Dental Hygiene

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Dental Hygiene

The School of Dentistry’s mission is to educate dental and dental hygiene professionals; discover new knowledge, technology, and skills; and apply those discoveries to the dental and dental hygiene professions and the communities they serve.

The School of Dentistry celebrated its centennial in 1988. In its long history, the school has developed an international reputation for education, research, and service. The School of Dentistry’s professional program in dental hygiene, established in 1919, has an illustrious record of accomplishment and innovation and is one of the country’s premiere programs. It is fully accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and is the only dental hygiene program in Minnesota that grants a baccalaureate degree and is affiliated with a school of dentistry.

Dental hygienists are preventive oral health professionals who have graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program in an institution of higher education and are licensed by states to practice dental hygiene. They provide educational, clinical, research, administrative, consumer advocacy, change agent, and therapeutic services supporting total health through the promotion of optimal oral health.

Dental hygienists practice in settings such as private dental offices and clinics; federal, state, and local health departments or associated institutions; hospitals and long-term care facilities; school districts or departments of education; educational programs for dental, dental hygiene, and dental assisting students; private business or industry; correctional facilities; private and public centers for pediatric, geriatric, and other groups or individuals with special needs; and health maintenance organizations.

The dental hygiene curriculum seeks to train students in a variety of dental hygiene roles and health care settings.

The program emphasizes a strong commitment to community outreach and service, and to intellectual development and critical thinking. Graduates complete a baccalaureate degree that blends a solid dental hygiene education with the biological, behavioral, and social sciences, and the liberal arts.

The dental hygiene curriculum consists of the preprofessional program in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), or its equivalent at some other regionally accredited institution, and the professional program in the School of Dentistry Division of Dental Hygiene.

The Division of Dental Hygiene also offers a baccalaureate degree completion program for graduates of accredited associate degree programs in dental hygiene who wish to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Admission

The Division of Dental Hygiene sets its standards and requirements for admission. A strong interest in the natural sciences, and the social and behavioral sciences is required. The division recommends that applicants have a genuine interest in human services and promoting public health and welfare.

The curriculum in dental hygiene consists of the preprofessional program in CLA or its equivalent at another regionally accredited institution and the professional program in the Division of Dental Hygiene.

Admission to the preprofessional program requires the student to meet the admissions criteria of individual colleges within the University and is subject to CLA’s academic regulations or their equivalent at another institution. Admission to the preprofessional program does not guarantee admission to the professional program.

Admission to the professional program is competitive and occurs once a year for fall semester entry. Applications are accepted from December 1 of the desired year of entry until March 1. Applications received after the deadline are considered for the alternate list only.

Requirements for application include: high school graduate; ACT, PSAT, or SAT scores; transcripts of all high school and college courses; minimum 2.00 GPA (cumulative, preprofessional, and science coursework); and evidence of plans for completion of specified preprofessional coursework before proposed entry. Documentation indicating completion of all required preprofessional courses must be submitted to the Division of Dental Hygiene by August 15 of year of proposed entry.

Preference is given to applicants who have completed the University of Minnesota’s high school preparation requirements. See “Freshman Admission” in the General Information section of this catalog. If not completed before admission into the program, these requirements must be completed during the summers and before graduation.

Students enrolled at the University apply by submitting an Application for Change of College or Status form to the University’s Office of Admissions. Students attending other regionally accredited colleges and universities apply by submitting the Application for Undergraduate Admission at <admissions.tc.umn.edu> on the World Wide Web or from the Office of Admissions. Application forms and change of college forms are available from the Office of Admissions, University of Minnesota, 240 Williamson Hall, 231 Pillsbury Drive S. E., Minneapolis, MN 55455, or call (612) 625-2006.

The Division of Dental Hygiene requires all applicants who are not native speakers of English to submit written evidence of either a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score or a Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) score. A TOEFL score of at least 550 (213 on the computer-based exam) or a MELAB score of at least 80 is required. The TOEFL/ MELAB must have been administered within two years before the date of application to the Division of Dental Hygiene.

To register for the TOEFL, contact the agency that handles TOEFL registration in your country or write to the Educational Testing Service (Box 899, Princeton, NJ 0854) at least 10 weeks before any scheduled test date. If you live in the Twin Cities area, you may register for the MELAB with the Minnesota English Center, 320 16th Avenue S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, or call (612) 624-1503. To register for the MELAB outside the Twin Cities area, contact the English
The School of Dentistry Division of Dental Hygiene offers two program tracks leading to a bachelor of science degree in dental hygiene.

The B.S. degree program track is designed for entry-level students; the B.S. degree-completion program track is tailored to students who have completed an associate degree program in dental hygiene at a regionally accredited institution and who want to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Policies

Students who have been admitted to the program must submit documentation of immunizations required by the University and are strongly encouraged to have completed a physical assessment examination. Students must provide evidence of completion of a Hepatitis B vaccination and tuberculin test or chest X-ray during the first year in the program.

Dental hygiene students must undergo a criminal background study (Criminal Background Study Under State Law, Minnesota Vulnerable Adult Act, as amended 1995 and 1996), in order to have direct contact with patients and residents in hospitals, extended care facilities, and other health care facilities licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health. Failure to pass this background study is grounds for dismissal from the program.

Graduation Requirements

The bachelor’s degree will be recommended for students who have been formally admitted to the entry-level or the degree-completion program, who earn a minimum GPA of 2.00, and have completed all of the required work and the total number of credits specified for the curriculum.

Students with a minimum GPA of 3.75 in upper division courses are granted their degree “with distinction.” Students with a minimum GPA of 3.90 in upper division courses are granted their degree “with high distinction.”

Licensure and Placement

Graduates are eligible for licensure after successfully completing a written National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and a clinical examination, both of which are given on the University’s Minneapolis campus. The licensed dental hygienist practices in accordance with the requirements of individual state dental practice acts. In many states, a dental hygienist must participate in continuing education courses for license renewal.

The School of Dentistry provides placement assistance to dental hygiene graduates through the Dental Hygiene Office at (612) 625-9121.

Advising

The Division of Dental Hygiene offers advising services to students currently enrolled or interested in dental hygiene. Group advising sessions are held the first Tuesday of each month, on an appointment basis. To schedule an appointment with a dental hygiene academic adviser, call (612) 625-9121 or write 9-436 Malcolm Moos Health Sciences Tower, 515 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455; fax: (612) 626-6096. In addition, the division works closely with CLA’s pre-health science advisers in 30 Johnston Hall at (612) 624-9006.

The Division of Dental Hygiene provides a student support program to enhance the success of its students. Student performance is monitored and academic assistance is provided through tutoring and consultation. Counseling and advising are available through the division, University Counseling & Consulting Services, and faculty of the student’s choosing.

Special Learning Opportunities and Resources

Community Outreach Clinics—Dental hygiene students are required to participate in a number of off-campus Twin Cities and out-state Minnesota week-long community clinics providing dental hygiene care to populations who typically do not have sufficient access to dental care.

Jamaica Dental Mission—This program was initiated in 1986 in response to a report that cited Jamaicans as having one of the highest rates of dental caries and periodontal diseases in the world due to a diet very high in sugar, an unfluoridated water supply, and a severe shortage of dental and dental hygiene professionals.

Each year, selected students raise funds to cover the expense of sending faculty, dental hygiene and dental students, and supplies to the island to educate and treat patients seeking care. A wide range of preventive and restorative care is provided.

While conditions are primitive, this ten-day mission provides students with some unique life and real-world experiences.

Migrant—Each year, about 5,000 children accompany 20,000 seasonal agricultural workers who come to Minnesota during the summer months. The migratory nature of this population makes access to dental services extremely difficult.

In 1996, Migrant '96 was initiated to bring dental care to migrant children in western Minnesota. These children have dental caries rates nearly three times that of mainstream American children. Migrant continues as a summer project for selected dental hygiene and dental students, faculty, and staff providing diagnostic, preventive, and restorative services for several hundred children during a 15-day period.

Summer Research Fellowships—The School of Dentistry Summer Research Fellowship Program provides research experiences for exceptional dental hygiene and dental students with an interest in research careers and postgraduate research training.
Sophomore and junior dental hygiene students are invited to apply for research fellowship positions in the spring of each year. If selected, they are assigned to work with a faculty mentor for the summer. During a ten-week period, students collect and analyze data, undertake a structured research project, and prepare a formal report. Research fellows attend a weekly research training seminar where they learn research methods. They also evaluate selected journal articles and review abstracts and oral presentations of former trainees. About 20 students receive stipends each summer.

**Continuing Dental Hygiene Education**—Students are encouraged to participate in selected continuing education courses during their senior year on a space-available basis. These courses expose seniors to a broad scope of information and technology from a variety of local and national speakers. Students gain by selecting their own educational experiences and interacting with practicing dental hygienists and dentists.

**Union Gospel Mission**—Two evenings each week, School of Dentistry dental hygiene and dental student and staff volunteers provide dental hygiene and dental care for the lower-income and homeless population in St. Paul’s inner city.

**Scholarships and Awards**

Several scholarships and awards are presented annually by division faculty to selected dental hygiene students. For more information, call (612) 625-9121.

**Student Organizations**

**School of Dentistry Student Council**—Each year dental hygiene and dental students elect the School of Dentistry Council of Students, which discusses matters of mutual interest with faculty advisers and promotes many projects and activities.

**Student Affairs Committee**—This committee is composed of dental hygiene and dental students and faculty members and is responsible for students’ concerns such as membership in local and national organizations, ethics, counseling, tutorial assistance, questions on educational programs, financial aid, publications, housing, and alumni relations.

**Student American Dental Hygienists’ Association**—Dental hygiene students can participate in the student chapter of the national association, which represents concerns and issues related to the dental hygiene profession. Membership fees entitle students to various journals and special services.

**Council for Health Interdisciplinary Participation (CHIP)**—Dental hygiene students are encouraged to participate in the activities of the Academic Health Center CHIP.

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**Directory**

**Administrative Offices**

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**School of Dentistry Web Page**
<www.umn.edu/dental>
Dental Hygiene

Department of Preventive Sciences

B.S.

Two program tracks are available, both leading to a B.S. degree in dental hygiene:

• B.S. degree program, for entry-level students
• B.S. degree-completion program, for students who have completed an associate degree program in dental hygiene at a regionally accredited institution and who want to earn a baccalaureate degree

The program blends a solid dental hygiene education with study of the biological, behavioral, and social sciences, and the liberal arts.

Degree Requirements

To complete the degree, students must complete at least 120 credits.

The two program tracks include two separate sets of major credit requirements, as follows:

• Students in the B.S. degree program for entry-level students must complete at least 85 credits in the major.

• Students in the B.S. degree-completion program must complete at least 30 credits in the major. Students must also complete at least 50 upper division credits; most credits completed at other schools will apply toward this total. Based on petition and determined by the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee, up to 20 credits from the associate degree program may be accepted as upper division credits.

Students in this program must complete at least 30 semester credits in residency at the University of Minnesota.

Required Courses

Students in the B.S. degree program for entry-level students must complete the following requirements:

• Preprofessional program in CLA or its equivalent at some other regionally accredited institution (32 cr)
  Requirements include courses in anatomy, biology, chemistry, composition, nutrition, psychology, sociology, speech, and statistics. Lists of specific courses are available from the School of Dentistry’s Division of Dental Hygiene.

• Liberal education requirements for a B.S. degree (20-30 cr)

• Professional program in the School of Dentistry’s Division of Dental Hygiene (85 cr), including the following courses:
  DH 2111—Dental Anatomy
  DH 2121—The Dental Hygiene Care Process: Clinical Application I
  DH 2132—Head and Neck Anatomy
  DH 2211—Oral Histology and Embryology
  DH 2212—Dental Hygienist-Patient Relationship
  DH 2221—Periodontology
  DH 2222—The Dental Hygiene Care Process: Clinical Application II
  DH 2231—Cariology
  DH 2232—General and Oral Pathology
  DH 2235—Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
  DH 3111—Biomaterials for the Dental Hygienist
  DH 3123—The Dental Hygiene Care Process: Clinical Application III
  DH 3126—Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology: Clinic I
  DH 3131—Periodontology I Lecture
  DH 3132—Applied Nutrition in Dental Hygiene Care
  DH 3134—Dental Hygiene Care for Special Needs Patients: I
  DH 3135—Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology: Theory, Principles and Radiographic Analysis
  DH 3221—Local Anesthesia and Pain Management
  DH 3224—The Dental Hygiene Care Process: Clinical Application IV
  DH 3227—Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology: Clinic II
  DH 3231—Research Methods in Dental Hygiene
  DH 3235—Dental Hygiene Care for Special Needs Patients: II
  DH 4125—The Dental Hygiene Care Process: Clinical Application V
  DH 4128—Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology: Clinic III
  DH 4131—Epidemiology, Prevention, Dental Public Health, and Community Outreach
  DH 4132—Ethics, Jurisprudence, and Principles of Practice
  DH 4137—Patient Management IV (PCG)
  DH 4226—The Dental Hygiene Care Process: Clinical Application VI
  DH 4229—Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology: Clinic IV
  DH 4231—Periodontology III Lecture
  DH 4232—Community Outreach
  DH 4233—Legislative, Social, Economic, and Practice Factors in Oral Health
  DH 4238—Patient Management IV (PCG)
  BioC 1001—Elementary Biochemistry
  MiB 4001—Microorganisms and Disease
  PubH 3001—Personal and Community Health
  Phcl 3001—Pharmacology
  Phsl 3051—Human Physiology

Students in the B.S. degree-completion program must fulfill the following requirements:

• Associate degree program in dental hygiene at an accredited institution (about 60-74 semester credits)

• University liberal education requirements for a B.S. degree (20-30 cr)

• Electives approved by adviser, as needed to fulfill the 120-credit requirement

• Core dental hygiene curriculum (at least 30 cr), as follows:
  DH 3131—Periodontology I Lecture
  DH 3231—Research Methods in Dental Hygiene
  DH 4231—Periodontology III Lecture
  DH 4292—Educational Philosophy and Program Planning
  DH 4293—Directed Study
  DH 4294—Directed Research
  DH 4295—Information Technology
  DH 4296—Special Topics
  DH 4297—Topics in Interdisciplinary Health Care
  DH 4298—Dental Hygiene Process of Care: Clinical Application
  DH 4299—Selected Topics in Patient Education
  DH 4300—Field/Practice Externship