrastructure and a high quality of life. Through this program, NCMC is helping build a healthier workforce, stronger economy, and more vibrant future for the region.

BUILDING A NEW PIPELINE

FOR TALENT

Michigan schools graduate approximately 350 hygienists each year but need 545—resulting in an annual shortage of 195 dental hygienists.

Source: Michigan Center for Data and Analytics

TYPICAL COHORT SIZE

- North Central Michigan College: 15*
- Delta Community College: 20
- Detroit Mercy University: 26
- Ferris State University: 50
- Grand Rapids Community College: 30
- Jackson Community College: 10
- Kalamazoo Valley Community College: 20
- Kellogg Community College: 20
- Lansing Community College: 20
- Macomb Community College: 36
- Mott Community College: 25
- Oakland Community College: 30
- University of Michigan: 40
- Wayne County Community College: 24

*Pending CODA and HLC Accreditation Approvals



CREATING HEALTHIER, STRONGER COMMUNITIES THROUGH CLINICAL EDUCATION

NCMC's program will establish a low-cost dental clinic serving the community while training hygienists

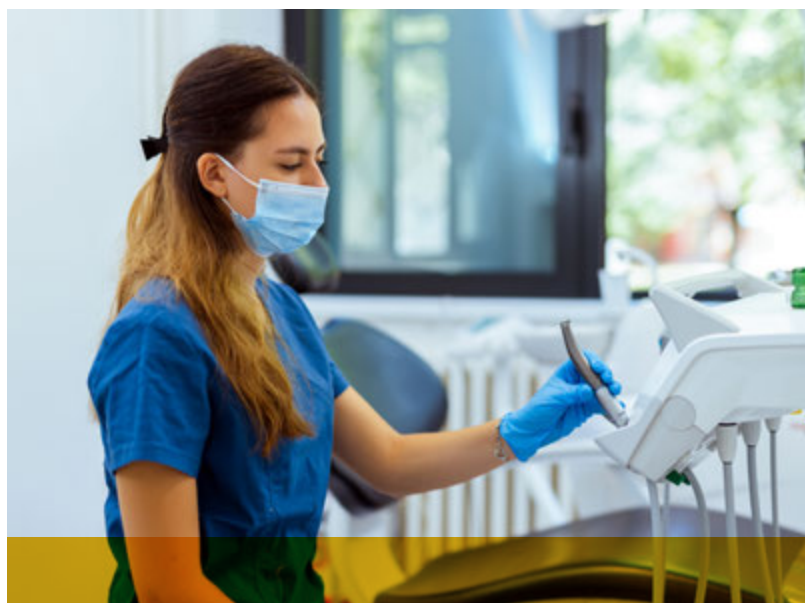
A shortage of dental hygienists can have serious consequences for individuals and communities. When access to preventive care is limited, patients often wait longer for cleanings, screenings, and early treatment, allowing small oral health issues to develop into painful and costly conditions requiring emergency or restorative care. Untreated oral disease is also closely connected to broader health concerns such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and infections, leading to higher overall healthcare costs for individuals and communities alike.

Poor oral health can additionally impact daily life and workplace performance, causing missed workdays, reduced productivity, and increased employee sick time. Expanding access to preventive dental care through trained dental hygiene professionals helps improve health outcomes, reduce long-term costs, and support a healthier, more productive workforce.



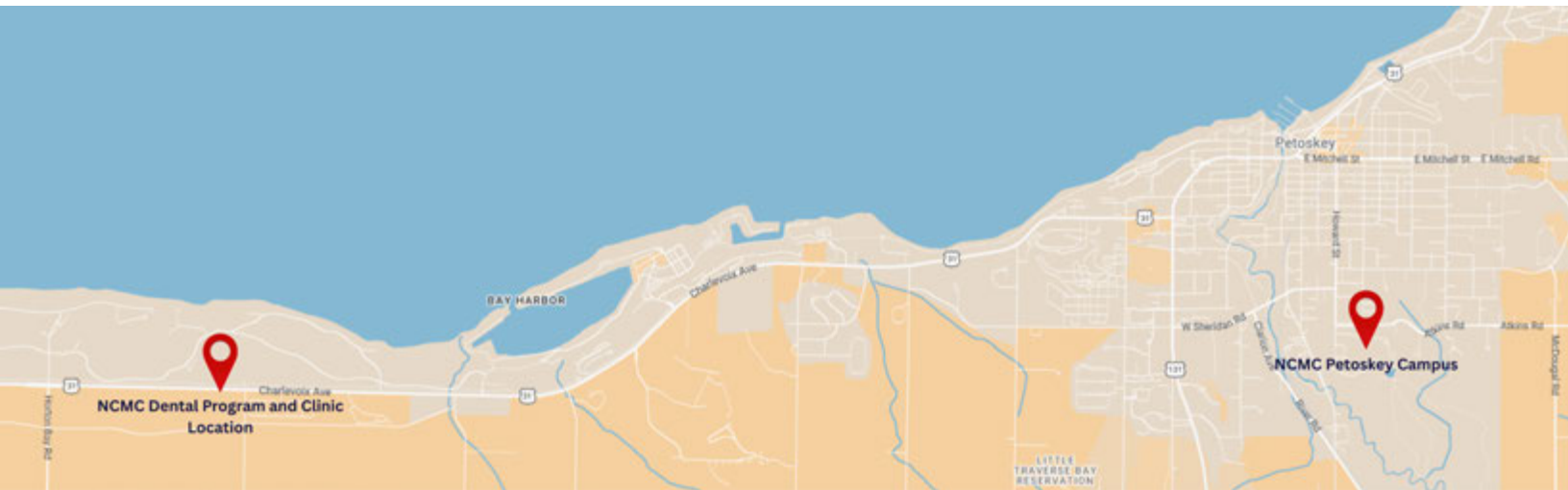
Estimated annual patient visits:

4,200



Estimated average visit cost:

\$50



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NOW IS THE TIME TO LEAD



FUNDING THE FUTURE

Estimated Start-Up Cost:
\$10 Million

\$2.5 Million – Building purchase

\$5 Million – Renovation

\$2.5 Million – Equipment and other startup costs

North Central Michigan College Board of Trustees votes to approve new program

WINTER 2025

Identify and secure a location

SPRING 2026

Finalize design plans

SUMMER 2026

Facility renovation and equipment install and testing

**2027 –
SPRING 2028**

Planned start date of first cohort pending CODA and HLC Accreditation Approvals

FALL 2028

WAYS TO GIVE

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