Dental Hygiene Admissions

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Mission Statement

The philosophy and mission of the Dental Hygiene program is to graduate students who demonstrate the highest ideals of the dental hygiene profession, advance the standards and delivery of oral health care, develop positive human relationships and understanding with those with whom we work and serve, and endeavor to extend the benefits of evidenced based, quality oral health care to all, who are proactive members of society in the promotion of health.
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, nursing homes or in a corporate environment. In addition to the clinical role, dental hygienists may also work in an administrative capacity in any of the above locations.
What Do Dental Hygienists Do?

- perform oral health care assessments that include the review of patients' health history, dental charting, oral cancer screening, and evaluation of gum disease / health;
- expose, process, and interpret dental radiographs (x-rays);
- remove plaque and calculus ("tartar") from above and below the gumline using dental instruments;
- apply cavity-preventive agents such as fluorides and sealants to the teeth;
- administer local anesthetic;
- educate patients on proper oral hygiene techniques to maintain healthy teeth and gums;
- counsel patients about plaque control and developing individualized at-home oral hygiene programs;
- administer smoking cessation programs; and
- counsel patients on the importance of good nutrition for maintaining optimal oral health.
Policy on Infectious Diseases: Including, but not limited to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).

- The dental hygiene profession has inherent risk exposure to various infectious diseases. It is important for prospective students, current students and faculty to understand that safety practices have been integrated throughout the curriculum not only to comply with numerous guidelines, standards of care, and regulations but also to protect one's health and the health of clients. As part of acceptance and continuous in the program, students and faculty are required to provide proof of vaccinations and medical clearance. The dental hygiene program follows state immunization regulations, CDC's recommendations for immunizations and all rotations recommendations for vaccinations including annual flu vaccinations and testing for infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. Specific training in the dental hygiene program will focus on or reinforce the concepts of the basics of disease transmission, epidemiology of infectious diseases, modes of transmission for infectious agents, exposure prevention and precautionary measures.
Dental Hygiene Admissions

- Deadline for dental hygiene application December 18th for fall entrance
- All science courses **MUST** have been completed within 5 years of application deadline.
- Two letters of recommendation
  - Professional or academic
  - Addressed to Tunxis Admissions Department
- A personal statement
- Attendance at an information session
Security

- All students are subject to background checks
- Any student with a criminal record may be barred from a clinical site.
- Any individual with a felony record may be denied a license to practice as determined by the Department of Public Health in consultation with the Dental Commission as stated by the Connecticut State Statutes
Admissions

Minimum of Prerequisite Courses Necessary to Apply

- English Composition (English 101)
- College level Math (Math 137)
- Concepts Chemistry (Chem 111)**
- Anatomy and Physiology I (Bio 211)***

The combined GPA for these courses must be 2.7 the minimum grade on any course is a C

For 2016 admission grades repeated within the 5 year time frame will be averaged

*Bio 121 Bio I is a prerequisite to Bio 211 A&P I
Admissions

Consideration is given for previous college course work

Associate and Baccalaureate Degrees and the Health Careers Pathway Certificate are given consideration, as well as a student’s overall academic performance.

Submit all transcripts to Admissions Office
**MUST be completed prior to the start of Program**

- Anatomy and Physiology II (Bio 212)**
- Nutrition for Health Care Providers (HLT 201)** or Microbiology (Bio 235)**

**May be in progress during spring prior to the start of the program. Any student accepted is required to pass with a C or better or forfeit acceptance. Additional points are added to the score of the applicant if completed by admissions deadline.**
Interview Process

- The top 60 scoring applicants are selected for an interview
- Interviews are conducted by two members of the faculty or professional staff and all questions are standardized
- An on the spot writing sample is also part of the process
It is highly recommended and additional consideration is given for completion of liberal arts and science courses prior to the start of the program.
First Year Course of Study for Dental Hygiene

Fall Semester

- Fundamentals of Dental Hygiene Theory
- Fundamentals of Dental Hygiene Clinical
- Oral Histology and Dental Anatomy
- DH Radiology and Diagnostics (Hybrid)

Nutrition for Health Care Providers HLT 201 or Microbiology

*HLT* 201 offered in fall and spring

(one must be completed prior to the start of the program)
First Year Course of Study for Dental Hygiene

Spring Semester

- Clinical Practice II Theory
- Clinical Practice II Clinical
- Oral Medicine
- Practice Management Law and Ethics
- Dental Materials (Hybrid)

Nutrition for Health Care Providers HLT 201 or Microbiology

HLT* 201 offered in fall and spring

(one must be completed prior to the start of the program)
Second year course of study

Summer:
- Pharmacology (online)
Second Year Course of Study for Dental Hygiene

**Fall Semester**

- DH Clinical Practice III Theory
- DH Clinical Practice III Clinic
- Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist
- Community Oral Health I
- DH Research Seminar I
Second Year Course of Study for Dental Hygiene

Winter Session

Pain Control and Local Anesthesia
Second Year Course of Study for Dental Hygiene

**Spring Semester**

- Clinical Practice IV Theory
- Clinical Practice IV Clinical
- Community Oral Health II
- DH Research Seminar II
- Capstone
Liberal Arts Classes

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Public Speaking
- Fine Arts

It is highly recommended and consideration is given for liberal arts classes completed prior to admission to the program.
Service Learning
Lakota Reservation 2008;2013-2014
Belize 2010
Rural Utah Child Development
Head Start
Halchita Center
739-4256
Navajo Reservation 2010 - 2014
Approximate Cost for Dental Hygiene

First Year Costs
- Tuition & Fees $4072
- Clinic Fee $602
- Fees/uniform $450
- Books $1100
- Equip /Supplies $6,500
- SADHA $65
- Inoculations $150

Second Year Costs
- Tuition $5106
- Clinic Fee $903
- Activity fee $20
- Books $800
- SADHA $65
- National Boards $1275

Out of State Tuition $12136.00 per year

For most current tuition information check website
Licensure for Tunxis Dental Hygiene Graduates


All are eligible for licensure to practice

Most graduates reside in Connecticut
Career Opportunities

Periodontics

Pedodontics

General Practice

Community Health Centers

Assisted Living Centers/Skilled Nursing Facilities

School Based Programs

Sales
Accreditation
American Dental Association
(CODA)
Commission on Dental Accreditation

The program is scheduled for a site visit
October 2015

Complaint procedures may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 211 East Chicago Ave,
Chicago, IL 60611, 1-800-621-8099 ext 4653