



## DENTAL HYGIENE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM

The University offers a baccalaureate degree program that consists of  $\geq 60$  hrs of prerequisite coursework and two years of dental hygiene curriculum. Prerequisite courses may be taken at The University of Oklahoma or another accredited university or college. Procedures taught in the curriculum fall within the dental hygiene scope of practice in the State of Oklahoma. The College of Dentistry offers the program on the Oklahoma Health Sciences Center campus in Oklahoma City and by distance at the following three sites: 1) Tri County Technology Center in Bartlesville, OK, 2) Southern Oklahoma Technology Center at Ardmore, OK, and 3) Western Technology Center in Weatherford, OK. The dental hygiene program at all sites is considered one program. All students attend the same classes via distance technology and have the same clinical and didactic requirements. Program competencies are provided in written form and discussed with students at orientation prior to beginning the academic program and are included in the Dental Hygiene Manual. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates from all sites receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene and are eligible to take examinations for licensure to practice as registered dental hygienists. The Higher Learning Commission and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association accredit the program.

**DENTAL HYGIENE PROFESSION:** The registered dental hygienist (RDH) is a licensed primary health-care professional, oral health educator, and clinician. Responsibilities of the dental hygienist include preventive services that promote or maintain oral health and clinical treatments designed to arrest or control oral disease. Quality dental hygiene care requires critical thinking to assess the patient's needs, determine a dental hygiene diagnosis, develop individualized patient care, implement dental hygiene treatment, and evaluate outcomes of dental hygiene treatment. The dental hygienist works closely with and under the supervision of a dentist.

Most dental hygienists are employed in a dental office; however, they can be found in long-term care facilities, hospitals, corporate health facilities, school systems, research centers, state and federal agencies, and public health clinics. The baccalaureate RDH may also be employed as an educator, a researcher who conducts clinical studies and analyzes scientific data, a corporate representative, and as a provider of continuing education seminars. Dental hygienists may provide care in dental clinics for the underprivileged, participate in mission trips, or provide educational and preventive services to schoolchildren as allowed by state laws.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:** The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected employment prospects for dental hygiene to remain excellent, with the dental hygiene profession expected to be one of the fastest growing occupations through the year 2024. The 2016 median hourly wage was \$35.31 nationally and \$35.05 in Oklahoma. There is considerable freedom for dental hygienists to select employment days and hours.

**ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS:** Admission to the Dental Hygiene Program is competitive. Selection is based on the applicant's post-secondary academic record, life experiences, and potential for success in a baccalaureate program. New students are admitted for the fall semester only.

- All application requirements must be submitted by **January 15th** of the year in which admission is sought.
- Applicants must be in good standing with last college or university attended.
- ACT or SAT individual component scores and composite scores are required.
- Minimum average GPA is 2.5 on a 4.0 scale with a grade of "C" or better on all specifically required courses.
- A minimum of 60 semester hours of transferable coursework from an accredited college/university is required.
- **A Foundational GPA is computed and used in the selection process from the following courses: English II, Human Physiology, Human Anatomy, Microbiology, Statistics, Psychology, Nutrition and General Chemistry.** All FOUNDATIONAL coursework must be completed or in progress during the spring semester of the year in which admission is sought.
- All PREREQUISITE coursework must be completed by August 1st, if an offer of acceptance into the program has been made.
- A typewritten Career Statement is required.

- Applicants must investigate dental hygiene as a career prior to application by documenting a minimum of 40 hours observing a dental hygienist. Observation of a dentist/dental assistant does not meet this requirement. Download the 40-Hour Shadowing Form to log hours and obtain signatures.
- Complete and submit an online University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) application that includes the prioritized site(s) for which the applicant wishes to be considered. Applications must be completed for each site requested: Ardmore, Bartlesville, Oklahoma City and/or Weatherford. There is no additional application fee for additional sites.
- Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s success or potential for successful completion of the program are required. During the online application process applicants submit email addresses of their requested letter writers. Letter writers then receive a link to upload their letters of recommendation. Letters should be on official letterhead and must include the signature of the letter writer.
- If English is the student’s second language, a minimum score of 250 is required on the national standardized TOEFL examination.
- Send **OFFICIAL** transcripts from high schools, colleges and/or universities attended, ACT Scores and TOEFL scores to the OUHSC Admissions and Records Office.
- Offers of acceptance into the program, are contingent upon meeting the required “C” grade in all remaining prerequisite and foundational coursework, along with a minimum GPA of 2.5.
- It is the applicant’s responsibility to confirm receipt of the all requirements using the OU Health Sciences Center Application Status link provided.

**Apply On-line**  
**OU Health Sciences Center Application Status**

**CURRICULUM AND REQUIRED COURSES**

The following courses are required for admission (with a minimum of a “C” grade) and must be included within the minimum 60 semester hours of study. **Any exception or substitutions must be approved by the program director or college dean or be listed in the *Official Course Substitution Guide of The University of Oklahoma.***

| <b>PREREQUISITE COURSES</b>   |                           |   |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| <b><u>Symbolic and Oral Communications</u></b>  |                           | <b><u>Natural Sciences</u></b>  |
| ENGL 1113 Principles of English Comp I  |                           | CHEM 1315 General Chemistry + Lab   |
| ENGL 1213 Principles of English Comp II   |                           | BIOL 2124 Human Physiology  |
| COMM 2613 Public Speaking <i>or</i><br>COMM 1113 Principles of Communication  |                           | BIOL 2234 <i>or</i><br>BIOL 2255 Human Anatomy                            |
|   |                           | MBIO 2815 Introduction to Microbiology + Lab                              |
| <b><u>Math: ONE of the following:</u></b>   |                           | HES 2823 Introduction to Nutrition  |
| COMM 2513 Introduction to Statistics <i>or</i><br>PSY 2003 Understanding Statistics <i>or</i><br>ECON 2843 Elements of Statistics   |                           | <b><u>Humanities: ONE of the following</u></b>                            |
|   |                           | HIST 1483 U. S. 1492 to 1865 <i>or</i><br>HIST 1493 U. S. 1865 to Present |
| <b><u>Social Sciences</u></b>   |                           |   |
| PSC 1113 Government of the U. S.  |                           | <b><u>Electives</u></b>   |
| PSY 1113 Elements of Psychology   |                           | As needed to equal 60 total prerequisite hours                            |
| SOC 1113 Introduction to Sociology  |                           |   |
| <b>GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: *</b>  |                           |   |
| ARTISTIC FORM (3 hours)   | WESTERN CULTURE (3 hours) | NON-WESTERN CULTURE (3 hours)   |
| FOREIGN LANGUAGE (2 High School Years of the Same Foreign Language <i>or</i> 2 College Semesters)   |                           |   |
| UPPER DIVISION GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE ( <i>One</i> 3 Hour 3000 or 4000 Level)   |                           |   |
| <b>* GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS WITH ASSOCIATE’S OR BACHELOR’S DEGREES</b>   |                           |   |
| Applicant’s that have earned a <b>Bachelor’s Degree</b> from a United States institution:<br>ALL General Education Requirements are waived.   |                           |   |
| Applicant’s that have earned an <b>Associate’s Degree</b> from a United States institution, excluding “Applied Sciences”:<br>One 3 Hour Upper Division General Education Course (3000 or 4000 level) is REQUIRED.<br>Artistic Form, Western Culture, Non-Western Culture & Foreign Language are waived. |                           |   |

Send **HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS, OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS, ACT SCORE and TOEFL SCORE** to:

OUHSC Office of Admissions and Records  
PO Box 26901, LIB 121  
Oklahoma City, OK 73126-0901  
Office Phone: 405-271-2359  
Email: [Admissions@ouhsc.edu](mailto:Admissions@ouhsc.edu)

Send **CAREER STATEMENT and 40-HOUR SHADOWING FORM** to:

Contact: Karen Rucker, Student Program Coordinator  
The University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry  
Department of Dental Hygiene  
PO Box 26901  
Oklahoma City, OK 73126-0901  
Office Phone: 405-271-4435  
Email: [karen-rucker@ouhsc.edu](mailto:karen-rucker@ouhsc.edu)

40-Hour Shadowing Form

Career Statement Form

**Please Visit The University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry Department of Dental Hygiene Website**

**<http://dentistry.ouhsc.edu>**

*Scroll over Prospective Students,  
Programs Offered and click on Dental Hygiene Program*

**Click Here to Return to Dental Hygiene Program Information Packet**

*Contents of this publication are subject to revision without notice. The provisions of this publication do not constitute a contract, express or implied between any applicant, student, or faculty member of the dental hygiene program.*