

Dental Hygiene

1st Floor Taylor Health Science Bldg.
(435) 879-4905
<http://dixie.edu/health/dental/>

To find faculty & staff phone numbers and email addresses, please consult the University Directory (<http://www.dixie.edu/directory/directory.php>).

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Program Description

The Dixie State University Baccalaureate of Science in Dental Hygiene Program strives to produce dental hygienists of the highest ethical and professional standards by providing an exceptional academic and experiential curriculum, serving the needs of the students, the University and the community at large. The program vision is to provide a progressive education which prepares the graduate to promote the art and science of the advancing dental hygiene profession.

Licensure

All Baccalaureate of Science in Dental Hygiene students will comprehensively prepare for success on the National Board of Dental Hygiene Examination and Regional or State Board Exams.

Accreditation

The Dixie State University Dental Hygiene Program is fully accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The Commission on Dental Accreditation, which operates under the auspices of the American Dental Association, is a peer review mechanism that include the involvement of members of the discipline, the broad educational community, employers, practitioners, then dental licensing community and public members. All of these groups participate in a process designed to ensure educational quality.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at:

211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago IL 60611
(312) 440-4653
<http://www.ada.org>

Facilities

The Dixie State University Dental Hygiene Program is located on the first floor in the state-of-the-art Russell C. Taylor Health Science Building. The building is located at 1526 E. Medical Center Drive, St. George UT. The Dixie State University Dental Hygiene Program has a 24-chair campus dental clinic as well as a 4-chair mobile dental clinic.

Clubs

The Dental Hygiene students belong to the Student American Dental Hygienists Association (SADHA). The purpose of SADHA is to help students understand the unique demands and experiences student dental hygienists encounter on the road to graduating and obtaining licensure. The goal of SADHA is to empower, support, and develop student members by offering professional development, leadership, and recognition of achievements.

Services

The Dixie State University Dental Hygiene Program offers many dental hygiene services at a greatly reduced rate. Please contact Dental Hygiene Clinic at (435) 879-4900 for information.

Course Prefixes

- DHYG

Degrees & Certificates

- Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/dentalhygiene/bachelor_of_science_in_dental_hygiene_new)
- Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene (on hiatus)

Admission Requirements

Students are admitted to the dental hygiene program without discrimination regarding, gender, age, creed, ethnic origin, or marital status. Individuals should give careful consideration to the mental and physical demands of the program prior to making application. The pressure involved in undertaking the responsibilities of direct patient care should be considered when applying to the program.

To be considered for admission to the Dental Hygiene program, applicants must first apply to become a student of Dixie State University. All applicants must also complete a dental hygiene application.

Prerequisite courses which must be completed before applying to the Dental Hygiene program:

BIOL 2320 & BIOL 2325	Human Anatomy and Human Anatomy Lab	5
BIOL 2420 & BIOL 2425	Human Physiology and Human Physiology Lab	4
CHEM 1110	Elem General/Organic Chemistry ¹	4
FSDH 1020	Sci Foundations of Nutrition	3

¹ CHEM 1115 is co-requisite to CHEM 1110, but not required for Dental Hygiene program admission.

Prerequisite courses which must be completed before beginning the Dental Hygiene program:

ENGL 1010 or ENGL 1010D	Introduction to Writing Introduction to Writing	3
ENGL 2010	Interm Writing Selected Topics:	3
MATH 1040	Introduction to Statistics	3
PSY 1100 or PSY 1010	Human Development Through Lifespan General Psychology	3
SOC 1010 or SOC 1020	Introduction to Sociology Social Problems	3

The applicant must be admitted to Dixie State University, all prerequisite requirements must be met, and the following must be received by the application deadline:

- Official transcript showing grades for all pre-requisite classes submitted directly to the Dental Hygiene Department (in addition to the official transcript sent to the DSU Admissions Office). Applicants will be judged on their performance in the Chemistry, Biology, and Nutrition & Family Science classes listed above.
- Confirmation of 100 minimum clinical hours (must be on dentist's letterhead, signed by dentist and stating exact hours)
- Completed background check: Students with a history of misdemeanors, felony charges or convictions involving moral turpitude may not be eligible for state licensure and should contact the Dental Hygiene department before enrolling.

A pool of applicants will be invited to complete additional tests at Dixie State University on specific dates. Applicants will be invited to enroll based on their performance in specific courses and on the required tests. Students who enroll in the Dental Hygiene program will be required to provide proof of CPR/AED and health care provider First Aid certification and specific immunizations.

Class size for the Baccalaureate of Science in Dental Hygiene program: 20-24 students.

Career Opportunities *

Most dental hygienists work in private dental offices, but many provide preventive and educational services in community health clinics and hospitals, military installations, and schools. Graduates will be qualified for an array of challenging career opportunities in public health, administration, teaching, research, management and related fields.

Some dental hygienists advance into management positions and supervise other hygienists. Those who obtain a bachelor's or master's degree may become teachers, researchers, or administrators in dental hygiene programs. Some hygienists become dental sales representatives or work for drug companies.

Job Outlook*

Dental hygiene is among the fastest growing occupations. Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow 19% from 2014 to 2024. Job prospects are expected to be favorable in most areas but will vary by geographic location.

Salary Range

The median annual wage for dental hygienists in May 2015 was \$72,330. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$50,140, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$98,440. However, salaries vary by geographical location, employment setting, and years of experience.

* Data from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2015