Gene W. Hirschfeld
School of Dental Hygiene
2011 Health Sciences Building
757-683-3338

Master of Science - Dental Hygiene
757-683-5150
http://www.odu.edu/dental
Gayle McCombs, Graduate Program Director

The challenge of effectively change in the scope and direction of dental hygiene and health care requires competencies in collaborative problem solving, evidence-based decision making, and leadership.

Recipients of the Master of Science degree in dental hygiene develop skills to meet complex national and global health challenges in interprofessional education, knowledge-generation, information transfer, and health care for all members of society. Within a multidisciplinary, multicultural curricular framework that integrates theory, research, and practical experience, the competency-based program links the goals and career aspirations of the student with relevant learning experiences, technologies, and resources to facilitate career advancement. Through specialized skills training, graduates are prepared to assume leadership roles necessary for quality professional dental hygiene care and advancing knowledge and practice.

Solutions to complex health problems need the participation of dental hygienists educated in community health, research, management, education, public policy, and advocacy, just to name a few. Therefore, the program offers distinct specialty areas in which students may specialize: education, administration/management, research, marketing, community health, global health and modeling and simulation. Although graduate education focuses on developing a specialty, such specialization is viewed as secondary to generating evidence-based knowledge and theory through research. Demand for master’s level dental hygienists in these key areas of specialization continues to be strong and students are able to develop competencies essential in today’s employment market.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the graduate program director to obtain additional information regarding requirements, experiential credit, cognate offerings, travel abroad, practica and externship opportunities. The program is available on campus, online, or as a hybrid of the two. Up to 12 approved graduate credit hours may be taken at another university and applied toward degree requirements, making this program one of the most flexible in the nation. Other advantages of graduate study at Old Dominion University include the opportunity to engage in learning within the state-of-the-art Dental Hygiene Care Facility and Dental Hygiene Research Center, the hub for independent investigations with other scholars both within and external to the University; the student-focused, nationally and internationally recognized faculty committed to the educational preparation of dental hygienists leading to degrees at advanced levels; and the opportunity to segue to doctoral education in health services research within the College of Health Sciences.

Admission Information
To qualify for admission, the applicant must possess a certificate or associate degree from an accredited dental hygiene program and a baccalaureate degree in dental hygiene or a related field. International students who have graduated from a dental hygiene program, other than a CODA accredited dental hygiene program, will be considered on an individual basis. Students who have graduated from an international dental hygiene program, with a 3.0 GPA equivalent or higher (on a 4.0 scale), must take and pass a SODH clinical competency examination to be considered for acceptance into the MSDH program. The applicant must have an overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.80 (on a 4.00 scale) in undergraduate education and a minimum of 3.00 in the undergraduate dental hygiene major.

For consideration, the documents listed below must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Old Dominion University, Rollins Hall, Norfolk, VA. 23529.

International Students must submit their documents for consideration to the Office of International Admissions, Old Dominion University, 2101 Dragas Hall, Norfolk, VA. 23529.

Students can apply online at the Office of Admissions (http://www.odu.edu/admission/apply) website.
Visit: VISA & Immigration Services Advising at: https://www.odu.edu/visa.

1. Graduate Application.
2. Scores from the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination Note: International dental hygiene students who have not graduated from an CODA accredited dental hygiene program and who do not have National Board Dental hygiene scores, will be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis. A current active dental hygiene license in at least one state may be submitted for national board scores; consult with the graduate program director.
3. Recommendation from previous dental hygiene clinical supervisor and dental hygiene program director.
4. Two letters of recommendation from academic sources.
5. Written statement of personal goals and objectives related to the anticipated degree.
6. International applicants must present satisfactory evidence of competence in English by submitting score of at least 550 on the TOEFL, 79 on the TOEFL iBT or 6.5 or higher on IELTS.
7. GRE or Miller’s Analog scores (only if you are interested in competing for a University Fellowship).
8. Bachelor’s degree in dental hygiene or a related field and, in the latter case, have completed an accredited certificate program or associate degree program in dental hygiene.
9. Evidence of an undergraduate overall quality point average of at least 2.8 and an average in the dental hygiene major of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).
10. Official transcripts of all college work.

Applicants whose qualifications are slightly below the required level will be considered for admission to provisional status and may be required to take additional course work. Students who have not graduated from a CODA accredited program, with a 3.0 GPA equivalent or better, must take and pass a SODH clinical competency examination to be considered for acceptance into the MSDH program.

The master's degree program is available under the Southern Regional Education Board’s (SREB) Academic Common Market. Applicants who are legal residents of Delaware, Kentucky, Mississippi, or South Carolina may enroll, if accepted, as Academic Common Market students at in-state tuition rates. Students also may be required to take undergraduate courses or non-credit courses to make-up deficiencies in other areas.

For additional information, visit http://www.schev.edu/students/Acmvainstable.asp.

Degree Requirements
Students must complete all courses within a six-year time period with a minimum GPA of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Students must also successfully present and defend a thesis research or non-thesis project and pass an oral comprehensive examination. Students not graduating from the BSDH program at Old Dominion University must also pass a comprehensive writing examination.

Thesis degree requirements include a minimum of 34 semester hours
Non-Thesis degree requirements include a minimum of 37 semester hours

Curriculum Core Requirements. All core requirements may be taken on campus, online or hybrid. Candidates are required to fulfill a 22 credit hour core requirement to include:
## Core Courses
- DNTH 514 Educational Concepts for the Health Professional I
- DNTH 515 Research Methods in the Health Sciences
- DNTH 516 Administrative Leadership and Professional Development
- DNTH 604 Clinical Administration and Teaching
- DNTH 660 Educational Concepts for the Health Professional II
- DNTH 668 Internship
- CHP 640 Statistical Reasoning for the Health Professions
- or FOUN 722 Introduction to Applied Statistics and Data Analysis
- or HLSC 746 Epidemiology

## Specialty Areas (Sample Courses; others may apply) Courses
6-12

### Subject to Availability

#### Education
- COUN 601 Principles of Professional Counseling and Ethics
- COUN 633 Counseling and Psychotherapy Techniques
- TLED 616 Design for Effective Instruction
- TLED 640 The Management of Learning and Instruction
- IDT 617 Foundations of Instructional Technology
- IDT 746 Foundations of Distance Education
- IDT 756 Instructional Gaming: Theories and Practice
- IDT 763 Instructional Design Theory

#### Administration/Management
- MGMT 602 Organizational Management
- MGMT 618 Issues in Human Resource Management
- PADM 733 Legal and Ethical Foundations of Public Administration
- PADM 724 Administration of Human Services

#### Research
- HLSC 712 Qualitative Research Methods
- HLSC 713 Measurement of Health Phenomena
- CHP 601 Research Design and Evaluation in the Health Professions
- CHP 715 Decision Analysis in Health Care
- CHP 773 Developing Grants and Contracts in Health Professions

#### Marketing
- MKTG 603 Marketing Management
- MKTG 640 Global Marketing Management
- CHP 630 Health Care Marketing
- MPH 630 Social Marketing for Health Populations

#### Community/Public Health
- HLSC 864 Health Economics
- HLSC 872 Policy and Politics of Health
- HLSC 701 Introduction to Health Services
- ELS 610 School Community Relations and Politics
- HPRO 670 Cultural Issues in Health Promotion and Education
- MPH 613 Environmental Sciences for Public Health Practice
- MPH 610 Introduction to Public Health Practice
- MPH 611 Social and Behavioral Sciences for Public Health
- HLSC 772 Policy and Politics of Health
- CHP 646 Epidemiology

#### Modeling and Simulation (Certificate Option) 12 hrs (2 core courses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSIM 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Modeling and Simulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 815</td>
<td>Decision Analysis in Health Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two additional electives as determined by Modeling and Simulation Program Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Global Health (Certificate Option) 15 hrs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 746</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 702</td>
<td>Health Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLSC 776</td>
<td>Global Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Elective courses (4 credit hrs) As determined by Director of Global Health
- Practicum (2 credit hours) As determined by Director of Global Health

### Non-Thesis and Thesis Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNTH 698</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Thesis Option requires the addition of DNTH 699
- DNTH 699 Thesis

#### Total Hours
- 34-37

### Thesis Option. (34 credit hours)

This option requires original thesis research and writing for a total minimum program requirement of 34 credit hours and is considered essential for students interested in developing investigative and data management skills. The student is encouraged to become familiar with possible research areas soon after admission and contact the graduate program director to discuss the research proposal, funding options and the selection of the thesis committee. The student will be provided with a committee consisting of the thesis advisor and two other faculty members selected by the graduate program director and the student.

Prior to beginning the research, the student will present a written proposal to the thesis committee for approval. Candidates choosing the thesis option must satisfactorily complete the thesis at least four weeks prior to graduation with copies delivered to the thesis committee. An oral comprehensive examination and thesis defense will be conducted by the student's thesis committee during the last four weeks of the semester prior to graduation.

The cost of the thesis is a student expense. The thesis option is not available to distance learning (on-line) students.

### Non-Thesis Option. (37 credit hours)

Candidates are required to complete: DNTH 698 (3 credits) and a minimum of three (3) additional credits of approved elective course work. This option is designed for students pursuing a less research-oriented program of study. A student in this program is required to complete an in-depth term paper or execute a modest project as approved by the faculty. An oral comprehensive examination and project defense will be conducted prior to graduation.

### Writing Proficiency Examination

Students who do not hold an undergraduate degree from Old Dominion University are required to participate in diagnostic writing exercises for evaluation by the staff of the Writing Center. Each student is responsible for making an appointment with the Writing Center to complete and pass this requirement early in the first semester of graduate studies. Students deemed deficient in writing skills will be required to remedy their deficiency through the services of the Writing Center prior to the completion of 12 graduate credits. Students who fail to participate in the diagnostic writing exercise or to complete recommended developmental work through the Writing Center will not be allowed to register for subsequent semesters. All faculty members in the school require written assignments, which will be evaluated on the basis of form and content. If needed, resources are available through the Writing Center.

Graduate students and faculty employ the current edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association as the standard reference text for written assignments within the School of Dental Hygiene.

### Dental Hygiene Research Center

The ODU Dental Hygiene Research Center (DHRC) is dedicated to conducting quality, multidisciplinary, clinical, and population-based research to explore diagnosis, pathogenesis, and treatment of conditions that are related to overall health and dental hygiene. The DHRC, officially sanctioned by the University in 2000, is the first facility in the world dedicated solely to dental hygiene research. The DHRC strives to advance...
oral and general health through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research in collaboration with other academic institutions, medical facilities, private industry, and the community. The DHRC represents a research paradigm unique for graduate education in that no other dental hygiene program has such a facility. Research is an integral and essential component of the School of Dental Hygiene’s mission. Students experience the link between theory and practice, and collaborate with faculty to create new knowledge via discovery, apply evidence-based findings, and disseminate information through professional publications and presentations.

Linked Bachelor’s to Master’s Program

Dental hygiene students who have a 3.25 grade point average from each institution attended and who have senior standing may apply to the linked bachelor’s to master’s program. This program allows gifted undergraduate students the opportunity to take up to 12 semester hours of graduate coursework that may be applied to both degrees. Consult with the graduate program director for more information. Taking graduate-level coursework while an undergraduate does not guarantee admission into the master's program. Students must formally apply and be accepted into the dental hygiene graduate program.

International Dental Hygiene

The School of Dental Hygiene, committed to solving global oral health problems, offers a variety of service learning programs in partnership with non-governmental agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations worldwide. Faculty-led experiences offer unique opportunities for students to travel abroad, develop cross-cultural competence, experience global health challenges, and engage in projects that advance oral health worldwide. International locations are determined by the School of Dental Hygiene in conjunction with the Office of Study Abroad. Program participation requires approval from the School of Dental Hygiene and the Office of Study Abroad. A certificate in Global Health is available, administered through the Center for Global Health and the School of Dental Hygiene.