



DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

The University offers a baccalaureate degree program that consists of ≥ 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. 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. North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association accredit the program.

DENTAL HYGIENE PROFESSION: The 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 2015 median hourly wage was \$34.77 nationally and \$34.26 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 materials must be submitted by January 15th of the year in which admission is sought.**

1. Be in good standing with the last college or university attended.
2. ACT or SAT individual component scores and composite scores.
3. Minimum average GPA or 2.5 on a 4.0 scale with a grade of "C" or better on all specifically required courses.
4. Minimum of 60 semester hours of transferable coursework from an accredited college/university.
5. Foundational coursework (see the back of this document) should be completed by or in progress in the spring semester of the year in which admission is sought.
6. ALL pre-requisite coursework, excluding foundational courses, must be completed by the time the fall semester begins if an offer has been made.
7. Applicants must investigate dental hygiene as a career prior to application by spending a minimum of 40 hours observing a dental hygienist. Observation of a dentist does NOT meet this requirement. Please complete and email the 40 hour shadowing form.
8. Please complete and submit online a University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) application that includes the prioritized site(s) for which the applicant wishes to be considered.
9. Complete and email a typewritten career statement.
10. Submit online two SIGNED letters of recommendation on LETTERHEAD or with writer's address and phone number from individual familiar with applicant's success or potential for successful

- completion of the program.
11. Mail official transcripts from all high schools, colleges and/or universities attended.
 12. If English is the student's second language, a minimum score of 250 is required on the national standardized TOEFL examination.
 13. If you receive an offer of acceptance into the program, it is contingent upon meeting the required "C" in all remaining pre-requisite coursework and a cumulative GPA of 2.5.

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*.**

PREREQUISITE COURSES	
<u>Symbolic and Oral Communications</u>	<u>Natural Sciences</u>
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> COMM 1113 Principles of Communication	BIOL 2234 <i>or</i> BIOL 2255 Human Anatomy
	MBIO 2815 Introduction to Microbiology + Lab
<u>Math: ONE of the following:</u>	HES 2823 Introduction to Nutrition
COMM 2513 Introduction to Statistics <i>or</i> PSY 2003 Understanding Statistics <i>or</i> ECON 2843 Elements of Statistics	
	<u>Humanities: ONE of the following</u>
	HIST 1483 U. S. 1492 to 1865 <i>or</i> HIST 1493 U. S. 1865 to Present
<u>Social Sciences</u>	
PSC 1113 Government of the U. S.	<u>Electives</u>
PSY 1113 Elements of Psychology	As needed to equal 60 total prerequisite hours
SOC 1113 Introduction to Sociology	
GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:	
Artistic Forms (3 hours) * Western Culture (3 hours) * Non-Western Culture (3 hours) *	ONE 3 hr. upper division (3000 or 4000 level) approved general education course
Foreign Language: 2 college semesters <i>or</i> 2 high school years of the same foreign language*	

* Indicates additional general education courses required for students beginning their college education in fall of 1990 or after and those who have not earned bachelor's degree from any U.S. institution or an Oklahoma associate's of art or science degree (excludes applied science).

A Foundational Grade Point Average (FGPA) is computed and used in the selection process

English II	Human Physiology	Human Anatomy	Microbiology
Statistics	Psychology	Nutrition	General Chemistry

Further admissions requirements and application instructions can be found online @:

<http://dentistry.ouhsc.edu>

scroll over Prospective Students and then Programs Offered

Click on Dental Hygiene Program and then Baccalaureate Program

We can be contacted at OU College of Dentistry, Department of Dental Hygiene, PO Box 26901, Oklahoma City, OK 73190; by telephone at (405) 271-4435; or by email at kristy-jurko@ouhsc.edu.

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