



DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

Baccalaureate Degree in Dental Hygiene (B.S.D.H.)

DENTAL HYGIENE PROFESSION: The registered dental hygienist (R.D.H.) is a licensed 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, educate the patient 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 R.D.H. may also be employed as an educator, a researcher who conducts clinical studies and analyzes scientific data, a corporate representative, or as a provider of continuing education seminars. Dental hygienists may provide care in dental clinics for the underserved, participate in mission trips, or provide educational and preventive services to schoolchildren as allowed by state laws.

DENTAL HYGIENE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: There is considerable freedom for dental hygienists to select employment work schedules. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected dental hygienist employment prospects to remain excellent. According to their data the 2019 mean national hourly wage was \$37.13, and the mean hourly wage in Oklahoma was \$36.66.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM: The University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry's Dental Hygiene program consists of a minimum of 60 hours of college prerequisite courses and two years of dental hygiene curriculum. Prerequisite courses may be taken at The University of Oklahoma or other accredited universities or colleges, as long as courses transfer to our program.

Procedures taught in the curriculum are 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 are consistent at the Oklahoma City campus and by distance technology. Site locations are as follows:

- **The OU Health Sciences Center, College of Dentistry in Oklahoma City**
- **Southern Oklahoma Technology Center in Ardmore, Oklahoma**
- **Tri-County Technology Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma**
- **Western Technology Center in Weatherford, Oklahoma**

During each admissions cycle, 24 students are accepted at the Oklahoma City site, ten students are accepted at the Bartlesville site and six students, each, are accepted at the Ardmore and Weatherford sites. Program outcomes between all sites are evaluated yearly by course directors and reported to the program director and dean of the college. All students attend the same classes via distance technology and have the same clinical and didactic requirements.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates from all sites receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene (B.S.D.H.) 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.

APPLYING TO THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

[OUHSC & ADEA/DHCAS Applications Open November 1st, each year](#)
[Deadline for OUHSC & ADEA/DHCAS Applications is January 15th, each year](#)

- **Applicants with Incomplete Foundational Prerequisite Courses:** Applicants may apply to the program with incomplete foundational prerequisite courses, contingent upon courses being completed with a minimum grade of a “C” and official transcript(s) being provided to OUHSC Admissions & Records Office prior to June 15th of the year in which admission is sought, if an offer is made.
**Prerequisite courses taken during the Spring 2020 semester may have a “P” for passing or “S” for satisfactory due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that the required 2.50 GPA admission requirement still applies.*
FOUNDATIONAL COURSES: *English II, Statistics, General Chemistry, Human Physiology, Human Anatomy, Microbiology, Nutrition, Psychology*
- **Applicants with Incomplete Non-Foundational Prerequisite Courses:** Applicants may apply to the program with incomplete non-foundational prerequisite courses contingent upon courses being completed with a minimum grade of a “C” and official transcript(s) being provided to the OUHSC Admissions & Records Office prior to August 15th of the year in which admission is sought, if an offer is made.
**Prerequisite courses taken during the Spring 2020 Semester may have a “P” for passing or “S” for satisfactory due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that the required 2.50 GPA admission requirement still applies.*
NON-FOUNDATIONAL COURSES: *English I, Public Speaking, Foreign Language, U.S. Govt, Gateway to Belonging, U.S. History, Artistic Form, Western Civilization & Culture, Non-Western Civilization & Culture, Upper Division General Education Course*
- **Minimum Hours:** Applicants must have a minimum of 60 semester hours of transferable courses from an accredited college or university.
- **Minimum GPA:** Applicants must be in good standing with the last college or university attended with a minimum GPA of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale and a minimum grade of a “C” on prerequisite courses. Admission to the program is competitive. Please visit our website to review the statistics for students that have been accepted to our program. **Prerequisite courses taken during the Spring 2020 semester may have a “P” for passing or “S” for satisfactory due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that the required 2.50 GPA admission requirement still applies.*
- **OUR PROGRAM CANNOT ACCEPT APPLICATION MATERIALS:** All materials are collected through the ADEA during the DHCAS application process. Please do not send any of your application materials to the Dental Hygiene Program or OUHSC Admissions & Records.
- **TWO SEPARATE APPLICATIONS ARE REQUIRED:** Complete and submit ***BOTH*** the **ADEA DHCAS** (*American Dental Education Association, Dental Hygiene Centralized Application Service*) application, as well as the **OUHSC Supplemental** (*University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center*) application. When completing the OUHSC application, applicants apply to each site they would like to be considered for. When completing applications for each site desired, it makes no difference what order the applications are submitted. Preference order for sites is submitted during the interview process for those individuals invited to interview. Please visit our website for detailed instructions regarding the application process.
- **TRANSCRIPT SUBMISSION:** Official transcripts from each college or university attended are required during the ADEA DHCAS application process. Applicants are instructed to request transcript(s) using a special transmittal request/submission form during the ADEA DHCAS application process. The form is downloaded during the online application process.
- **PERSONAL STATEMENT:** A one-page personal statement is required and uploaded during the ADEA DHCAS application process. A link with detailed instructions is provided on our website and also given during the online application process.
- **ACT/SAT REQUIRED:** An ACT or SAT composite score is required. Applicants are instructed to upload their results under the Standardized Tests section of the DHCAS application.

- **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** Two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's potential for successful completion of the program are required. Applicants provide email addresses for letter writers during the ADEA DHCAS application process. Letter writers receive submission instructions by email. Applicants are encouraged to check their application status frequently to be sure the recommendation letters have been received by the ADEA DHCAS. Applications remain unverified without the receipt of recommendation letters.
- **ACADEMIC SCORE:** An academic score is used in the interview and admissions selection process. The following components are used to find an applicant's "academic score": Total cumulative GPA, *science GPA, ACT or SAT score, along with a calculation based on how many **foundational courses the applicant has completed.
 - ***SCIENCE COURSES:** General Chemistry, Human Physiology, Human Anatomy, Microbiology and Nutrition
 - ****FOUNDATIONAL COURSES:** English II, Statistics, General Chemistry, Human Physiology, Human Anatomy, Microbiology, Nutrition and Psychology
- **MINIMUM GPA CONTINGENCY:** Offers of acceptance to the program, are contingent upon the applicant meeting the required "C" grade on all incomplete prerequisite courses and maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.50. **Prerequisite courses taken during the Spring 2020 Semester may have a "P" for passing or "S" for satisfactory due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that the required 2.50 GPA admission requirement still applies.*
- **THE TOEFL EXAM IS REQUIRED FOR APPLICANTS TO WHOM ENGLISH IS A SECOND LANGUAGE:** This 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 can provide evidence of a diploma from a U.S. high school or a bachelor's degree from a U.S. institution.
- **ACCEPTABLE TOEFL SCORES:** The official score report showing a paper based TOEFL score of 550 or an Internet based score of 79 must be received by OUHSC Admissions & Records Office directly from the Educational Testing Service. The official reporting number for OUHSC to receive TOEFL exam scores is 6902. **Please note TOEFL scores expire after two years.**
- **NEED MORE INFORMATION?** Please visit our website for full details and instructions.

*Contents of this handout are subject to revision
Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information
www.dentistry.ouhsc.edu*

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

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PREREQUISITE COURSES: Courses listed are required, with a minimum grade of a “C”, and must be included within the minimum 60 semester hours of study. Any exceptions or substitutions must be approved by the program director, college dean or be listed in the official course substitution guide of The University of Oklahoma.

Prerequisite courses taken during the Spring, 2020 Semester may show a “P” for passing or “S” for satisfactory due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that the required 2.50 GPA admission requirement still applies.

PREREQUISITE COURSES	
SYMBOLIC & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:	NATURAL SCIENCES:
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 Intro to Human Anatomy <i>or</i>
COMM 1113 Principles of Communication	BIOL 2255 Human Anatomy
	MBIO 2815 Intro to Microbiology + Lab
	HES 2823 Introduction to Nutrition
MATH: ONE of the following	SOCIAL SCIENCES:
COMM 2513 Introduction to Statistics <i>or</i>	P SC 1113 American Federal Government
PSY 2003 Understanding Statistics <i>or</i>	PSY 1113 Elements of Psychology
ECON 2843 Elements of Statistics <i>or</i>	UCOL 1523 Gateway to Belonging
PSY 2113 Research Methods I: Statistics	
HUMANITIES: ONE of the following	ELECTIVES:
HIST 1483 U.S. 1492 to 1865 <i>or</i>	As needed to equal 60 total prerequisite hours
HIST 1493 U.S. 1865 to Present	
PREREQUISITE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES	
★ ★ ARTISTIC FORM - 3 Hour	
★ ★ WESTERN CIVILIZATION & CULTURE - 3 Hour	
★ ★ NON-WESTERN CIVILIZATION & CULTURE - 3 Hour	
★ ★ FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT	
One of the Following:	
Two Years of the Same Foreign Language in High School <i>or</i> Two Semesters of the Same Foreign Language in College	
★ ONE (1) UPPER DIVISION GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE - 3 hour	
The upper division course must qualify as a general education course to meet requirement. Type of general education course will show in “Gen. Ed.” column on the equivalency tool. http://www.ou.edu/recordsandtranscripts/transfer-credits/transfer-equivalencies	
★ APPLICANTS THAT HAVE EARNED AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE FROM AN OKLAHOMA INSTITUTION: EXCLUDING an Associate’s Degree in “Applied Sciences”, your associate’s degree waives the following Gen Ed requirements: <u>ARTISTIC FORM - WESTERN CIVILIZATION & CULTURE - NON-WESTERN CIVILIZATION & CULTURE - FOREIGN LANGUAGE</u> **3 HOUR UPPER DIVISION GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE IS STILL REQUIRED WITH ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE**	
★ APPLICANTS THAT HAVE EARNED A BACHELOR’S DEGREE FROM A U.S. INSTITUTION: Your bachelor’s degree waives ALL general education course requirements: <u>ARTISTIC FORM - WESTERN CIVILIZATION & CULTURE - NON-WESTERN CIVILIZATION & CULTURE - FOREIGN LANGUAGE - 3 HOUR UPPER DIVISION GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE</u>	

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