

*Updated for 2018 Applications*

# ***DENTAL HYGIENE***

## ***Information Packet***

***University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences***

***College of Health Professions***

***Department of Dental Hygiene***

***[www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/dentalhygiene](http://www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/dentalhygiene)***

Revised January 2018

**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 Professions (CHP) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

**CURRICULUM & DEGREE OPTIONS**

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

**Please note prerequisite changes for the 2019 and 2020 application cycle.**

- Beginning with the 2019 application cycle, students anticipating entering the program in the fall of 2019 will be required to submit their ACT scores as part of the application process. Official ACT scores documented on high school transcripts are acceptable. The ACT must have been taken within the last 7 years. Please refer to [act.org](http://act.org) for information on registering for the test or obtaining scores.
- Beginning with the 2020 application cycle, students anticipating entering the program in the fall of 2020 Anatomy and Physiology I and II (3 semester credits each) will be required pre-requisite courses. The lab is not required.

**Prerequisite Courses**

The program requires 51 SC (semester credits) of prerequisite course work to be completed prior to the application deadline. For early consideration, all application materials should be received by March 1. All application materials should be received by June 1 to be considered for the regular's admission cycle. Late application may not be reviewed after this date.

When selecting courses to fulfill the prerequisite course requirements please be advised that the final determination of the suitability of prerequisite course work lies with the dental hygiene program. Prerequisite course selection guides for many Arkansas institutions can be found on the webpage [www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/dentalhygiene](http://www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/dentalhygiene) . If there is any question about a course being accepted as a program prerequisite, please call the CHP Admissions Officer at (501) 686-5730 for verification.

All applicants must successfully complete the prerequisite courses (51 SC) prior to applying to the dental hygiene program:

<b>Prerequisite Course Work</b>	<b>Semester Credits</b>
Chemistry (w/face to face lab)	4
Biology (w/face to face lab)	4

Microbiology (w/face to face lab)	4
College Algebra	3
U.S. History or National Government	3
English Composition I	3
English Composition II	3
Psychology	3
Sociology	3
Speech Communication	3
Fine Arts	3
Humanities	3
Western Civilization I	3
Western Civilization II	3
Upper Level Elective	3
Upper Level Elective	3

TOTAL 51 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.
- The program does not accept CLEP credit for science courses.
- A course grade of “C” or higher is required to complete all prerequisite course work listed above.

**Program Curriculum**

All students enrolled in the dental hygiene program must complete the following 69 SC of program course work. The dental hygiene program consists of 69 SC distributed over two (2) academic years (two fall and two spring semesters plus the intervening summer session).

<b>Dental Hygiene Curriculum</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Dental Hygiene Curriculum</b>	<b>SC</b>
DHY 2119 Dental Hygiene Seminar I	1	DHY 3245 Dental Hygiene- Summer Clinic	1

DHY 2312 Dental Hygiene Theory	3	DHY 3246 Local Anesthesia	2
DHY 2513 DH Pre-clinic	4	DHY 3531 Dental Hygiene Clinic II	5
DHY 2314 A&P I	3	DHY 3332 Pharmacology	3
DHY 2215 Oral Anatomy	2	DHY 3244 Community Dentistry II	2
DHY 2216 Oral Embryology/Histology	1	DHY 3434 Pathology	4
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 2223 Dental Radiography II	2	DHY 3242 Special Needs Patients	3
DHY 3344 Community Dentistry I	2	DHY 3243 Practice Management	3
DHY 2425 A & P II	4	DHY 3333 Nutrition	3
DHY 2327 Dental Materials	3	DHY 3119 Dental Hygiene Seminar II	1
		DHY 4133 Patient and Family Centered Care	1

TOTAL 69 SC

Additional information on the dental hygiene program including the mission statement, educational philosophy, and professional competencies can be found at [www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/dentalhygiene](http://www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/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 the applicant must have met or exceeded the following minimum qualifications. Meeting the minimal criteria for application does not guarantee admission to the program.

- Minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average
- Minimum 2.75 prerequisite grade point average
- 20 hours of dental office observation
- Completion of all 51 SC of the prerequisite course work by the application deadline. A grade of “C” or higher is required in all program prerequisite courses.
- The program does not accept CLEP credit for science courses.

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 CHP Admissions Officer 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.healthprofessions.uams.edu/catalog>.

Arkansas residency will be considered during selection for admission.

**Please note the changes for the 2019 application cycle.**

- Beginning with the 2019 application cycle, students anticipating entering the program in the fall of 2019 will be required to submit their ACT scores as part of the application process. Official ACT scores documented on high school transcripts are acceptable. The ACT must have been taken within the last 7 years. Please refer to [act.org](http://act.org) for information on registering for the test or obtaining scores.

**PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

In order to accomplish the objectives of the dental hygiene program, students must be able to meet the following performance requirements:

- Professional attitude during all phases of the application process. If at any time during the process, it is determined that your attitude or actions are unprofessional, your application may not be considered for acceptance.
- Visual acuity with corrective lenses to identify oral tissue changes and evaluate treatment effectiveness.
- Hearing ability with auditory aids to understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker's face and take/hear blood pressure with a stethoscope.
- Physical ability to sit for prolonged periods of time, perform repetitive wrist motion for instrumentation, and move from room to room or maneuver in limited spaces.
- Written and verbal communication skills to succinctly describe patient conditions, document findings in a patient record and implement oral health teachings.
- Manual dexterity to use a variety of instruments in the small, confined space of the oral cavity.
- Function safely under stressful conditions with the ability to adapt to an ever changing environment inherent in clinic situations involving patient care.
- Computer skills to use a variety of software programs and the Internet for research and course projects; power point utilized for presentations.
- Time management skills in order to effectively and efficiently sequence treatment needs.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

To begin the admission process, please submit the following materials by June 1. For first consideration, all application materials should be received by March 1. Late applications may not be reviewed after June 1. Application materials post marked 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. CHP Undergraduate Application for Admission and Fee. The application form can be found on the CHP Web page at [www.healthprofessions.uams.edu](http://www.healthprofessions.uams.edu). A fee of \$40 is required at the time of application. 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 spring 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 Professions  
4301 W. Markham Street #619  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

NOTE: It is very important that the mail slot # (619) is on all correspondences sent to the CHP Welcome Center. The entire campus has the same address (4301 W. Markham Street). The mail slot number is required to assist the correspondence in arriving at the right place. You are also encouraged to call the CHP admissions officer at (501) 686-5730 to confirm receipt of application materials.

3. 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 Webpage at [www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/dentalhygiene/](http://www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/dentalhygiene/). **The dental office(s) will mail the observation form to the address provided on the form to ensure confidentiality. Observation hours must be current, completed within the last two years.**

**Please note the changes for the 2019 application cycle.**

- Beginning with the 2019 application cycle, students anticipating entering the program in the fall of 2019 will be required to submit their ACT scores as part of the application process. Official ACT scores documented on high school transcripts are acceptable. The ACT must have been taken within the last 7 years. Please refer to [act.org](http://act.org) for information on registering for the test or obtaining scores.

## **CLASS SELECTION**

Admission to the dental hygiene program requires the applicant to complete required prerequisite coursework/admission requirements and successfully complete an on-campus interview process if invited. Admission to the UAMS Dental Hygiene Program is competitive and based on the following factors.

- Academic achievement in math and science
- Overall academic achievement
- Leadership and professionalism
- Written and oral communication

The most qualified applicants will be invited for an interview. Interviews are held in March and June. A class of approximately 34 students is typically selected. Applicants selected for enrollment will receive notification by the end of June. Selected applicants are required to complete a criminal background check and drug test. Licensure in Arkansas also requires a state and federal criminal background check.

## **TYPICAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

The UAMS dental hygiene program is a full-time, weekday commitment. Classes, laboratory sessions, and clinical sessions are scheduled Monday through Friday during the hours of 8am to 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 online 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 program. If a student’s program GPA drops below a 2.00 after the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the program, the student will not be allowed to continue in or graduate from the 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. Please check the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners website at [www.asbde.org](http://www.asbde.org) for details on the requirements for dental hygiene licensure in the state.

**PROGRAM COSTS**

An estimated expense sheet is attached and is also available on the department’s Web page at [www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/dentalhygiene/](http://www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/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](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). UAMS Student Financial Services can assist students with the challenges of paying for college. They can be reached at (501) 686-5451 or at: [www.studentfinancialservices.uams.edu](http://www.studentfinancialservices.uams.edu).

UAMS students are required to have 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.studentlife.uams.edu/housing/students>.

**DENTAL HYGIENE INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Applicants are highly encouraged to attend an *Information Session for Prospective Students*. The department conducts these sessions on the second Friday in November, December, and January from 12:30p.m. - 2:00p.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 program course work, application process, employment opportunities in the field, and other relevant information. Applicants may call Ms. Gloria Johnson at (501) 686-5734 or e-mail [JohnsonGloriaA@uams.edu](mailto:JohnsonGloriaA@uams.edu) for more information.

**ESTIMATED STUDENT EXPENSE SHEET FOR 2015-2016**  
**FIRST SEMESTER (JUNIOR YEAR)**

Tuition Fee -Arkansas Resident (17 hours).....	4165.00*
Student Health Fee.....	130.00
Technology Fee.....	100.00
Student Liability Insurance.....	13.00
University Fee .....	400.00
Student Activity Fee.....	25.00
Student Membership Fee, American Dental Hygienists’ Association.....	65.00
Laboratory Fee** .....	170.00
Textbooks (approximation).....	800.00
Instrument Lease Fee (includes handpiece rental).....	400.00
Magnification Loupes.....	900.00
Uniform Scrubs (2 sets).....	100.00



Blood Pressure Cuff/Stethoscope.....	40.00
Parking Fee.....	78.00
Student Wellness Center Fee.....	58.00
Radiology Kit.....	150.00
Health Insurance (unless otherwise insured).....	<i>to be determined</i>

\*\*Lab fee is \$10.00 per credit hour each semester

**SECOND SEMESTER (JUNIOR YEAR)**

Tuition Fee -Arkansas Resident (15 hours).....	3675.00*
Student Health Fee.....	130.00
Student Services Fee.....	25.00
Technology Fee.....	100.00
University Fee .....	400.00
Student Activity Fee.....	25.00
Laboratory Fee.....	150.00
Textbooks.....	450.00
Anatomical (skull) rental.....	15.00
Instrument Lease Fee (includes handpiece rental).....	400.00
Parking Fee .....	78.00
Student Wellness Center Fee.....	58.00
Health Insurance (unless otherwise insured).....	<i>to be determined</i>

**SUMMER SESSION**

Tuition Fee -Arkansas Resident (5 hours).....	1225.00*
Lab fee .....	50.00
Parking Fee.....	39.00
Textbook.....	125.00

**THIRD SEMESTER (SENIOR YEAR)**

Tuition Fee -Arkansas Resident (18 hours).....	4,410.00*
Student Health Fee.....	130.00
Student Services Fee.....	25.00
Technology Fee.....	100.00
University Fee.....	400.00
Student Activity Fee.....	25.00
Student Membership Fee, American Dental Hygienists Association.....	65.00
Laboratory Fee.....	180.00
Textbooks.....	450.00
Instrument Lease Fee (includes handpiece rental).....	400.00
Uniform Scrubs (2 sets).....	100.00
Parking Fee.....	78.00
Student Wellness Center Fee.....	58.00

Health Insurance (unless otherwise insured)..... to be determined

**FOURTH SEMESTER (SENIOR YEAR)**

Tuition Fee -Arkansas Resident (14 hours).....	3,556.00*
Student Health Fee.....	130.00
Student Services Fee.....	25.00
Technology Fee.....	100.00
University Fee.....	400.00
Student Activity Fee.....	25.00
Graduation Fee .....	80.00
Laboratory Fee.....	140.00
Instrument Lease Fee (includes handpiece rental).....	400.00
Textbooks.....	250.00
Regional and National Board Examination Fees.....	1,600.00
Dental Hygiene Pin (optional).....	75.00
Parking Fee.....	78.00
Student Wellness Center Fee.....	58.00
Health Insurance (unless otherwise insured).....	to be determined

\*NOTE: Tuition for 2018/2019 is anticipated to be \$245 per semester credit hour (Arkansas resident) and \$561 (nonresident). Fees are subject to change without notification.

Information on student health insurance plans is available at: <http://www.studentlife.uams.edu/housing/students>. For financial aid information, call the UAMS Student Financial Services at (501) 686-5451.

Health Insurance (unless otherwise insured).....to be determined  
Students are responsible for purchasing patient care gloves.

## 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, 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 with a permit.

### **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 2020, 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.

### **Earnings**

The national median hourly earnings of dental hygienists are approximately \$25.00 - \$33.00. 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 \$45,000-\$52,000 (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](http://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.healthprofessions.uams.edu/dentalhygiene/](http://www.healthprofessions.uams.edu/dentalhygiene/). You may obtain an information packet by visiting the website. For more information, please call the CHP Student Welcome Center at 501-686-5730.

**University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
 Department of Dental Hygiene  
 DENTAL OFFICE OBSERVATION FORM**

**Observation hours must be current, completed within the last two years.**

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.

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

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. **Please mail completed observation form to the address below to ensure confidentiality.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Reference

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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