

Health Professions Academic Preparation

DENTAL HYGIENE

There are a couple of paths available toward earning a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Dental Hygiene. This handout will focus on the pathway for students who, with no prior dental hygiene experience or education, intend to earn B.S. in Dental Hygiene. At The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Health Professions (UTHSCSA SHP), such students should seek admission to its “entry-level” B.S. in Dental Hygiene program and must complete two phases of education. The first phase is the completion of dental hygiene prerequisite coursework at an undergraduate institution. Then, after gaining acceptance to the entry-level dental hygiene program, students complete the second phase which consists of all upper-division dental hygiene coursework leading to a B.S. in Dental Hygiene. **The following courses represent what courses should be taken at UTSA to fulfill the core and program prerequisites for entry into the UTHSCSA SHP Entry-level B.S. in Dental Hygiene Program.** There is some variation in requirements for other dental hygiene programs. Thus, students are advised to consult individual programs for their specific and most current information.

Required Areas of Study	UTSA Course	Grade/ Sem	Prerequisites/ Corequisites
UTHSCSA Core Curriculum-Must receive C or better			
English (6 hrs lecture)	WRC 1013		
	WRC 1023		WRC 1013
US History (6 hrs lecture)	HIS 1043, HIS 1053 or HIS 2053		
	HIS 1043, HIS 1053 or HIS 2053		
US Government (6 hrs lecture)	POL 1013		
	POL 1133 or POL 1213		
Visual/Performing Arts (3 hrs lecture)	Any ART, AHC, MUS, or THR course <i>others considered on an individual basis</i>		
Humanities (3 hrs lecture)	Any “literature”, HUM, or PHI course <i>BIO 1033 and CLA 2323 also acceptable; others considered on an individual basis</i>		
College Algebra (3 hrs lecture)	MAT 1023 or higher		Satisfactory performance on a placement exam
UTSA Prerequisites for Other Required BIO Courses			
Biology <i>NOTE: These courses are not officially included among the program prerequisites for the UTHSCSA SHP, but are required before taking the other BIO prerequisites at UTSA (ie Anatomy, Physiology etc).</i>	¹ BIO 1404 or ² BIO 1233		¹ Completion of or concurrent enrollment in MAT 1023, MAT 1073 or higher or STA 1053 (for non-BIO majors). CHE 1003 or higher recommended by the UHPO; ² no prerequisite required
<i>Continued on Reverse</i>			

Program Prerequisites-Must receive C or better			
Biology (12 hrs lecture; 3 hr lab) <i>NOTES: Most institutions offer combined Anatomy and Physiology courses while UTSA offers them as separate courses. Therefore, the courses should be completed at the same institution.</i> <i>These courses are formerly known as AHS.</i>	BIO 2083 Anatomy <i>BIO 3123 also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233
	BIO 2091 Anatomy Lab <i>BIO 3132 Lab also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233; concurrent enrollment in BIO 2083 <i>recommended</i>
	BIO 2103 Physiology <i>BIO 3413 also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233
	BIO 2111 Physiology Lab <i>BIO 3422 Lab also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233; concurrent enrollment in BIO 2103 <i>recommended</i>
	BIO 1053 Microbiology <i>BIO 3713 also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233 or consent of instructor
	BIO 1061 Microbiology lab <i>BIO 3722 Lab also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233 or consent of instructor; concurrent enrollment in BIO 1053 <i>recommended</i>
	BIO 2043 Nutrition <i>HTH 4533 also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233
	Chemistry (3 hrs lecture; 1 hr lab)	CHE 1003 <i>CHE 1103 or CHE 1143 also acceptable</i>	
CHE 1011 Lab <i>CHE 1122 Lab with CHE 1120 Lab Lecture also acceptable</i>			Completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 1003
Statistics (3 hrs lecture)	STA 1053 or higher <i>PSY 2073 also acceptable</i>		Satisfactory performance on placement exam
Psychology (3 hrs lecture)	PSY 1013		
Sociology (3 hrs lecture)	SOC 1013		
Computer Literacy (3 hrs lecture)	CS 1033		
Electives (2 hrs lecture)	May <i>not</i> include developmental courses, work from technical institutions, or other coursework deemed inappropriate by the department.		

Please note that the previously listed UTSA courses and prerequisites are for students following the 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog. Students following another undergraduate catalog should consult an advisor with any questions about course numbering.

Foundation Courses: For students who are not prepared to go directly into the required courses, it will be necessary to enroll first in foundation courses such as basic chemistry and an appropriate mathematics course. It may also be necessary to take the mathematics and chemistry placement tests to determine proficiency. For additional information, please seek the counsel of an advisor early in your studies.

Application Process: For the UTHSCSA Entry-level BS Program in Dental Hygiene, prospective students must apply online and the UTHSCSA SHP must have all supporting documents by the **January 15 deadline for fall semester admission**. However, students are encouraged to apply closer to when applications for fall admission become first available on August 1. It should be noted that applicants are more competitive if they complete prerequisite coursework before the beginning of the spring semester. Any courses that are still in progress must be completed and final transcripts submitted to the Registrar's Office by June 1 prior to matriculation. Applicants must have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.5, prerequisite GPA of 2.7, and all program prerequisites completed with a grade of a "C" or better in order to be **considered** for admission. However, the average GPA for accepted students is significantly higher. Further information regarding admissions to the UTHSCSA Dental Hygiene Program is available at:

- <http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/pdf/DHBachEntryLevel.pdf>
- <http://www.shpwelcome.uthscsa.edu>
- http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects_ah_programs_dh.aspx.

Students are also encouraged to learn about other dental hygiene programs and their respective application processes. Since there is not a centralized application service for dental hygiene programs, students are advised to consult individual programs for specific information. To locate schools and programs across the country, please visit the website of the American Dental Hygienists' Association at http://adha.org/careerinfo/dir_education.htm.

Community Service/Volunteering/Shadowing: An integral part of dental hygiene preparation entails involvement in community service projects and volunteer work in a clinical setting. These activities serve to familiarize prospective dental hygienists with the realities of everyday clinical practice as well as to underscore the role of dental hygienists and dental care in relation to broader community level concerns and issues. The UTHSCSA Dental Hygiene Program has a required documentation form that must be printed, filled out appropriately and mailed to the HSC Registrar. This form is titled, "Documentation of Experience," and may be found at: http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects_ah_programs_dh.aspx.

A list of volunteer opportunities is available on the UHPO website (www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions), and we will continue to update additional possibilities. We do not, however, have a list available for shadowing experiences. Students must exercise personal initiative and develop relationships that would allow them to have this direct contact with a dental hygienist in everyday clinical practice.

Personal Statement and Resume: These application components allow admissions committees to learn about an applicant's motivation for, preparation for, and commitment to a career in dental hygiene. Again, the UTHSCSA Dental Hygiene Program has a required form that must be printed, filled out appropriately and mailed to the HSC Registrar. This form is also available under the heading "Documentation of Experience", at: http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects_ah_programs_dh.aspx.

The UHPO staff will read and provide feedback to students regarding their personal statements and resumes given sufficient time, preferably two weeks prior to when comments are needed. We also recommend that students visit The Writing Center at UTSA (www.utsa.edu/twc) for further review of his or her personal statement and attend a resume workshop or appointment with the University Career Center (Main Campus- UC 2.02.04 or (210) 458-4589; Downtown Campus - BV 1.304 or (210) 458-2910) for further review of his or her resume.

Letters of Evaluation: Because selection committees depend heavily on letters of evaluation to gain insight into applicants' personal strengths, weaknesses, and accomplishments, students should be sure to request letters from individuals, such as professors, work supervisors, and volunteer supervisors, who know them well. Letters from family members or other individuals whom students know only on a personal level are inappropriate. For the UTHSCSA Dental Hygiene program, applicants must have two referees and again, print, fill out appropriately and mail to the HSC Registrar the form under the heading, "Reference Form" available at:

http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects_ah_programs_dh.aspx. Students should consult other programs individually for specific instructions regarding the submission of letters of evaluation.

Interviews: Although the UTHSCSA does not require interviews for admission to its Dental Hygiene program, interviews may be an important component to admission for other programs. The UHPO can offer some advice as students prepare for interviews and, after interviews, would like to debrief with students about their impressions. The University Career Center also facilitates interview workshops and conducts mock interviews to provide students with feedback. For more information about their services contact them at the Main Campus [UC 2.02.04 or (210) 458-4589] or Downtown Campus [BV 1.304 or (210) 458-2910].

Additional Information/Resources: The UHPO keeps and maintains resources that are available to students in our office and on our website. These include books, journals, handouts, and other resources. Useful information about dental hygiene programs and the profession can be found on the website of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (www.adha.org). For students considering remaining in San Antonio, the Welcome Center at the UTHSCSA School of Health Professions may be another source of primary information. Students may contact the Welcome Center by phone [(210) 567-8744] or by email [shpwelcome@uthscsa.edu] to make an appointment to speak directly with a counselor and obtain all pertinent information regarding the Dental Hygiene program at UTHSCSA. Their website is accessible at www.SHPwelcome.uthscsa.edu. In addition to a wealth of information about the program, an application checklist is provided. Links to the above reference and documentation of experience are also provided.

Health Professions Advising: The UHPO provides advising and support to students interested in pursuing careers in the health professions, including dental hygiene. This consists of academic preparation assistance as well as information about health careers, application procedures, and entrance exams for undergraduates, post- baccalaureate students, non-degree seeking students, and alumni. Students are encouraged to seek advice and consult with the UHPO advising staff early in their college career. For more information about our appointment and walk-in schedules and our other services, please contact us:

The University Health Professions Office (UHPO)
University of Texas at San Antonio
Multidisciplinary Studies Building, Room 3.02.10 (Main Campus)

www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions

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