

## JOB DESCRIPTION

The dental hygienist is a licensed member of the dental health team, dedicated to the prevention of dental diseases and the promotion of optimal oral health. Under the supervision of a licensed dentist, the dental hygienist provides a variety of patient services including collecting health history data, taking blood pressure, removing hard and soft deposits from the teeth, applying fluoride, placing protective sealants, and educating patients in proper oral hygiene techniques and good nutritional habits. Employment in this field is expected to grow by 38% between 2010 and 2020 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The national salary average of dental hygienists working five days per week is around \$50,000-\$75,000.

An individual considering a career in dental hygiene should be able to perform work that requires precision and sound judgment. Manual dexterity, dependability, and good vision are also important characteristics. Functioning under time and patient management constraints is often encountered. Additionally, students will be expected to comply with a variety of clinical and workplace rules and regulations related to successful and safe clinical practice.

Admission to the dental hygiene program at UT Health Science Center leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene requires the completion of 58 semester hours of prescribed courses while enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences. The program in Memphis is five semesters long, and includes a five week summer session between the junior and senior year.

The pre-dental hygiene program includes the specified courses required for admission to the program at UT Health Science Center. Students wishing to prepare for professional training at institutions other than UT Health Science Center should consult the catalogs of those institutions to determine the specific preparation required for admission.

## RESIDENCY POLICY FOR UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

UT Health Science Center is a state-supported institution and by legislative intent is required to admit all qualified Tennesseans prior to considering out-of-state applicants. The program may, however, admit up to 10% of its class from other states.

## PRE-DENTAL HYGIENE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

| FIRST YEAR                    | CREDIT HOURS |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| English 101-102               | 6            |
| Chemistry 100-110 or 120-130  | 8            |
| Biology 150-159               | 5            |
| Psychology 110                | 3            |
| Sociology 110 or 120          | 3            |
| Nutrition 100                 | 3            |
| Electives (see Notes 1 and 2) | <u>3</u>     |
|                               | 31           |

| SECOND YEAR                               | CREDIT HOURS |
|---|--------------|
| British Literature or American Literature | 3            |
| Communication Studies 210                 | 3            |
| Microbiology 210 or Biology 220-229       | 3-4          |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Biochemistry & Cellular & Molecular Biology 230 | 5          |
| Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 240            | 4          |
| Social Sciences (Note 3)                        | 6          |
| Electives (see Notes 1 and 2)                   | <u>3-4</u> |
|   | 27-29      |

Note 1: Recommended electives are Anthropology 485 *Oral Biology*, Computer Science 100 *Introduction to Computers and Computing*, Spanish, and Classics 273 *Medical Terminology*.

Note 2: One year of U.S. history must be completed in high school or college prior to admission to the UT Health Science Center Dental Hygiene Program.

Note 3: Social Sciences include Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, and Philosophy

All science courses require laboratory experience. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale is expected with over a 3.0 being considered competitive. Grades of "D" are not acceptable. If a required course is repeated, both grades are used in calculating a cumulative grade point average. Credit hours earned for non-theory courses in physical education, military science, music and art courses are not acceptable as elective hours. Correspondence, proficiency, and extension course credits are limited in both amount and content and should not be scheduled without prior written approval from the College of Allied Health Sciences. For information regarding CLEP and Advanced Placement, check the UT Health Science Center general catalog. Credit for science courses completed more than five years prior to application will be carefully reviewed by the Admissions Committee and may not be accepted in fulfillment of the required number of hours.

## ALPHA EPSILON DELTA (AED)

Alpha Epsilon Delta is a pre-health honor society that seeks to provide information and opportunities for students with an interest in the health professions. The Tennessee Beta Chapter of AED is active at The University of Tennessee. AED activities include information sessions on preparing to apply to professional schools, local speakers from the medical community, trips to Tennessee medical schools and health centers, and service activities. The schedule of meetings is available at <http://aedutk.wix.com/aed-utk/>.

Requirements for national membership include three terms of college (at least one at UT), a cumulative GPA of 3.2, a science GPA of 3.2, and participation in AED sponsored events and meetings. Students interested in AED should first affiliate themselves with the organization as a pledge during the first semester at college attendance at UT. Applications for both pledge status and national membership are available in Arts and Sciences Advising Services, 313 Ayres Hall, and at the organizational website. A student who does not meet the criteria to become a national member may continue as a pledge. Pre-health students wishing to receive notification of pre-health activities and AED events should send an e-mail to [mhoskins@utk.edu](mailto:mhoskins@utk.edu) to request to be added to the pre-health distribution list.

## SEMINAR FOR PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

During each fall semester, Arts and Sciences Advising Services offers a one credit hour course entitled *Introduction to Health*

*Care Delivery.* This one credit hour seminar course is taught in the Wood Auditorium of UT Medical Center. The course provides weekly seminars on topics such as managed care, family practice, ethical issues in medicine, malpractice, allied health programs, and many others. The course is listed in the timetable under Interdisciplinary Programs 100. The course is open to any interested student.

### APPLICATION TO UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Students are admitted to the Dental Hygiene program in the fall of each year. All application materials as listed below must be submitted electronically to the American Dental Education Association DHCAS (Dental Hygiene Centralized Application Service) on or before February 15 prior to the August class for which admission is sought. Please see the DHCAS website (<https://dhcas.liaisoncas.com/>) for more detailed instructions.

- Completed application and application fees <http://www.uthsc.edu/admissions/apply.php>
- Completed essay as instructed under “Required Essay” in the application.
- Official transcript from each college or university attended. Currently enrolled students should log into MyUTK and select *My Services* to order a transcript.
- Projected plan for completion of prerequisite course work.
- Two letters of evaluation (see admissions application).
- Proof of a complete one-year course in American History (high school or college).

The admissions committee considers dental assisting experience desirable and strongly suggests the applicant obtain observation, at minimum. All students entering UTHSC are required to pass a criminal background check. A personal interview may be required for admission.

### APPLICATIONS DEADLINES AND SELECTION DATES

| Class Size | Entering Date | Application Deadline | Final Class Selection Date | Length of Program |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 30         | Fall          | February 15          | April                      | 2 years           |

The average GPA for the entering class in 2014 was 3.40. For further information on admissions statistics and required grade point average, please contact the Dental Hygiene program director listed on the right.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM:

Dr. Cassandra Holder-Ballard, Program Director and Chair  
 Department of Dental Hygiene  
 University of Tennessee Health Science Center  
 930 Madison Avenue, 6th Floor  
 Memphis, TN 38163  
 (901) 448-6617  
<http://www.uthsc.edu/allied/dh/cballard@uthsc.edu>

Elaine Stegman, Advisor  
 Department of Dental Hygiene  
 (901) 448-3038  
[estegman@uthsc.edu](mailto:estegman@uthsc.edu)

Arts and Sciences Advising Services  
 313 Ayres Hall  
 University of Tennessee  
 Knoxville, TN 37996-1335  
 (865) 974-4481  
<http://www.artsci.utk.edu/advising/> (home page)

American Dental Hygienists' Association  
 444 North Michigan Avenue  
 Chicago, IL 60611  
 (312) 440-8900  
<http://www.adha.org> (home page)

The information in this bulletin is subject to revision. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with a health professions advisor on a regular basis.

ADMISSIONS TO THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES. ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, AND COMPLETION OF THE PRE-DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES DOES NOT ASSURE ADMISSION TO UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER.

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