

Application & Information Packet



COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION,
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Bachelor of Science Degree in
Dental Hygiene
Degree Completion

Please email application to: UAFS.HealthSciences@uafs.edu

Application for Admission
Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene

1. Complete this application. (Type or print legibly)
2. If classes are in progress at another institution, please attach a schedule of those classes.

Name _____
Last First Middle Maiden

Cell Phone# _____ Home Phone# _____ Work Phone# _____

E-mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____
Street Number or P O Box City State Zip

Student ID# _____ Date of Birth _____

1. Date/college of RDH certificate: _____
2. States licensed in and license #: _____
3. Licenses in good standing? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor ☐ Yes ☐ No and/or felony? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*Do you have any pending cases? ☐ Yes ☐ No

List all Colleges, Universities, or Other Schools Attended:

Institution	Dates Attended	Hrs. Attempted	GPA
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			

* I understand that I shall not be considered for the program until I have been admitted to UAFS and submitted all required documentation. I understand that any notification of admission will be contingent upon a background check and drug screen. Further, I understand acceptance is pending successful completion off all prerequisite courses. I understand and have read the Dental Hygiene Program Statement.

I, the below signed individual, hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and ability, the information in this application is true and factual. I understand that false, misleading, or incomplete statements could lead to my subsequent dismissal or rejection as a dental hygiene student.

Student Signature

Date

UAFS Dental Hygiene Application Checklist:

Have you:

- _____ Applied to be a student on the UAFS website?
- _____ Submitted current transcripts from all colleges attended (not including UAFS)?
- _____ Signed the BSDH Degree Completion Program Statement?
- _____ Signed the BSDH Degree Completion degree plan for the current year?
- _____ Have a current, unencumbered RDH license in good standing?
- _____ Maintained a minimum 2.5 Cumulative GPA?
- _____ Had four science courses with a lab within five years or had the science courses evaluated by the Executive Director or DHS Advising Coordinator?
- _____ Filled out and turned in the Dental Hygiene application by July 1 or December 1?

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene **PROGRAM STATEMENT**

The Dental Hygiene Program is a part of the College of Health Sciences (CHS) at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith (UAFS). The Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Students desiring admission to the Dental Hygiene Program need to be aware of and understand the following information related to admission, progression, and graduation.

ADMISSION

Admission Criteria

To be considered for admission into the program, students must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Complete university admission requirements to include submission of official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
- 2) Have a minimum 2.50 cumulative grade point average (GPA) for all college course work (including transfer work and excluding developmental courses) and be in good academic standing
- 3) Complete required prerequisite courses for the Dental Hygiene Program with a minimum of "C" or higher in each course prior to the application deadline
- 4) Students may not attempt any course more than twice and be eligible for admission into the Dental Hygiene Program
- 5) Sciences courses taken more than five years prior to program application will not be eligible
- 6) All science courses must have been completed with a lab requirement
- 7) 88 hours of previous coursework including dental hygiene coursework will be required as pre-requisite courses in the subjects listed on the degree plan

NOTE: The application process for the Dental Hygiene Program requires a criminal background check. Licensure in Arkansas also requires a state and federal criminal background check.

Application

Admission into the Dental Hygiene Program is competitive. Students who meet the minimum criteria identified above are eligible to submit an application for admission.

- 1) **Application Deadline** - July 1 for fall entry into the program, Dec 1 for spring entry to the program
- 2) Eligible students must submit an application for admission to the Advising Coordinator for the College of Health Sciences prior to the application deadline.

Selection

Selection is based on the following weighted system:

Phase One

- Quality Points earned for prescribed courses on the Dental Hygiene degree plan* 60%
- Cumulative GPA 40%

*If a student has received college credit through Advanced Placement (AP) or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) for a course, the student will be given quality points equivalent to a grade of "A" for ranking purposes.

NOTE: In the event that applicants have identical ranking scores, priority will be given to the student with the highest points combining cumulative GPA and Quality Points GPA. The top applicants will be admitted on space availability.

Performance Requirements

In order to meet the expected student learning outcomes for the dental hygiene program, the student must be able to meet the following performance requirements:

- **Motor skills/physical health:** Students must possess sufficient physical ability and health in order to adequately acquire technical skills for the practice of dental hygiene that includes: specific diagnostic procedures; manipulation of hand

instruments and air driven instruments utilizing fine motor skills; hand and eye coordination; superior hand and finger dexterity; operating dental equipment; providing basic life support if needed; lifting or assisting patients into the dental chair if needed; ability to sit or stand for long periods of time; ability to work on average 8 hours per day or more; ability for repetitive motions utilizing hand, arm and shoulders for performance of the various oral hygiene procedures. This list provides some but not all of possible abilities that the student must possess in order to provide safe treatment for patients.

- **Sensory/Observation Ability:** Students must have visual acuity, either corrected or normal, with the ability to read syringes, labels, instructions and various equipment utilized by the dental hygienist. The student should also be able to see with normal color spectrums to differentiate different color coded equipment and supplies. The student must have auditory function that is sufficient to understand normal speaking voices without viewing the speaker's face and take/hear blood pressure with a stethoscope.
- **Communication:** Students must possess the ability to communicate effectively through reading, speaking, and writing with patients, peers, and faculty in order to provide effective patient care. Communication encompasses speaking as well as reading and assimilating information. The student should have sufficient speaking skills as well as the ability to engage in conversation. Communication skills are essential for gathering pertinent information throughout the dental hygiene process of care and to gather information for evidence based practice. Students must be able to write clearly and legibly, providing concise information for documentation on all patient treatment records.
- **Cognition/Intellectual/Conceptual:** Students must possess the ability to use analytical/critical-thinking skills to draw conclusions or solve problems, to organize, analyze, and make information useful by employing mathematics, and to use technology as a learning resource and for information management. Students should be able to follow appropriate sequences for delivery of dental hygiene care and to multi-task as needed to complete processes in a timely fashion.
- **Behavioral/Social:** Students must possess maturity and emotional stability to provide the patient with effective and safe care. Demeanor should be friendly, positive and reassuring regardless of the situation. Additionally, students must demonstrate good judgment, compassion and respect for varying ages, conditions and ethnicities. Appropriate behavior is demonstrated by the ability to respond to suggestions in a positive manner, being flexible and responsive to modifications deemed necessary, prompt completion of patient related responsibilities and effective rapport with patients, peers and faculty. Students' behavior should also demonstrate compliance with all procedures and policies as well as maintaining standards of academic integrity.

Program Costs

An estimated expense sheet can be found at <http://health.uafs.edu/health/program-expenses-dental-hygiene>. Applicants requiring financial aid should seek assistance through the UAFS Financial Aid Office. Information on financial aid can be found at <http://admissions.uafs.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid>.

PROGRESSION

Science courses taken more than five years prior to entering the program will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Executive Director of the Dental Hygiene Program and the Dean of the College of Health Sciences. See your advisor for more information and to request a science course evaluation.

The Dental Hygiene Program is competency based. To continue in the program, a student must maintain a 75 percent exam average through each didactic course.

A student dropped for academic or any other reason may apply for readmission if in compliance with the UAFS Student Academic Progress Policy as outlined in the course catalog. A student who discontinues the dental hygiene sequence for academic or any other reason must petition for readmission to the Dental Hygiene Program. The readmission requirements are found in the Dental Hygiene Program Clinical Policies and Procedure Manual (see the Readmission Criteria & Procedure Policy). The student is not guaranteed a position for readmission. A student who is readmitted is accountable for the degree requirements in effect at the time of readmission.

A grade of "C" or better is required in ALL courses applicable to the Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene.

GRADUATION

To earn a Dental Hygiene degree, a student must earn a grade of "C" or better in all required courses applicable to the Dental Hygiene Program; earn a minimum of 2.00 cumulative GPA in all course work required for the major; and earn a minimum of a 2.00 cumulative GPA on all work attempted at the University. The student must meet with the Advising Coordinator to complete the graduation application and audit **one year** prior to intended graduation.

To apply for licensure in the state of Arkansas, the student must be a graduate of a dental hygiene program accredited by the American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The UAFS Dental Hygiene Program meets this requirement.

NOTE: RDH licensure requires a state and federal criminal background check. A person shall not be eligible to receive or hold

a license to practice dentistry or another health care profession issued by the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners if the person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere or has been found guilty of either an infamous crime that would impact his or her ability to practice dentistry or oral hygiene in the State of Arkansas or a felony, regardless of whether the conviction has been sealed, expunged, or pardoned (see Addendum).

I have read and understand this program statement.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Note: Information is subject to change. Please check for current information before applying to the program.

ADDENDUM

The Dental Practice Act/Dental Corporation Act/Rules & Regulations

Subchapter 8

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

17-82-801 Criminal Background Check

17-82-802 License eligibility

17-82-803 Waiver

17-82-804 Background records sealed

17-82-801 CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK. (a) (1) Beginning July 1, 2011, every person applying for a license or renewal of a license issued by the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners shall provide written authorization to the board to allow the Department of Arkansas State Police to release the results of state and federal criminal history background check reports to the board. (2) The applicant shall pay the fees associated with the background checks. (b) (1) The Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police shall perform the state criminal background check. (2) The federal background check shall be requested from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and shall include the taking of fingerprints of the applicant. (c) Upon completion of the criminal background checks, the Identification Bureau shall forward to the board all releasable information obtained concerning the applicant. (d) At the conclusion of any background check under this section, the Identification Bureau shall retain the fingerprinting card of the applicant until notified by the board that the person is no longer licensed.

17-82-802 LICENSE ELIGIBILITY. A person shall not be eligible to receive or hold a license to practice dentistry or another health care profession issued by the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners if the person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere or has been found guilty of either an infamous crime that would impact his or her ability to practice dentistry or oral hygiene in the State of Arkansas or a felony, regardless of whether the conviction has been sealed, expunged, or pardoned.

17-82-803 WAIVER. (a) Section 17-82-802 may be waived by the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners upon the request of: (1) An affected applicant for licensure; or (2) The person holding the license subject to revocation. (b) The board may consider the following circumstances when considering a waiver, including without limitation: (1) The age at which the crime was committed; (2) The circumstances surrounding the crime; (3) The length of time since the crime; (4) Subsequent work history; (5) Employment references; (6) Character references; and (7) Other evidence demonstrating that the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of the public.

17-82-804 BACKGROUND RECORDS SEALED. (a) A background record received by the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners from the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police shall not be available for examination except by: (1) An affected applicant for licensure or his or her authorized representative; or (2) A person whose license is subject to revocation or his or her authorized representative. (b) A record, file, or document shall not be removed from the custody of the department.

History. Act 47, 2011.

The Dental Practice Act/Dental Corporation Act/Rules & Regulations can be viewed, in its entirety, at <http://www.asbde.org>.

Q. How do I get into the Dental Hygiene Program?

Applications are accepted in each spring and fall semesters for entrance into the BSDH degree completion program. Applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted prior to the application deadline of July 1 (for fall entry) and Dec 1 (for spring entry).

Q. When may I enter the Dental Hygiene Program?

Courses will begin course work in August for the fall semester and January for the spring semester.

Q. Are there any prerequisite courses to be taken before entering the program?

Yes. You must hold a current unencumbered RDH license and the license must be held in good standing in your state. General education courses required on the degree plan and dental hygiene courses from the program you graduated from will be held in excrow. A good foundation in all prescribed courses is essential for success in the Dental Hygiene Program. See the degree plan for the prerequisite courses.

Q. How are applicants selected?

Applicants who have completed the application process, submitted all the documentation, applied to UAFS and meet the other admission criteria will be admitted on space availability from rankings of their cumulative GPA and Quality Points GPA. If their accrued points in the selection system are high enough and there is space available, they will be admitted.

Q. What are the costs of the program?

Estimated cost of attendance for in-state residents (includes AR, OK, MO, TN, MS, LA, TX) and out-of-state residents may be viewed at <http://health.uafs.edu/health/program-expenses-dental-hygiene>. Costs may change without notice, other fees may apply, and additional costs may be incurred throughout the program's entirety. See the Dental Hygiene web page for more details.