



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

DENTAL HYGIENE

Application & Information Packet

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
College of Health Related Professions
Department of Dental Hygiene
4301 W. Markham Street, #609
Little Rock, AR 72205
(501) 686- 5734
(501) 686-8519 fax
www.uams.edu/chrp/dentalhygiene

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UAMS Department of Dental Hygiene PROGRAM INFORMATION

THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

The dental hygiene program is in the Department of Dental Hygiene which is part of the College of Health Related Professions (CHRP) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). The program has two educational sites: Little Rock on the UAMS campus and a distant site on the campus of Arkansas State University Mountain Home (ASUMH). Dental hygiene students at the distant site in Mountain Home are enrolled as UAMS students and receive the didactic (classroom) portion of the curriculum *via* interactive video and Web-supported courses from UAMS. UAMS faculty members in Mountain Home provide laboratory and clinical instruction. The Mountain Home site receives significant financial support from the UAMS Area Health Education Center-North Central (AHEC-NC). Applicants may apply for either or both program sites; however applicants who are permanent residents of the following 10 counties served by the AHEC-NC are given first consideration in admission to the Mountain Home: Baxter, Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Marion, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, and Van Buren. The Department enrolls one class at each of the two program sites each fall.

CURRICULUM & DEGREE OPTIONS

The UAMS Department of Dental Hygiene offers both Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees. Graduates with either degree are qualified to apply for state, regional, and national examinations required for licensure.

Prerequisite Courses

The program requires 34 SC (semester credits) of prerequisite course work to be completed prior to enrolling in the dental hygiene program. At the time of application (deadline: March 1st), all prerequisite course work does not have to be completed (see *minimal qualification for application*); however, official transcripts documenting successful completion of all program prerequisite courses must be received prior to enrolling in the dental hygiene program in August. Students are responsible for requesting official transcripts be sent directly to the CHRP registrar prior to fall enrollment.

When selecting courses to fulfill the prerequisite course requirements for the dental hygiene program, please be advised that the final determination of the suitability of prerequisite course work lies with the dental hygiene program. If there is any question about a course being accepted as a program prerequisite, please call the department at (501) 686-5734 for verification.

All applicants, regardless of degree option, must successfully complete the following prerequisite courses prior to enrolling in the dental hygiene program:

Prerequisite Course Work	Semester Credits
Chemistry	4
Biology	4
Microbiology	3
College Algebra	3
Computer Science	3
U.S. History or National Government	3
English Composition	6
Psychology	3
Sociology	3
Speech Communication	2
TOTAL	34 SC

- Science courses that are 7 years or older at the time that the applicant would be enrolling in the dental hygiene program cannot be accepted.
- Applicants must successfully complete at least two (2) of the three (3) science prerequisite courses by the March 1st application deadline to be considered for the dental hygiene program.
- Applicants must successfully complete no less than 18 semester credits by the March 1st deadline to be considered for the dental hygiene program

Professional Curriculum

The dental hygiene program consists of 68 SC distributed over two (2) academic years (two fall and two spring semesters plus the intervening summer session). All students enrolled in the dental hygiene program, regardless of degree option, must complete the following 68 sc of professional course work:

Dental Hygiene Curriculum	SC	Dental Hygiene Curriculum	SC
DHY 2311 Bio-Chemistry	3	DHY 3145 Dental Hygiene Clinic-	1
DHY 2312 Dental Hygiene Theory	3	DHY 3246 Local Anesthesia	2
DHY 2413 DH Instrumentation	4	DHY 3531 Dental Hygiene Clinic II	5
DHY 2314 Anatomy & Physiology I	3	DHY 3332 Pharmacology	3
DHY 2215 Oral Anatomy	2	DHY 3344 Community Dentistry	3
DHY 2216 Oral Embryology/	1	DHY 3334 Pathology	3
DHY 2217 Dental Radiography I	2	DHY 3335 Periodontology	3
DHY 2521 Dental Hygiene Clinic I	5	DHY 3541 Dental Hygiene Clinic III	5
DHY 2322 Oral Medicine	3	DHY 3342 Mgmt of Pts with Special	3
DHY 2223 Dental Radiography II	2	DHY 3343 Practice Management	3
DHY 2425 Anatomy & Physiology II	4	DHY 3233 Nutrition	2
DHY 2327 Dental Materials	3		
TOTAL			68 SC

BS Degree Option

To receive a BS degree, an additional 24 SC of course work must be completed prior to graduation from the dental hygiene program and may be taken prior to enrolling or concurrent with enrollment in the dental hygiene program. These additional 24 SC include 12 SC of general education course work plus 12 SC of upper-division (junior/senior) course work beyond the dental hygiene curriculum. *Please be advised, students enrolled at the distant site in Mountain Home are not eligible for the AS degree; therefore, must complete all requirements for the BS degree prior to completing the dental hygiene program.*

Students electing to receive the BS degree must complete the following additional 24 semester credits prior to graduating from the dental hygiene program:

BS Degree Course Work	Semester Credits
History of Civilization	6
Fine Arts	3
Humanities	3
Electives (upper level)	12
TOTAL	24 SC

Additional information on the dental hygiene program including the mission statement, educational philosophy, and professional competencies can be found at www.uams.edu/chrp/dentalhygiene.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICATION

The mission of the Department of Dental Hygiene is to provide high quality educational opportunities for qualified students to prepare them as graduates to assume and maintain the role of ethical, competent, and progressive professional practitioners; therefore, admission to the UAMS Dental Hygiene Program is selective. To qualify for consideration for admission to the dental hygiene program, the applicant must have met or exceeded the following minimum qualifications. Meeting the minimal criteria for application does not guarantee admission to the program.

- 2.75 cumulative grade point average
- 2.75 prerequisite grade point average
- 20 composite ACT score
- 20 hours of dental office observation
- Completion of a minimum of 18 SC of the prerequisite course work by the application deadline
- Completion of a minimum of two of the three science (chemistry, biology, microbiology) prerequisite courses by the application deadline. Please be advised, credit for prerequisite course work in biology, chemistry, and microbiology that is completed more than seven (7) years before the date of anticipated entry into the dental hygiene program will be disallowed.

Applicants who are not United States citizens or permanent resident aliens or for whom English is not their native language must meet additional admission requirements. Please contact the CHRP Admissions Office at (501) 686-5730 for more information.

In select cases, applicants may apply for academic forgiveness. Applicants are strongly advised to consult the Admission/Academic Information section of the College's handbook which can be found at <http://www.uams.edu/chrp/catalog>.

The dental hygiene program accepts all *qualified* Arkansas residents before accepting out-of-state residents.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To begin the admission process, please submit the following materials by **March 1st**. Application materials received after the deadline will not be considered. Please do not send letters of recommendation. They are not required for admission and are not considered.

1. CHRP Undergraduate Application for Admission and Fee. The application form is attached and can also be found on the CHRP Web page at www.uams.edu/chrp. Applications are accepted at any time during the year. Applicants are encouraged to apply early as this allows the College and Department to assist applicants with monitoring the receipt of all application materials by the application deadline.
2. Official Transcripts for all college course work from each university attended through the fall semester prior to application. This includes courses that are not program prerequisites. *Transcripts must be sent directly from the institution and may not be forwarded or delivered by the applicant.* Request official transcripts be sent to:

*UAMS College of Health Related Professions
4301 W. Markham Street #619,
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205*

3. ACT Score (on your high school transcript and/or an official ACT score report). *Transcripts and/or ACT score reports must be sent directly from your high school or ACT. The score may not be forwarded or delivered by the applicant.* The program will use the highest composite ACT score achieved.
4. Professional Observation Form from a dentist or dental hygienist evaluating at least 20 hours of observation. Additional copies of the form may be made if observing in multiple offices. This form is attached and can also be found on the department's Web page at www.uams.edu/chrp/dentalhygiene.

CLASS SELECTION

The admission criteria are weighted as follows:

- Prerequisite GPA (35%)
- ACT Composite (30%)
- Cumulative GPA (20%).
- Interview (15%)

Using prerequisite course GPAs, ACT composite scores, and cumulative GPAs, applicants are ranked. The most qualified applicants will be invited for an interview. Interviews are held in early April. A class of thirty-two (32) students is typically selected for the Little Rock site, while the ASUMH site admits five (5) students each year (fall semester). Applicants selected for enrollment will receive notification in early May.

TYPICAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The UAMS dental hygiene program is a full-time, weekday commitment. The program at both locations follows the same general schedule. Classes, laboratory sessions, and clinical sessions are schedule Monday through Friday during the hours of 8am and 5pm. The Department does not offer evening classes. Portions of courses are Web-assisted, but at the present time, the Department does not offer any totally on-line courses. The program ascribes to a very strict attendance policy, and attendance is taken at every course/clinic session.

PROGRESSION & GRADUATION

A grade of “C” or better in all pre-clinical and clinical courses is required for continuation in the program. Students must achieve and maintain a minimum program GPA of 2.00. If a student achieves less than a 2.00 program GPA in the first semester of the dental hygiene program, the student must raise the program GPA to/above a 2.00 by the completion of the second semester to continue in the dental hygiene program. If a student’s program GPA drops below a 2.00 after the 2nd semester in the program, the student will not be allowed to continue in or graduate from the dental hygiene program. Students who are dismissed from the program for academic reasons or withdraw by their own decision and wish to be considered for readmission for a subsequent semester must reapply as new applicants, adhering to all policies and requirements in effect at the time of their reapplication.

LICENSURE

To apply for licensure as a dental hygienist in the state of Arkansas, one must be a graduate of a dental hygiene program accredited by the American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation (UAMS is accredited). In the last semester of the program, students will take the Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA) clinical board examination, the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, and the Arkansas dental jurisprudence examination (dental laws of the state). Upon successful completion of the dental hygiene program, the three examinations listed above, and proof of CPR certification, the graduate may apply to the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners for licensure as a dental hygienist in the state of Arkansas. Licensure requirements for other states may vary.

PROGRAM COSTS

An estimated expense sheet is attached and is also available on the Department's Web page at www.uams.edu/chrp/dentalhygiene. Applicants requiring financial assistance are encouraged to apply for Federal Financial Aid in early spring by completing the "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. UAMS Student Financial Services can assist students with the challenges of paying for college. They can be reached at (501) 686-6128 or at www.uams.edu/studentfinancialservices.

UAMS students are required to show proof of health insurance coverage each semester. For those who need health coverage, insurance is available through UAMS Student Activities and Housing; however, students may obtain health insurance from any insurance company. For more information about student health insurance, please contact UAMS Student Activities and Housing at (501) 686- 5850 or http://www.uams.edu/studentlife/student_housing.asp.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Applicants are highly encouraged to attend an *Information Session for Prospective Students*. The department conducts these sessions on Fridays in October, November, December, and January from 1:30—3:00 p.m. Please call 501-686-5734 to inquire on the specific date for each information session and to obtain directions. While attendance is *not required* for admission to the program, the session will provide you the opportunity to learn more about the profession, prerequisite and professional course work, application process, employment opportunities in the field, and other relevant information. The information sessions are transmitted *via* interactive video to the campus of Arkansas State University-Mountain Home.

Applicants for the Little Rock program location may call Ms. Gloria Johnson at (501) 686-5734 or e-mail at JohnsonGloriaA@uams for more information.

Applicants for the Mountain Home program location may call Ms. Ruth Quick at (870) 508-6302 or e-mail at requick@uams.edu for more information.

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES
 COLLEGE OF HEALTH RELATED PROFESSIONS
 DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL HYGIENE
ESTIMATED STUDENT EXPENSE SHEET FOR 2011-2012**

FIRST SEMESTER (JUNIOR YEAR)

Tuition Fee - Arkansas Resident (18 hours)	\$ 4,122.00*
Textbooks & Syllabi (approximation)	750.00
Instrument Kit (<i>purchased from dental supply company</i>)	2,000.00
Magnification Loupes	800.00
Dentsply Cavitron.....	850.00
Scrubs and Lab Jackets (2 sets) (ordered at department orientation)	130.00
Blood Pressure Cuff/Stethoscope	55.00
Student Membership Fee, American Dental Hygienists' Association.....	100.00
Student Liability Insurance.....	91.45
Laboratory Fee	125.00
Student Health Fee.....	79.90
Student Clinic Fee	63.00
Technology Fee.....	46.60
Health Insurance (<i>unless otherwise insured</i>)	<i>to be determined**</i>

SECOND SEMESTER

Tuition Fee - Arkansas Resident (17 hours)	\$ 3,893.00*
Textbooks & Syllabi.....	450.00
Instrument Kit (<i>purchased from dental supply company</i>)	1,425.00
Laboratory Fee	125.00
Student Health Fee.....	79.90
Student Clinic Fee	63.00
Technology Fee.....	46.60
Anatomical (skull) rental.....	13.39
Health Insurance (<i>unless otherwise insured</i>)	<i>to be determined**</i>

SUMMER SEMESTER

Tuition Fee - Arkansas Resident (3 hours)	\$ 687.00*
Textbook & Course Syllabi	125.00
Laboratory Fee	125.00

THIRD SEMESTER (SENIOR YEAR)

Tuition Fee - Arkansas Resident (17 hours)	\$ 3,893.00*
Textbooks & Syllabi.....	450.00
Instrument Kit (<i>purchased from dental supply company</i>)	750.00
Student Membership fee, American Dental Hygienists' Association.....	100.00
Student Liability Insurance.....	91.45
Laboratory Fee	125.00
Student Health Fee.....	79.90
Student Clinic Fee	63.00
Technology Fee.....	46.60
Health Insurance (<i>unless otherwise insured</i>)	<i>to be determined**</i>

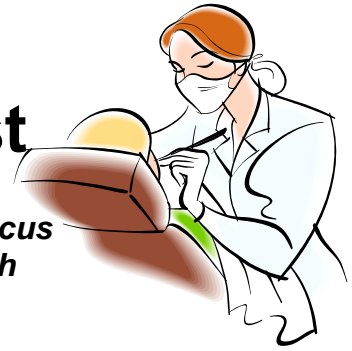
FOURTH SEMESTER

Tuition Fee - Arkansas Resident (13 hours)	\$ 2,977.00*
Regional and National Board Examination Fees	1,450.00
Laboratory Fee	125.00
Textbooks & Syllabi	250.00
Dental Hygiene Pin	50.00
Student Health Fee	79.90
Student Clinic Fee	63.00
Technology Fee	46.60
Graduation Fee	84.00
Health Insurance (<i>unless otherwise insured</i>)	<i>to be determined**</i>

***NOTE:** Tuition for 2011-2012 is \$229 per semester credit hour (Arkansas resident) and \$524 (nonresident). Fees are subject to change without notification. ** Information on student health insurance plans is available at http://www.uams.edu/studentlife/student_housing.asp
For financial aid information, call the UAMS Financial Aid Office at (501) 686-5454



Registered Dental Hygienist



Dental hygienists are licensed oral health professionals who focus on preventing and treating oral diseases—to protect teeth and gums as well as protect the patients' total health.

The "RDH" Designation

"RDH" means "Registered Dental Hygienist." The RDH credential identifies a dental hygienist as a licensed oral health professional. State licensure requirements typically require that a dental hygienist must graduate from a nationally-accredited dental hygiene education program, successfully pass a national written examination and a state or regional clinical examination.

Education

Dental hygienists are graduates of accredited dental hygiene education programs in colleges and universities, and must take written and clinical examinations before they are allowed to practice. In addition to treating patients directly, dental hygienists also work as educators, researchers, and administrators. At UAMS, dental hygiene graduates have two degree options: an Associate of Science or a Bachelor of Science

Scope of Practice

Each state has its own specific regulations, and the range of services performed by dental hygienists varies from one state to another. As part of dental hygiene services, dental hygienists may:

- perform oral health care assessments that include reviewing patients' health history, dental charting, oral cancer screening, and taking and recording blood pressure;
- expose, process, and interpret dental X-rays;
- remove plaque and calculus (tartar)—soft and hard deposits—from above and below the gum line;
- apply cavity-preventive agents, such as fluorides and sealants, to the teeth;
- teach patients proper oral hygiene techniques to maintain healthy teeth and gums;
- counsel patients about plaque control and developing individualized at-home oral hygiene programs; and
- counsel patients on the importance of good nutrition for maintaining optimal oral health.
- In Arkansas, hygienists can also administer & monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation and administer local anesthesia.

Employment Opportunities

Dental hygienists can work as clinicians, educators, researchers, administrators, managers, preventive program developers, consumer advocates, sales and marketing managers, editors, and consultants. Clinical dental hygienists may work in a variety of health care settings such as private dental offices, schools, public health clinics, hospitals, managed care organizations, correctional institutions, and nursing homes.

Job Outlook

Employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow much faster than average for all occupations through 2014, ranking among the fastest growing occupations, in response to increasing demand for dental care and the greater utilization of hygienists to perform services previously performed by dentists. Job prospects are expected to remain excellent. Population growth and greater retention of natural teeth will stimulate demand for dental hygienists. Older dentists, who have been less likely to employ dental hygienists, are leaving the occupation and will be replaced by recent graduates, who are more likely to employ one or even two hygienists. In addition, as dentists' workloads increase, they are expected to hire more hygienists to perform preventive dental care, such as cleaning, so that they may devote their own time to more profitable procedures.

Earnings

The national median hourly earnings of dental hygienists is approximately \$36.00. Earnings vary greatly by geographic location, employment setting, and years of experience. Dental hygienists may be paid on an hourly, daily, salary, or commission basis. A four-day work week is very common in the dental profession. The average starting salary for a new graduate in Arkansas is approximately \$60,000-\$65,000 (4-day work week). Benefits vary substantially by practice setting and may be contingent upon full-time employment. Dental hygienists who work for school systems, public health agencies, the Federal Government, or State agencies usually have substantial benefits.

How Can I Get More Information about RDHs?

Please contact the American Dental Hygienists' Association - the largest national organization representing the professional interests of the more than 120,000 licensed dental hygienists nationwide at www.adha.org.

How Can I Get More Information about the UAMS Dental Hygiene Program?

Please check the UAMS Dental Hygiene web page at www.uams.edu/chrp/dentalhygiene. You may request an information packet by visiting the website or by calling (501) 686-5730. For more information, please call the UAMS Dental Hygiene Administrative Office at (510) 686-5734.

**University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Department of Dental Hygiene**

DENTAL OFFICE OBSERVATION FORM

Dental Hygiene Applicant: _____

Reference Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Capacity in which you have known the applicant (e.g.: dentist or dental hygienist, etc.) *We ask that the applicant does not observe in the dental office of a family member.*

Professional Reference: How many hours did this applicant observe/work? _____

Dates: From _____ to _____

Please rate the applicant's performance in terms of the following qualities -√ all that apply.

	Superior	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Sense of responsibility					
Punctuality					
Dependability					
Personal appearance					
Ability to work without supervision					
Interpersonal relations with fellow workers					
Interpersonal relations with patients/clients					

Briefly, describe your impression of the seriousness of purpose and professional attitude of the applicant in their choice of career as a dental hygienist. Please use the back of this form if needed.

Signature of Reference

Date

Mail to: College of Health Related Professions, 4301 West Markham Street, Slot 619, Little Rock, AR 72205