

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY**

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

The University offers a baccalaureate degree program that consists of at ≥ 60 hrs of prerequisite coursework and two years in the dental hygiene curriculum. Prerequisite courses may be taken at the University of Oklahoma or another accredited university or college. 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. The 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, dental hygienists can be found in numerous other settings, 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 and/ or researcher who conducts clinical studies and analyzes scientific data, 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 the laws of the state.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected that employment prospects for dental hygiene are expected to remain excellent. In fact, the dental hygiene profession is expected to be one of the fastest growing occupations through the year 2012. The national median hourly wage in 2004 was \$28.58 and in Oklahoma for 2004 the median hourly wage was \$28.48. There is considerable freedom for hygienists to select work days and hours. Annual salaries for part-time practitioners vary.

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. Take the ACT or SAT and provide individual component scores and composite score.
3. Have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale with a grade of "C" or better on all required coursework.
4. Have a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework from an accredited college or university.
5. Ideally applicants should have completed the FOUNDATIONAL coursework (see pre-requisite courses) before the January 15 application deadline. Acceptance is based upon completion of foundational coursework by the end of the **spring semester** prior to admission. ALL pre-requisite courses, excluding foundational, must be completed by the time the fall semester begins.
6. Spend a *minimum* of 40 hours **observing a dental hygienist**.
7. Submit a completed University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center **application online** that includes the prioritized site(s) for which the applicant wishes to be considered. <https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=uok-hs>
8. If English is the student's second language, a minimum score of 250 is required on the national standardized TOEFL examination.
9. 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 completed are required (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

Symbolic and Oral Communications

ENGL 1113 Principles of English Comp I
ENGL 1213 Principles of English Comp II
COMM 2613 Public Speaking *or*
COMM 1113 Principles of Communication

Natural Sciences

CHEM 1315 General Chemistry + Lab
ZOO 2124 Human Physiology
ZOO 2234 *or* ZOO 2255 Human Anatomy
MBIO 2815 Introduction to Microbiology + Lab
HES 2823 Introduction to Nutrition

Math: ONE of the following:

COMM 2513 Introduction to Statistics
PSY 2003 Understanding Statistics
ECON 2843 Elements of Statistics

Social Sciences

PSC 1113 Government of the U. S.
PSY 1113 Elements of Psychology
SOC 1113 Introduction to Sociology

Humanities: ONE of the following

HIST 1483 U. S. 1492 to 1865
HIST 1493 U. S. 1865 to Present

Electives

As needed to equal 60 total prerequisite hours

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

Understanding Art Forms (3 hours) *
Western Civilization (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 or 2 high school
years 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://www.dentistry.ouhsc.edu> ~ For Prospective Students~ Programs Offered ~ Dental Hygiene~ 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 @ dental-hygiene@ouhsc.edu.

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. Revised: May 2007