



DENTAL HYGIENE

University of Alaska Anchorage



Advising Module

Welcome

- We are glad you are interested in becoming a dental hygienist. It's a rewarding and challenging career with new opportunities for advancement.
- This module will follow the advising syllabus on the UAA Dental Hygiene Program website. It provides information students need before applying to the program.
- After completing this module and short quiz, we highly recommend you schedule a meeting with a dental hygiene advisor to discuss any questions you might still have and ensure you know the challenges that await successful applicants!

Mission and Goals

- **Mission Statement:** The mission of the UAA Dental Hygiene Program is to educate students in dental hygiene to the Bachelor of Science degree level.
- The **educational objectives** of the UAA Dental Hygiene Program are to produce graduates who:
 - Have the technical skills and professional demeanor to perform occupationally-related procedures.
 - Demonstrate academic and clinical proficiency necessary to succeed on national and regional examinations.
 - Are prepared to perform occupational-related procedures in various settings.
 - Meet the occupational requirements of employers.
 - Prepare students for graduate education.

Prerequisite Courses

- **Science**—weighted twice as heavily as non-science
 - BIOL A111 Anatomy & Physiology I
 - BIOL A112 Anatomy & Physiology II
 - BIOL A240 Microbiology with lab
 - CHEM A103/A103L Survey of Chemistry w/ lab (or CHEM A105/L General Chemistry I w/lab) **AND**
 - CHEM A104/A104L Intro to Organic and Biochemistry with lab
 - **NOTE:** Requirements before CHEM A103
 - CHEM A055 (minimum grade of C) OR
 - MATH A151 or higher (min. grade of C) OR
 - ALEKS score of 065 or higher.
- **Non-science**
 - WRTG A111, A211, A212, A213, or A214
 - COMM A111, A235, A237, or A241
 - SOC A101 or A201
 - PSY A111 or A150

- Program coursework (p. 5-6 of Advising Syllabus)
 - Five semesters once accepted into our program
- Other degree requirements (see recommended course sequencing)
 - Nutrition
 - DN A203 Nutrition for Health Sciences
 - Recommend taking it during the fall application semester.
 - General education
 - Three additional credits of GER (WRTG A212 preferred)
 - Humanities (6 credits) and fine arts (3 credits)
 - Statistics (STAT A200)
 - Integrative capstone (DH A424 Community Dental Health II)
 - Advanced dental hygiene coursework (10-11 credits)

BSDH Degree Requirements

Program Cost

- See the Advising Syllabus
 - These are estimates.
- Lab fees are high
 - Includes instrument kits
 - Magnification (loupes) are \$1000 in 1st Semester, included in lab fees
- All students wear uniforms in lab and clinic.
- Additional non-school costs are incurred in the last semester of the program to become licensed:
 - Board exam fees--~\$2000
 - Licensure fees--~\$900 to get licensed in AK

Application Procedure

- Apply to UAA as a BSDH Dental Hygiene pre-major
- All 11 prerequisite courses must be taken (with a grade of C or higher) and recorded on the UAA/UA transcript by the end of the UA summer session. If you have coursework at another institution, submit transcripts to Enrollment Services (Registrar) for evaluation.
- Complete and submit the online dental hygiene application by the deadline posted on the website.
 - Includes names and contact information for three professional references.
- Submit TEAS scores by application deadline
 - No more than 24 months old
 - If retaking, at least 4 months since last test—we use the highest score.
 - Minimum acceptable score: 60

- Reference names and contact information should be provided on the application.
- References should be from someone who knows you in a supervisory capacity— employer or teacher.
 - **Not a friend or family member.**
 - **Not a dental hygienist who knows you.**
- For dental assistants, include a reference from the dentist you work for if you want points for dental assisting experience. We have a form for the dentist to complete.

Application Procedure: Professional References

Selection Criteria & Procedure

- All application materials must be received by the application deadline posted on the website (August 1st).
- Points are awarded for:
 - Science GPA (weighted twice as heavily as non-science)
 - Non-science GPA
 - TEAS score (weighted ~ equal to science GPA)
 - Dental assisting experience, CDA, or graduation from an ADA accredited dental assisting program
 - Maximum of 100 points
- Interviews for top candidates—notified by email
 - Demonstrated qualities, e.g. professionalism, ethics, communication skills
- If a student from another dental hygiene program is applying, we will request a Letter of Standing from that program's director.

Other Suggestions for Applicants

Our selection process is competitive and not everyone gets in. We have 20 positions available and usually have 35+ applicants.

Shadow/Observe a hygienist

- This allows you to observe what a hygienist does and will help you determine whether or not you want to pursue the career.
- Dedicated applicants are willing to take the time to observe.
- If you don't have a dental office, you can visit the UAA Dental Hygiene Clinic.
 - Call 786-6960 for scheduling
 - Wear professional clothes—no jeans, yoga pants, or tennis shoes.

- Insurance

- Students must have medical insurance throughout the program.
- The UAA Dental Hygiene Program provides liability insurance.

Student Requirements During the Program

Student Requirements During the Program (cont.)

- Professional Conduct
 - We have a “Three-Strike” Policy—two warnings, with the third infraction resulting in possible dismissal from the program.
 - We have a “One-Strike” Policy for cheating or stealing.
 - Professional and ethical behavior is based on:
 - American Dental Hygienists’ Association’s Code of Ethics
 - UAA Student Code of Conduct
 - UAA Dental Hygiene Program’s policies.

Student Requirements During the Program: Mandatory Attendance

- **Mandatory Attendance**

- This is a rigorous program, and for students to be successful, they need to be in class.
- The only excused absences are being sick (with a doctor's excuse) and family emergencies.
 - *Illness of students' children is NOT excused.*
 - Back up childcare is **strongly** recommended.
- We discourage student employment during the program due to the time commitment needed for classes and completing assignments. We recognize that some students may have to work, but we want everyone to understand that they will be more successful if they can dedicate 100% of their time to the program.

Clinical patient requirements are the students' responsibility!

- Every clinical appointment must be filled.
- Students attend clinic for three semesters: 2nd-year spring, 3rd-year fall/spring.
- Patients may not always meet class requirements (e.g., sealants, x-rays, tartar levels).
- Collaboration helps students fulfill requirements efficiently.
- Accreditation mandates requirements to ensure competency in all hygienist treatments.

Student Requirements During the Program: Clinicals

Student Requirements During the Program: Certifications

Basic Life Support certification is required throughout the program.

- **Not required for application**
- Must be from the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association
- Basic Life Support for Healthcare providers with AED (automatic external defibrillator)
- **NOT HEARTSAVER**
- Online courses are **not** acceptable according to the state regulations for dental hygiene licensure
- **Vaccinations are required.**
 - **Not required for application, but are required to be completed by the start of class**
 - See the welcome packet for information after the selection is completed for our incoming. Work on obtaining necessary vaccinations and documentation before starting the program in January

Required Vaccinations

- **Rubeola, Mumps and Rubella**: immunity must be demonstrated by one of the following:
 - MMR 2-dose series, documented
 - Blood test showing immunity to Rubeola, Mumps, and Rubella
- **Varicella (Chicken pox)**: immunity must be demonstrated by one of the following:
 - Varicella two-dose series, documented
 - Blood test showing immunity to Varicella
- **Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)**: immunity must be demonstrated by:
 - Tdap vaccine as an adult, documented
 - NOTE: Pregnant healthcare workers need to get a dose of Tdap during each pregnancy.

Required Vaccinations cont.

- **Tuberculosis:** freedom from active tuberculosis infection must be demonstrated by one of the following:
 - Initial negative indicated by 2-step tuberculin skin test (TST) (also known as the Purified Protein Derivative or PPD test), documented OR
 - Quantiferon Gold TB Test, documented
- **Hepatitis B** – immunity
- **COVID:** optional (recommended)

Required Vaccinations cont.

If it has been less than 5 years since the completion of the three dose hepatitis B series, you should:

- Have a hepatitis B titer drawn
- A positive response indicated immunity. Submit official documentation. Requirement is met.
- A negative response indicates no or low immunity. Procedure is:
- Start a second hepatitis B series of three additional vaccine doses followed by 2nd titer.
- Dose #4 – immediately
- Dose #5 – One month later
- Dose #6 – Five months after dose five
- 1-2 months after dose six, receive a titer
- A positive response indicated immunity. Submit official documentation. Requirement is met.
- A negative response after six total doses indicates a non-responder and not immune. Submit official documentation. No further hepatitis immunizations or titers are needed. Although student must accomplish the following:

Required Vaccinations cont.

- **Healthcare Provider Counseling.** Those who have not demonstrated immunity must see the Compliance Coordinator in the UAA Student Affairs Office. The student will be referred to a healthcare provider with a specific form to guide the provider. The student will discuss precautions required in the clinical setting, as well as any further treatment or testing. The student should also understand any prophylaxis and follow-up for bloodborne exposure. The form must be signed by the provider and returned to the Compliance Coordinator in Student Affairs.

Required Vaccinations Cont.

- **Recurring Requirements**

- Annual Tuberculosis Skin Testing (or PPD) must demonstrate tuberculin status.
- TST/PPD is negative no further action needed
- TST/PPD is positive, then the following is required:
- Proof of negative chest x-ray followed by annual health examination by an approved health provider (medical doctor, osteopath, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant).
- 10-year booster Td (Tetanus, Diphtheria) a booster is required every 10 years after the initial vaccine (must remain current throughout the Dental Hygiene Program)

- **Recommended Immunizations/Screening**

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Screening – results are not required and should not be turned in.
- Annual Influenza (Flu) vaccination
- Meningitis vaccination
- COVID-19 Vaccination

Declining Vaccinations

- The primary purpose of vaccinations is to protect the student clinician from infectious diseases. Students who are unable or unwilling to obtain one or more of the required vaccinations must complete and submit a vaccination declination form, which may be obtained from the Program Director.

- Strict grooming and infection control requirements
 - No visible tattoos or jewelry are allowed in clinic.
 - Uniforms are worn during clinic and lab classes.
 - CDC guidelines are followed for students exposed to contagious diseases.
 - Students are exposed to radiation (x-rays), bloodborne and infectious diseases (we do have HIV/AIDS patients in our clinic), and hazardous chemicals.
 - We teach safety for all these situations based on OSHA guidelines
 - If you don't want to be exposed to these risks, you may want to consider a different profession.

Student Requirements During the Program: Grooming, Safety

Student Requirements During the Program: Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

- We have some off-campus activities to which students must have transportation.
- Some off-campus clinical rotations (and employers of licensed dental hygienists) may require drug and alcohol testing.
- Students must have background checks to participate in most, if not all, clinical rotations. Student cost is ~\$80/annual background check.

- Information will be given in the fall to accepted students to prepare for classes that start in January.
- This includes items such as:
 - Uniforms to purchase
 - Vaccinations
 - BLS certification

Students Accepted into the Program

Employment Opportunities

- Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, Kenai, and Rural Areas:
 - The job market is very favorable.
 - Most graduates find work immediately after licensure.
- Having a BSDH allows you to:
 - Work in Public Health as a commissioned officer.
 - Work for a dental supply company in sales and consulting.
 - Office manager
 - Be an Instructor in associate degree programs.

Requirements

- Graduate from an accredited dental hygiene program
 - UAA's program is accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation
- Successful completion of national and clinical board exams
- Pass background check
- Pay application and licensure fees

Licensure

Licensure

- **State of Alaska: Board of Dental Examiners required information**
 - Conviction of felonies or other crimes within the last 5 years.
 - Treatment or hospitalization for emotional or mental illness, drug addiction or alcoholism.
 - Having a chronic contagious or infectious disease.
 - Disciplinary actions regarding licensure in other states
- For questions and information, contact the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners.

Thank you

- You have completed the online advising module for the UAA Dental Hygiene Program.
- Please complete the quiz and submit it so your certificate of completion can be sent to the Dental Hygiene Program.
- http://uaa.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8HsVXeI05OMvUy1
- Schedule an advising appointment after you have completed the advising module and quiz. This is generally for those ready to apply within a year, but you are more than welcome to meet with an advisor if you have questions even if you are further out from applying than a year.
 - Contact Carri Shamburger @ cashamburger@alaska.edu