



## DENTAL HYGIENE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM

The University offers a baccalaureate degree program that consists of a minimum of 60 hours 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 University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Dentistry ensures that program expectations, learning objectives, and educational outcomes offered at the Oklahoma City campus and by distance at the following three sites: 1) Tri-County Technology Center in Bartlesville, OK, 2) Southern Oklahoma Technology Center in Ardmore, OK, and 3) Western Technology Center in Weatherford, OK, are consistent. Program outcomes between the OKC campus and the aforementioned sites are evaluated yearly by course directors and reported to the department chair and dean of the college. 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 typed Personal 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.
- Complete and submit both the ADEA (American Dental Education Association) DHCAS (Dental Hygiene Centralized Application Service) online application **AND** the supplemental 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.
- Two 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.
- Acceptable TOEFL scores are required of all applicants from countries where English is the second language. This requirement pertains to any person born outside the United States and includes Permanent Residents of the U.S. (green card holders) and Naturalized U.S. Citizens. The College of Dentistry may waive TOEFL scores if the applicant provides evidence of a diploma from an English-speaking high school or a bachelor's degree from a U.S. institution. An official score report must be received by OUHSC Admissions and Records directly from Educational Testing Service. The official reporting number for OUHSC to receive TOEFL scores is 6902.
- Official transcripts from high schools, colleges and/or universities attended are required.
- 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.

### **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>		BIOL 2234 <i>or</i>
COMM 1113 Principles of Communication		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>		
PSY 2003 Understanding Statistics <i>or</i>		<b><u>Humanities: ONE of the following</u></b>
ECON 2843 Elements of Statistics		HIST 1483 U. S. 1492 to 1865 <i>or</i>
		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>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants that have earned an <b>AAS (Associate in Applied Science)</b> degree <b>must complete ALL general education requirements.</b></li> <li>• Applicants that have earned an <b>Associate's Degree</b> from a United States institution, <i>excluding "Applied Sciences"</i>: Artistic Form, Western Culture, Non-Western Culture &amp; Foreign Language are waived. <b><u>One 3-Hour Upper Division General Education Course (3000 or 4000 level) is REQUIRED.</u></b></li> <li>• Applicants that have earned a <b>Bachelor's Degree</b> from a United States institution: <b><u>ALL</u></b> General Education Requirements are waived.</li> </ul>		

**Health Sciences Center Contact:**

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center  
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)

**Department of Dental Hygiene Contact:**

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**For additional information, 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*

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