

## DENTAL HYGIENE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE ENTRY-LEVEL PROGRAM

A dental hygienist is a licensed professional who works as a member of the oral health care delivery team. Dental hygienists help patients develop and maintain good oral health. For example, they may explain the relationship between diet and oral health or inform patients how to select toothbrushes and show them how to brush and floss their teeth. Hygienists sometimes make a diagnosis and other times prepare clinical and laboratory diagnostic tests for the dentist to interpret.



Dental hygienists remove soft and hard deposits from teeth, teach patients how to practice good oral hygiene, and provide other preventive dental care. They examine patients' teeth and gums, recording the presence of diseases or abnormalities and serve as preventive specialists by promoting oral health and educating diverse client populations about disease prevention. Typical duties include evaluating and charting oral disease and health conditions, planning dental hygiene treatment, removing deposits from the teeth, taking and processing dental x-rays, taking impressions, providing nutritional counseling, and applying preventive agents to the teeth, such as fluoride and sealants.

Dental hygienists use an assortment of tools to complete their tasks. Hand and rotary instruments and ultrasonic devices are used to clean and polish teeth, which includes removing tartar, stains, and plaque. Hygienists take and process digital radiographs that will be used to develop treatment. They may use models of teeth to explain oral hygiene, perform nonsurgical periodontal therapy, or apply cavity-preventative agents such as fluorides and pit and fissure sealants.

Flexible scheduling is a distinctive feature of this job; full-time, part-time, evening, and weekend schedules are common. Dentists frequently hire hygienists to work only 2-3 days a week, so hygienists may hold jobs in more than one dental office.

Dental hygienists rank among the fastest growing occupations. Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow 36 percent through 2018, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. Median annual wages of all dental hygienists were \$68,250 in May 2009. The middle 50 percent earned between \$55,930 and \$81,340. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$45,000 and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$93,820. In Texas, the average hourly wage was \$32.47 and the median salary was \$67,530 in 2009.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Dental Hygiene offers a Bachelor of Science degree program that prepares graduates for licensure and entry into the profession. The program consists of two academic years of upper-level coursework in dental hygiene theory, laboratory, and clinical skills. The Bachelor's program requires students to successfully complete a total of 123 semester hours to earn the degree (includes Texas Core, prerequisites and dental hygiene major courses). Upon completion of the program, graduates are eligible to take dental hygiene licensing examinations for eligibility to practice. The Department of Dental Hygiene is administered under the School of Health Professions.



### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS & PREREQUISITES

Admission to the dental hygiene program is competitive. A maximum of 30 qualified students are admitted to the entry-level BS degree program each year. Prior to admission, applicants must have completed a minimum of 60 hours with a 2.7 GPA (on a 4.0 scale), including the Texas Core Curriculum and the program prerequisites listed below:

- Anatomy with lab *OR* Anatomy & Physiology with lab
- Introductory Chemistry with laboratory
- Microbiology with laboratory
- Physiology with laboratory *OR* Anatomy and Physiology II with laboratory
- Nutrition
- Statistics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Computer Applications or equivalent

Official transcripts from all colleges attended must be submitted to the Application Center by the application deadline date of January 15. If an applicant currently is enrolled in college courses, an official transcript should be sent showing courses that are complete at the time of the application. Any courses that are still in progress must be completed and final transcripts submitted to the Registrar's Office by June 1.



Application materials for admission to the Dental Hygiene entry-level program are accepted from August 1–January 15. After applying online, applicants should submit the following:

- [2 reference forms](#)
- [Resumé/Personal Statement form](#)
- Official transcripts from each college attended

Deadlines:

- Application materials deadline: **January 15**
- Notification of acceptance by: **April**
- Final transcripts deadline: **June 1**

Applicants are encouraged to seek advisement from their college counselors or the Health Professions Welcome Center. For additional information, see the policies and procedures in the School of Health Professions section of the *UTHSCSA Catalog*.

## PROGRAM COSTS

Tuition and required fees for the program are detailed in the *HSC Catalog*. All students are required to purchase a laptop computer chosen by the program from the Health Science Center computer store upon matriculation. In addition to the required tuition and fees of approximately \$16,123 (in-state students), costs for other expenses such as the required textbooks, course manuals, equipment, scrubs, examination fees, and supplies are approximately \$9,885. There is no on-campus housing at the HSC and program expenses do not reflect day-to-day living expenses.

## ENTRY-LEVEL BACHELOR'S DEGREE CURRICULUM

Junior Year	Credit Hours
<b>Fall Semester</b>	
DENH 3004 - Oral Anatomy	2.0
DENH 3006 - Preclinical Dental Hygiene	2.0

DENH 3018 - Dental Radiography	3.0
DENH 3019 – Preventive Dental Hygiene Theory	3.0
DENH 3023 - Introduction to Clinical Theory	3.0
DENH 3033 - Structures of the Head and Neck	2.0
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>15.0</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>	
DENH 3020 - Clinic I Seminar	2.0
DENH 3021 - Clinic I Practicum	3.0
DENH 3034 - Periodontics	3.0
DENH 3035 - Pharmacotherapeutics	4.0
DENH 3040 - Histology/Embryology	2.0
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>14.0</b>
<b>Summer Session</b>	
DENH 3022 - Dental Materials	3.0
DENH 4018 - Introduction to Research	3.0
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Senior Year</b>	
<b>Fall Semester</b>	
DENH 4012 - Oral Pathology	3.0
DENH 4020 - Clinic II Seminar	2.0
DENH 4021 - Community Oral Health Practicum I	4.0
DENH 4022 - Clinic II Practicum	3.0
DENH 4025 - Advanced Periodontics	3.0
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>15.0</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>	
DENH 4015 - Clinic III Practicum	3.0
DENH 4111 - Current Issues in Dental Hygiene	3.0
DENH 4016 - Clinic III Seminar	2.0
DENH 4017 - Community Oral Health Practicum II	2.0
DENH 4019 - Practice Management	2.0
DENH 4026 - Healthcare Ethics	1.0
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>13.0</b>
<b>Program Total for Entry-Level Bachelor of Science</b>	
	<b>63.0</b>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about prerequisite courses, waivers, equivalencies and transcript evaluations:

### School of Health Professions Welcome Center

E-mail: [SHPwelcome@uthscsa.edu](mailto:SHPwelcome@uthscsa.edu)  
 Phone: 210-567-8744 or toll free 1-866-802-6288  
<http://SHPwelcome.uthscsa.edu>

### Department of Dental Hygiene

(210) 567-8820  
<http://www.uthscsa.edu/shp/dh/>

### Office of Student Services Application Center

E-mail: [AppCenter@uthscsa.edu](mailto:AppCenter@uthscsa.edu)  
 Phone: 210-567-2633  
[http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects\\_application\\_center.aspx](http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects_application_center.aspx)