Dental Hygiene Major, B.S.

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The dental hygienist is an educator and motivator as well as a health care provider. As a practicing member of the dental health team, the hygienist is primarily concerned with the maintenance of oral health and the prevention of dental disease. Additionally, dental hygienists may assume professional leadership roles; participate in the development, implementation, and evaluation of community health programs; engage in research activities; or serve as consultants and assume managerial roles in certain types of dental care delivery systems.

Students are subject to the academic requirements in place when they are admitted to the dental hygiene program; consequently, the requirements described in this catalog particularly apply to students admitted to the school during the 2017–2018 academic year.

All course descriptions can be found in Connect Carolina and in the UNC School of Dentistry Academic Catalog (http://dentistry.unc.edu) (found at the bottom of the homepage).

Department Programs

Major

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Certificate

• Certificate in Dental Hygiene (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/certificate-dental-hygiene)

Graduate Programs

• M.S. in Dental Hygiene Education (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programtext)
• M.S. in Endodontics (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programtext)
• M.S. in Operative Dentistry (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programtext)
• M.S. in Oral Biology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programtext)
• M.S. in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programtext)
• M.S. in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programtext)
• M.S. in Orthodontics (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programtext)
• M.S. in Pediatric Dentistry (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programtext)
• M.S. in Periodontology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programtext)
• M.S. in Prosthodontics (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/dentistry/#programtext)

Admission to the Program

Applicants may be admitted for dental hygiene study after completion of the dental hygiene prerequisites, provided they meet requirements of the University. To assure proper planning for admission, applicants should maintain close contact with the program during the application process.

Enrollment is limited, and applicants are accepted on a competitive basis. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission into the dental hygiene program. Selections are based on academic achievement with an emphasis on performance in science courses, character, knowledge of working with the dental team, and a sincere interest in dental hygiene as a professional career. For UNC–Chapel Hill students, application for admission to the program is usually made during the second year of General College study. Interested students should submit an online application, which can be accessed from Connect Carolina.

For transfer applicants, all prerequisite dental hygiene coursework and General College courses taken at other institutions must be approved for transfer in advance by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Official transcripts from all schools attended (including high school) must be submitted.

Three letters of recommendation must be submitted with the application. Two of the letters should be from previous college course directors and one letter should be a character reference. In addition, applicants must shadow in a dental office for a minimum of 20 hours. This requirement may be fulfilled through prior dental assisting experience.

Prior to being admitted and enrolled, all applicants will be required to present evidence of satisfactory completion of prerequisite courses required by the major. Applicants with a previous degree should contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to determine fulfillment of General College requirements. Specific admission requirements on the prelicensure and graduate programs in dental hygiene can be obtained from the School of Dentistry Academic Catalog (http://dentistry.unc.edu).

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the dental hygiene program, students should be able to:

• Possess the skills and knowledge needed to provide optimal dental hygiene patient care while valuing and adhering to the ethical beliefs as stated by the American Dental Hygienists’ Association Code of Ethics
• Promote the values of optimal oral health as related to general health and overall wellness to all patients
• Embrace an interdisciplinary role within the health care system and assess, plan, implement, and evaluate oral health care programs and activities for diverse population groups while facilitating access to care and services
• Assess, plan, implement, and evaluate treatment in the promotion of oral and systemic health using an evidence-based approach
• Value the dental hygiene profession through career growth and development and commitment to lifelong learning
Requirements

All baccalaureate-seeking dental hygiene students must fulfill the General Education (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements) requirements. In addition to completing ENGL 105, a foreign language through level 3, a quantitative reasoning course (STOR 151 recommended), and a lifetime fitness course, dental hygiene students must fulfill the Approaches requirements and successfully complete at least five Connections courses, including reasoning course (STOR 151 recommended), and a lifetime fitness requirement.

Other specific requirements include the following courses:

- **Dental Health Education**
- **Dental Pharmacology**
- **Preclinical Dental Hygiene**
- **Introduction to Dental Hygiene**
- **Dental Anatomy**
- **Dental Radiology**
- **Nutrition**
- **Introduction to Human Anatomy**
- **Histology**
- **Periodontology**
- **Histology**
- **Dental Materials**
- **Dental Hygiene Theory**
- **Clinical Dental Hygiene**
- **Radiographic Interpretation**
- **Community-Based Dental Hygiene Service**
- **Clinical Dental Hygiene**
- **Dental Hygiene Specialty Practicum**
- **Current Concepts in Periodontics**
- **Community Dental Health Internship**
- **Current Topics in Dental Hygiene**
- **Advanced Clinical Dental Hygiene**
- **INTRO TO CLIN TEACH**
- **Special Care in Dentistry**
- **Oral Microbiology**
- **General and Oral Pathology**
- **Radiographic Interpretation**
- **Dental Hygiene Theory**
- **Dental Materials**
- **Histology**
- **Periodontology**
- **Clinical Dental Hygiene**
- **Dental Hygiene Specialty Practicum**
- **Current Concepts in Periodontics**
- **Community Dental Health Internship**
- **Current Topics in Dental Hygiene**
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- **General and Oral Pathology**
- **Radiographic Interpretation**
- **Dental Hygiene Theory**
- **Dental Materials**
- **Histology**
- **Periodontology**

In addition to the program requirements listed above, students must attain a final cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext).

**Additional Information for the Dental Hygiene Programs**

Upon provisional acceptance into the dental hygiene program, all students must provide an acceptable criminal background check and provide documentation of required immunizations, as well as varicella vaccination series (two shots) or a positive quantitative titer; Hepatitis B vaccination series (three shots) and a positive Hepatitis B antibody (HBsAb) quantitative titer; and the Two-Step Tuberculosis Skin Test (TST) or a QuantiFERON-TB Gold blood test. Specific information is provided in the School of Dentistry Academic Catalog (http://www.dentistry.unc.edu).

One of the consequences of the delivery of health care is the possibility of contracting infectious disease such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, herpes, or HIV or herpes. To minimize this risk, the UNC School of Dentistry has adopted an Infection Control Policy that requires the wearing of a clinical overgarment, disposable gloves, a mask and protective safety eye.
covering when oral examinations and dental hygiene services are being performed.

Dental school fees are required that include instrument rental and other supplies needed for clinical care and the education of patients. Additional costs may occur for projects required in the curriculum.

Special Opportunities in Dental Hygiene

Departmental Involvement
Students are eligible to become members of the student American Dental Hygienists’ Association, American Dental Education Association, American Association of Dental Research, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, and other specialty organizations. Student membership fees may be required.

Experiential Education
Students have the opportunity to participate in community-based clinical experiences as well as providing oral hygiene programs in the community. Service-learning opportunities are possible as an elective. Each semester students will be involved with hands-on experiences providing dental hygiene services. During the final semester of dental hygiene, students will participate in a three-week practicum. Due to the location of community sites, undergraduate students may need access to transportation. Expenses for travel are the responsibility of the student.

Licensure
Certificate and baccalaureate degree graduates are eligible for dental hygiene licensure examinations at the state and national levels. Candidates must pass both the national and clinical board examinations in order to be granted a license to practice dental hygiene. Additional costs are associated with the examinations required for licensure. Some dental hygiene licensure examinations require background checks with fingerprint analysis.

Accreditation
The dental hygiene program’s accreditation status is approval without reporting requirements as determined by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Undergraduate Awards
Dental hygiene students are eligible for awards through the Spurgeon Dental Society in the School of Dentistry and the Dental Foundation of North Carolina. In addition, student awards are also available through the American Dental Hygienists’ Association, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, American Dental Education Association, and other specialty organizations.

Undergraduate Research
Research opportunities are available at the undergraduate level for dental hygiene students. Students are encouraged to become involved in research activities pertaining to dental hygiene and dentistry. Student research grants are available through the University, professional organizations, and private industry.

Graduate School and Career Opportunities
Upon satisfactory completion of the baccalaureate program, students are eligible for application to graduate programs in dental hygiene education, public health, and other areas. The UNC School of Dentistry offers a master of science (M.S.) graduate degree program in dental hygiene education to which graduates of the dental hygiene program may apply. Graduates also are eligible to apply for admission to the school’s predoctoral dental curriculum provided they successfully complete the required program prerequisites.

The growth of the dental health care field assures an excellent employment outlook for the coming years. Courses of study provide comprehensive educational experience to qualified individuals for the practice of dental hygiene in accordance with the current and changing demands for health services and in accordance with the laws and ethics pertaining to practice.

Program Faculty
Shannon Mitchell, Program Director (Undergraduate Students)
Rebecca Wilder, Program Director (Graduate Students)
Roland Arnold, Jennifer Brame, Alice Curran, Jennifer Harmon, Lynne Hunt, Elizabeth Kornegay, Linda Levitch, Sally Mauriello, Lattice Sams, Kristin Tzendalian.

Clinic Adjuncts
Judy Adkins, Jessica Barlow, Susan Buchenberger, Kayleigh Bullard, Li Chin, Stacy McCauley, Catherine Seifert, Nancy St. Onge, Sommer Wisher.