

# Application & Information Packet

# UAFS<sup>TM</sup>

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS - FORT SMITH

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College of Health Sciences

Bachelor of Science Degree in  
**Dental Hygiene**

Please email application to: [UAFS.HealthSciences@uafs.edu](mailto:UAFS.HealthSciences@uafs.edu)



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 CHS Dental Hygiene Program Statement?
- Signed the CHS Dental Hygiene degree plan for the current year?
- Completed your OBS hours and checked with the Dental Hygiene Administrative Assistant to ensure they are in your file? (479-788-7270)
- Taken the PSB?
- Maintained a 2.5 Cumulative GPA?
- Taken classes with the same subject and course number no more than twice?
- Filled out and turned in the Dental Hygiene application by May 20?



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS - FORT SMITH

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## 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) Take the Psychological Services Bureau (PSB) Health Occupations Aptitude Examination. For more information about testing, go to <https://academics.uafs.edu/academic-success/psychological-services-bureau-psb>
- 5) Submit Dental Office Observation Verification Form (verification forms may be used for two years after the dates of observation)
- 6) Students may not attempt any course more than twice and be eligible for admission into the Dental Hygiene Program

**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** - May 20 for fall entry into 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\* 40%
- Score earned on the PSB Exam 30%
- Cumulative GPA 30%

\*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 cumulative GPA. The top 25 applicants after Phase One of the selection process will proceed to Phase Two.

##### Phase Two:

- Interview

Interviews will be conducted by a dental hygiene selection committee. Candidates will be evaluated based on overall professionalism, oral and written communication skills, and ability to meet the program requirements.

The panel will select a maximum of sixteen students that demonstrate the following:

- Potential to succeed in the program
- Potential to meet the didactic and clinical rigors of the program
- Potential to demonstrate the necessary interpersonal skills to work as a team and interact with clients of varying ages and backgrounds
- Potential to successfully complete the National Board and clinical licensure examinations
- Potential to be a viable part of the healthcare and dental fields

## 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>.

## Additional Documentation

Students admitted into the Dental Hygiene Program must submit the following additional documentation prior to fall entry:

- Health Care Provider Statement/Medical Release form
- Proof of immunizations
- CPR Certification: American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (BLS)
- Criminal Background Check
- Drug Screen

## 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 average in clinical performance and 75 percent 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 one year prior to intended graduation.

After being granted the Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene, the student is eligible to sit for the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination to become a registered dental hygienist.

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.

At the end of the program, the student will take the written National Board administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) at Pearson Vue Testing Centers and a clinical examination through the Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA) or Council of Interstate Testing Agencies or other clinical board accepted by Arkansas if they desire to practice in Arkansas or the Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) if they desire to practice in Oklahoma.

Additional information on the written National Board and the clinical boards may be found at <http://www.ada.org/en/jcnde/examinations/national-board-dental-hygiene-examination> and <http://www.adha.org/licensure>.

All fees and registration associated with board examinations are the responsibility of the graduate and are not part of the requirements for graduation from the program.

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>.



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## DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

### Frequently Asked Questions

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

Applications are accepted in each spring semester for entrance into the program. Applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted prior to the application deadline.

**Q. When may I enter the Dental Hygiene Program?**

Each year one class is admitted in May and will begin course work in the fall semester.

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

Yes. Some of the courses are general education courses required for a bachelor degree in Arkansas. 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 and meet the admission criteria will be invited to interview if their accrued points in the selection system (Phase One) are high enough. Sixteen students will be selected for admission following the interview process (Phase Two).

**Q. How much dental office observation should I try to get?**

Twenty-five hours is the minimum required which includes five hours with a dentist and twenty hours with at least two dental hygienists from two different dental offices. Dental Office Observation Verification forms must be submitted prior to the application deadline. These forms must be submitted by the office (not the applicant) that the applicant has observed. Verification forms that are not submitted correctly will not be considered.

**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.



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**DENTAL OFFICE OBSERVATION VERIFICATION FORM**

One of the criteria for applying to the UAFS Dental Hygiene Program is dental office observation. It is important for the applicant to be familiar with the dental office environment and the functions of the dental team. *Twenty-five (25) hours of observation are required: 20 hours must be with two or more dental hygienists from at least 2 different dental offices (no more than 10 hours observing a single hygienist) and 5 hours of observation with a dentist.*

\*Please complete the following information to verify the experience for their file. You must mail, fax or email this form to the addresses below. Please write legibly. You may be contacted for verification. We ask that the applicant does not observe in the dental office of a family member. **\*\*THIS FORM IS NOT VALID IF RETURNED BY THE APPLICANT; it must be postmarked before May 20.**

**APPLICANT'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

DENTAL OFFICE/ADDRESS/ TELEPHONE	DATES	HOURS - HYGIENIST	HOURS - DENTIST	SIGNATURE OF DENTIST/HYGIENIST
<b>TOTALS</b>				

Please provide a rating in terms of the following:

Characteristic	Excellent	Average	Poor	Comments
Professional attire and grooming				
Communication skills				
Punctuality				
Interest in procedures being observed				

**MAIL, EMAIL OR FAX DIRECTLY TO:**  
 University of Arkansas - Fort Smith  
 College of Health Sciences Advising Coordinator  
 5210 Grand Ave., P.O. Box 3649  
 Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649

Email: [teeth@uafs.edu](mailto:teeth@uafs.edu)  
 Fax: 479-424-6270

# Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Program

## Admission, Selection, and Progression Chart

### PRE-ADMISSION

- Students are admitted to UAFS through the *Office of Admissions and School Relations*
- Students are advised by the ROAR First-Year Advising Center through the first 24 credit hours

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- 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) Take the PSB Health Occupations Aptitude Exam
- 5) Submit Dental Office Observation Verification Form (verification forms may be used for two years after the dates of observation)
- 6) Students may not attempt any course more than twice and be eligible for admission into the Dental Hygiene Program

**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.

### PREREQUISITE COURSES

ENGL	1203	Composition I
MATH	1403	College Algebra
SPCH	1203	Intro to Speech Communication
PSYC	1163	General Psychology
CHEM	1303/1301	Chemical Principles/Lab*
ENGL	1213	Composition II
ITA Requirement – 2 hrs (See Degree Plan notes)		
BIOL	2503/2501	General Microbiology/Lab*
RHET	3203	Textual Research Methods
MCOM	2223	Communication Theory
SOCI	2753	Introduction to Sociology
PSYC	2963	Life Span Developmental Psychology
BIOL	2203/2201	Human Anatomy/Lab*
BIOL	2213/2211	Human Physiology/Lab*
SPAN	1304	Beginning Spanish I
STAT	2503	Probability & Statistics I

\*Science courses taken more than five years prior to entering the program will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Executive Director and the Dean. See your advisor for more information and to request a science course evaluation.

### ACCEPTANCE

Upon acceptance into the program, students must submit additional documentation:

- 1) Health Care Provider Statement/Medical Release Form
- 2) Proof of current immunizations
- 3) CPR certification: American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (BLS)
- 4) Criminal background check
- 5) Drug Screen

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Students who meet the admission criteria are eligible to submit an application for admission.

- 1) **Application Deadline** –May 20 for fall entry into 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 is based on the following weighted system:

#### **Phase One**

- **30%** Score earned on the PSB Exam
- **40%** Quality Points (244 points possible)
- **30%** Cumulative GPA

Applicants ranked in the top 25 after Phase One will proceed to Phase Two.

In the event of identical scores, preferences will be given to the student with the highest **cumulative GPA**.

#### **Phase Two**

- Interview

Following the completion of Phase Two, the top applicants will be offered a position for the available seats in the Dental Hygiene Program.

### LICENSURE

After being granted the Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene, the student is eligible to sit for the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination to become a registered dental hygienist.

### PROGRESSION

- To continue in the program, a student must maintain satisfactory clinical performance and a 75% 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. A student who discontinues the sequence for academic or any other reason must petition for readmission to the Dental Hygiene program. 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 BS in Dental Hygiene
- **DENTAL HYGIENE COURSES** must be taken in the following sequence:

#### **FALL SEMESTER:**

- DHYG 2111 Dental Anatomy and Occlusion
- DHYG 2313 Radiology
- DHYG 2432 Head and Neck Anatomy
- DHYG 3102 Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene
- DHYG 3103 Pre-Clinical Dental Hygiene Theory
- DHYG 3412 Oral Embryology and Histology
- HLTH 4103 Research in Health Sciences

#### **SPRING SEMESTER:**

- DHYG 3113 Clinic I Theory
- DHYG 3212 Periodontology I
- DHYG 3213 Dental Hygiene Clinic I
- DHYG 3443 Pharmacology
- DHYG 3453 General & Oral Pathology

#### **FALL SEMESTER:**

- DHYG 4122 Clinic II Theory
- DHYC 4142 Advanced Dental Hygiene Theory for Special Patients
- DHYC 4224 Dental Hygiene Clinic II
- DHYG 4311 Periodontology II
- DHYG 4372 Dental Nutrition
- DHYG 4463 Dental Materials
- DHYG 4512 Local Anesthesia and Nitrous Oxide

#### **SPRING SEMESTER:**

- DHYG 4132 Clinic Theory III
- DHYG 4234 Dental Hygiene Clinic III
- DHYG 4522 Ethics and Practice Management
- DHYG 4533 Community Dentistry & Dental Health Education
- DHYG 4542 Public Health Dentistry

### GRADUATION

- 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.
- See the Advising Coordinator to submit an application for graduation one year prior to intended graduation