

## UNMC PROGRAM IN DENTAL HYGIENE

Dental hygiene, a preventive profession, is composed of licensed dental hygienists who are an integral part of the dental health team. They provide educational, clinical, and therapeutic services to those seeking dental care.

The dental hygiene curriculum at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry is fully approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and its graduates are eligible for examination and licensure in all states.

The curriculum is organized into a four-year program leading to a bachelor of science degree in dental hygiene. Preparation for admission to the dental hygiene program consists of approximately two academic years of study. This course work may be completed at any accredited college. To comply with prerequisite requirements for the dental hygiene program, it is advisable to contact the department. The college can help you select courses and suggest colleges that will fulfill these requirements.



After selection into the dental hygiene program, the next two academic years and one summer session are spent at the College of Dentistry in Lincoln or the West Division in Gering.

## PREDENTAL HYGIENE REQUIREMENTS

### HIGH SCHOOL

Preparation for the study of dental hygiene begins in high school. The prospective dental hygiene student should take the following subjects:

English	3 years
Mathematics/Algebra	2 years
Geometry	1 year
Biological Sciences (Biology)	1 year
Chemistry	1 year
Foreign Language (suggested, not required)	2 years

## COLLEGE

The predental hygiene courses fulfill general requirements and provide the student with a core of knowledge.

Communication (English Comp)	6 hours
Biology	4 hours
Microbiology	4 hours
Human Anatomy or Anatomy & Physiology I	4 hours
Human Physiology or Anatomy & Physiology II	4 hours
General Chemistry	8 hours
Introductory Sociology	3 hours
Introductory Psychology	3-4 hours
Communication (Speech/must give speeches)	3 hours
Humanities/Arts	6 hours
Social & Behavioral Sciences/ Human Behavior, Culture, & Social Organization	3 hours
Nutrition	3 hours
12-hour series	12 hours

Six credit hours must be completed in the arts and humanities and three hours in social and behavioral sciences/human behavior, culture and social organization. A twelve-hour series (a 12-hour minor in one academic area) must be completed in a specific area of study. The courses taken in the 12-hour series must have the same course prefix for all courses being considered. The dental hygiene program advisor should be consulted for specific details.

## ADMISSION GUIDELINES

The Department of Dental Hygiene accepts twenty students each year for the program at the College of Dentistry in Lincoln, Nebraska. Four students are accepted for the West Division in Gering, Nebraska. Students who meet the following requirements may be considered for admission.

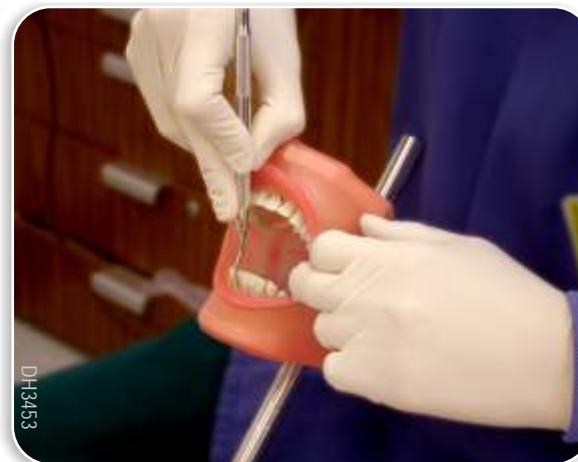
- Maintain a minimum total grade point average of 2.5. (Average GPA for the 24 students accepted into the program each fall is generally 3.5.)
- Submit an official high school transcript.
- Submit ACT or SAT scores, if available.
- Submit current college transcript(s) from all institutions attended.
- Submit online application and application fee by February 1st.

A personal interview may be requested with members of the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee. The University of Nebraska Medical Center is an equal opportunity institution and all qualified minorities are urged to apply.

## College of Dentistry

**40th & Holdrege  
P.O. 830740  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0740**

**(402) 472-1433  
rcharles@unmc.edu**



**For More Information  
and Online Forms:  
[www.unmc.edu/dentistry](http://www.unmc.edu/dentistry)**

**Click on Programs:  
*Prospective Students,  
Dental Hygiene Program***

UNIVERSITY OF  
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University of Nebraska  
Medical Center  
College of Dentistry  
Department of Dental Hygiene  
**Program & Admissions  
Information**



## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Students who have completed pre-dental hygiene study and are ready to apply for admission should do so on the college's website. Students are urged to begin application procedures as early as possible. The College of Dentistry charges a \$50 application fee. The department must receive the online application form, application fee, all transcripts (high school and colleges), and ACT or SAT scores by February 1st.

The Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee notifies all applicants of their acceptance or rejection. Upon notice of acceptance for enrollment in the dental hygiene program, a letter of intent to enroll, and a deposit of \$200 are required. The full amount of the deposit applies toward payment of tuition and fees when the student enrolls.

Applicants will be accepted after presenting evidence of intellectual promise and strong personal qualifications, including good moral character and the desire to serve the public. Consideration is given to personal maturity and professional motivation. Students selected must be committed to scholarly pursuits and have career goals compatible with the philosophy of the baccalaureate program.

## ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM OPTIONS

For licensed dental hygienists with an associate degree, the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry offers a degree completion program leading to a bachelor of science degree in dental hygiene. For more information on this program and a counseling appointment, contact the department at (402) 472-1433.



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Dental hygiene students pay by the credit hour for tuition: \$187 per hour for residents and \$555 per hour for nonresidents. For students entering in the fall of 2009, resident cost for tuition, fees, books, equipment and instruments for the two-year program is estimated at approximately \$22,626 (\$46,546 for non-residents). Living expenses for a single student are budgeted by the financial aid office to be about \$1,400 per month. For a resident student, the total cost of a dental hygiene education including living expenses is estimated at \$53,426 for two years. To make adequate financial arrangements, additional costs of approximately \$3,900 are identified to students at the beginning of the program (licensure, National Boards and Clinical Boards, student health insurance, etc.).

## FINANCIAL AID

All students admitted to the College of Dentistry will automatically receive information pertaining to the financial aid program. For additional information, please contact:

Financial Aid Office  
Nebraska Medical Center 984265  
Omaha, NE 68198-4265  
1-800-626-8431 (Ext. 4199) or (402) 559-4199  
Director: jdwalker@unmc.edu

NOTE: The awarding of any grant, scholarship, or loan is dependent on timely application and meeting all requirements for eligibility. It is each student's responsibility to know the deadlines and to have met the application requirements for the desired aid program.

## STATUS FOR RESIDENT TUITION

For guidelines in gaining and maintaining resident status for tuition purposes in Nebraska, request an information booklet from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions by calling (402) 472-2023.

## UNIVERSITY HOUSING

The Board of Regents determines the rates for room and board in the student residence halls. University housing is only available to Lincoln campus students. Current information is available from the Division of University Housing, 1115 North 16th Street, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0622, (402) 472-3561.

## PROGRAM COSTS\*

### JUNIOR YEAR (Fall, Spring & Summer Semesters)

Resident	Year's Total Cost
Tuition (37 hrs @ \$187/hr)	\$6,919
Registration Fee	60
Library Fee	111
Student Fees	1,090
Books & Instruments	3,470
Equipment	600
Background Check	50
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	\$12,300

Nonresident	Year's Total Cost
Tuition (37 hrs @ \$555/hr)	\$20,535
Registration Fee	60
Library Fee	111
Student Fees	1,090
Books & Instruments	3,470
Equipment	600
Background Check	50
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	\$25,916

### SENIOR YEAR (Fall & Spring Semesters)

Resident	Year's Total Cost
Tuition (28 hrs @ \$187/hr)	\$5,236
Registration Fee	40
Library Fee	84
Student Fees	896
Books & Instruments	3,470
Equipment	600
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	\$10,326

Nonresident	Year's Total Cost
Tuition (28 hrs @ \$555/hr)	\$15,540
Registration Fee	40
Library Fee	84
Student Fees	896
Books & Instruments	3,470
Equipment	600
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	\$20,630



Total Program Cost:  
Resident: \$22,626  
Nonresident: \$46,546

\*Costs may vary (+/-) from the time of this printing.

## A DENTAL HYGIENIST IS...

...a preventive oral health professional licensed in dental hygiene who provides educational, clinical and therapeutic services supporting total health through the promotion of optimal oral health.

The education of the dental hygienist emphasizes the basic sciences including microbiology, chemistry, pathology, anatomy, and physiology. Other components of the curriculum develop the clinical skills of the dental hygienist ultimately preparing the hygienist to provide preventive dental health services to the public. A dental hygienist is eligible for licensure after graduation from an educational program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation and upon successful completion of both a written National Board Dental Hygiene examination and a clinical examination. The licensed dental hygienist practices in accordance with the requirements of individual state dental practice acts. The purpose of licensure is to protect the public. In many states, a dental hygienist must take continuing education courses to renew his/her license.

A dental hygienist may work in such practice settings as:

- Private dental offices and dental clinics
- Federal, state, and local health departments or associated institutions
- Hospitals and nursing homes
- School districts or departments of education
- Educational programs for dental, dental hygiene, and dental assisting students
- Private business and industry
- Correctional facilities
- Private and public centers for pediatric, geriatric, and other individuals or groups with special needs
- Health Maintenance Organizations

A dental hygienist is that member of the dental team who is responsible for providing treatment that helps to prevent oral disease such as dental caries (cavities) and periodontal disease (gum disease) and for educating the patient to maintain optimal oral health. This professional is especially knowledgeable about the preventive aspects of dental disease.

*Excerpts from a publication by the ADHA Council on Dental Hygiene Practice.*

