The Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene offers programs leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (entry level and degree completion) and Master of Science with a major in dental hygiene. The entry-level dental hygiene program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

The baccalaureate program in dental hygiene is designed to prepare men and women as professional dental hygienists qualified for positions in a variety of health-care settings and/or for graduate study in dental hygiene. A dental hygienist is a licensed professional and member of the oral health care team who provides services to promote optimal oral health. Dental hygienists serve as clinical practitioners, educators, researchers, administrators, managers, program developers, consultants, and/or dental product sales representatives, depending on the individual's employment setting and educational background. In addition, dental hygienists with a bachelor's degree may pursue careers in elementary and secondary schools, community and public health settings, institutional and industrial dental hygiene, professional education, and research. Other career opportunities exist in health maintenance organizations, community health agencies, private industry, and abroad with the Peace Corps, World Health Organization, and foreign governments.

Students successfully completing the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program (entry level) are eligible to take the national, state, and regional board examinations in dental hygiene to become a licensed dental hygienist.

The baccalaureate degree completion curriculum is designed for the licensed dental hygienist who graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program with an associate degree or certificate in dental hygiene.

The School of Dental Hygiene reserves the right to require remedial work of any student who does not perform at a level satisfactory for patient care. Annually, students are required to submit documentation of CPR certification and certain prescribed immunizations and diagnostic procedures. Students are strongly advised to obtain the hepatitis vaccine. The University maintains liability insurance on the students while enrolled in the School of Dental Hygiene.

Admission to Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (Entry-level)

Applicants for admission to the baccalaureate program in dental hygiene should apply initially to the Office of Admissions of Old Dominion University. Students cannot be accepted into the dental hygiene program without first being admitted to the University. Admission to the University does not constitute admission to the dental hygiene program.

Students are admitted to the school after completion of lower-level General Education courses and department prerequisite courses. Transfer students may complete prerequisite courses at another college or university but are responsible for having a transfer credit evaluation completed by Transfer Evaluation Services to be used as documentation that transfer courses are acceptable. Applicants for admission to the School of Dental Hygiene should indicate on the application to the University their intention to enter the dental hygiene program. Additionally, applicants should obtain a School of Dental Hygiene application from the web site.

Admission to the program is competitive. Admission decisions are determined by the selection committee of the School of Dental Hygiene on the basis of academic qualifications. Basic requirements and credentials for the Bachelor of Science program application are as follows.

1. Submission of the University application, official high school and college transcripts, and required credentials to the Office of Admissions.
2. Completion of prerequisite courses prior to starting in the dental hygiene major, which are required by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and must be completed with at least a grade of C. (A grade of C- in prerequisites will not transfer to the School of Dental Hygiene). Completion of lower-level General Education requirements will make the applicant more competitive in the application process.
3. A minimum grade point average of 3.00 makes the applicant most competitive.
4. Applicants must complete at least 12 hours of documented observation in a dental facility to familiarize themselves with oral health delivery.
5. Submission of School of Dental Hygiene application, official high school and college transcripts, two professional letters of recommendation forms, dental experience background information, and dental facility observation verification form by February 1. Incomplete application packets will not be reviewed and will be returned to the applicant. Application packet at: http://hs.odu.edu/dental/academics/bs/about.shtml.

Applicants accepted into the dental hygiene program will be formally notified in April or sooner by the chair of the School of Dental Hygiene and will be advised for registration purposes by the chief departmental advisor. Those applicants who are not accepted will receive notice and should pursue general academic and science courses prior to reconsideration for admission. Qualified high school seniors may apply for admission to the University with guaranteed entry into the dental hygiene program. For criteria and additional information, contact the Office of Admissions.

Guaranteed Entry Program

The guaranteed entry program is designed for highly qualified high school students who are committed to completing a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene at Old Dominion University. Students accepted into this program will be guaranteed a position upon completion of the prerequisites and candidacy requirements as outlined on the form by Old Dominion University School of Dental Hygiene at http://hs.odu.edu/dental/academics/bs/about.shtml.

Advanced Placement Policy and Procedure

The School of Dental Hygiene at Old Dominion University has the option of awarding advanced placement for didactic and clinical experience taken at other institutions of higher education. Students accepted into the entry-level dental hygiene program with coursework from dental assisting, dental hygiene, or dental programs may apply for advanced placement within the program. The decision to award advanced placement is dependent on the length of time since the course was taken, grade received, course content, and whether the program is accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA) Commission on Dental Accreditation.

I. Students who have completed dental assisting, dental hygiene, or dental coursework within the past five years at a program that is accredited by the ADA:

A. Requirements

1. Receive at least a "C" in the course being requested.
2. Provide transcripts from the institution awarding course credit to the Admission Chair of the School of Dental Hygiene.
3. At the option of the Dental Hygiene Admission Chair, provide available course materials for evaluation including course syllabus and course description.

B. Procedure

1. Following acceptance into the entry-level dental hygiene program, the student will request consideration for advanced placement in writing. Requests for advanced placement should be provided to the Admission Chair in the month of May of the year of application.
2. Students will be notified in writing of the decision for advanced placement credit from the Admission Committee. One of the following recommendations will be made:
   a. Award course credit.
   b. Require course(s) be taken for pass/fail.
   c. Require course(s) be taken for credit.
3. A copy of the evaluation and the recommendation from the Admission Committee will be placed in the student’s academic folder. The decision of the Admission Committee is final.

II. Students who have completed dental assisting, dental hygiene, or dental coursework beyond the five-year period at a program that is accredited by the ADA are invited to challenge individual courses by passing a test for the desired courses. Successful completion (75% or higher) will exempt the students from the challenged course(s).

**Bachelor of Science Requirements for Entry-level Program**

Students must complete the entire curriculum of 120-126 credit hours (depending upon foreign language exemption) to meet degree requirements. All Dental Hygiene courses with the prefix DNTH must be completed in a prescribed sequence within two academic years due to scheduling and space limitations. A minimum grade of C (2.00) must be obtained in all DNTH courses.

Students desiring to enroll in the BSDH Entry-level Dental Hygiene program should complete the following courses prior to beginning the dental hygiene major.

| ENGL 110C | English Composition | 3 |
| ENGL 211C | English Composition | 3 |
| STAT 130M | Elementary Statistics | 3 |
| PSYC 201S | Introduction to Psychology | 3 |
| SOC 201S | Introduction to Sociology | 3 |
| CHEM 105N | Introductory Chemistry | 3 |
| CHEM 106N | Introductory Chemistry Laboratory | 1 |
| BIOL 103 | Basic Bacteriology | 4 |
| BIOL 250 | Human Anatomy and Physiology I | 4 |
| BIOL 251 | Human Anatomy and Physiology II | 4 |
| CHP 318 | Principles of Nutrition | 3 |

Foreign Language 0-6
Literature 3
Human Creativity 3
Interpreting the Past 3
Information Literacy and Research ** 0
Oral Communications/Public Speaking ** 0
Philosophy and Ethics ** 0
Upper Division General Education*** 3
Upper Division "T" Course *** 3

Total Hours 49-55

* All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C (2.00) or better. A grade of C- will not transfer into the School of Dental Hygiene.

** Information Literacy/Research, Oral Communications and Philosophy/Ethics will be met in the major.

*** Upper Division General Education and “T” courses must be outside of the College of Health Sciences.

**Upper Division General Education**

- Option A. Approved Disciplinary Minor, 12 hours minimum; also second degree or second major.
- Option B. Interdisciplinary Minor (specifically 12 hours, 3 of which may be in the major)
- Option C. International Business and Regional Courses or an approved Certification Program such as teaching licensure
- Option D. Two Upper-Division Courses from outside the College of Health Sciences and not required by the major (6 hours)

**Requirements for Graduation**

Requirements for graduation include a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 overall and in the major, 120 credit hours, which must include both a minimum of 30 credit hours overall and 12 credit hours in upper-level courses in the major program from Old Dominion University, completion of ENGL 110C, ENGL 211C or 221C or 231C, and the writing intensive (W) course in the major with a grade of C or better, and completion of Senior Assessment.

**Continuance Policy**

In addition to the Old Dominion University continuance policies in this Catalog, the following policies are specific to all declared majors in the Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene. A grade of D (1.00) in any dental hygiene course will result in academic dismissal from the program. Inability to attend clinical practice or community rotations due to an agency refusal will be cause for dismissal from the B.S.D.H. program.

**Policy on Readmission**

1. A student who must repeat one or more courses in dental hygiene must first be readmitted to the dental hygiene program.
2. A student can be readmitted to the program only once.
3. Readmitted students must maintain a minimum grade of C (2.00) in all DNTH courses taken with a passing grade in courses taken for remediation.
4. Procedure for readmission:
a. The student must submit a letter to the chair of the School of Dental Hygiene outlining his or her intent for readmission.
b. The chair, in consultation with the faculty, will make a decision on the readmission request.
c. Readmission will be granted on a space-available basis only after regular admission has been filled. Cumulative and science course grade point averages are used for readmission criteria.

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Post-licensure Online Program (for Registered Dental Hygienist)

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (B.S.D.H.) Post-licensure Online program is designed for students who have completed a certificate or associate degree from an accredited dental hygiene program and desire to continue their education toward a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene. The program provides an opportunity for the licensed dental hygienist to gain knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for expanded career opportunities in education, oral health promotion, research, community and public health, management, and marketing. This program also provides a strong foundation for graduate studies. A minimum of 120 credit hours is necessary to obtain the baccalaureate degree. The length of time required to complete the program and University requirements is determined by the number of acceptable college transfer credits; at least 30 credit hours must be taken at Old Dominion University. Students can expect to complete the program in three to four academic semesters of full-time study. The B.S.D.H. post-licensure online program is available on-line or as a hybrid of on-line and on-campus courses.

Admission to the Bachelor of Science Post-licensure Online Program

A licensed dental hygienist educated at another institution who desires to pursue the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene should apply to Old Dominion University as an upper-level dental hygiene transfer student. Formal acceptance as a dental hygiene major will be determined by the program director of the B.S.D.H. Post-licensure Online Program.

Transfer applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program.
2. Successful completion of all 100-200 level general education and department requirements.
3. Submission of application and official high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions, Old Dominion University.
4. Submission of School of Dental Hygiene B.S.D.H. Post-licensure Online program application.
   a. Official transcripts from high school and college academic institutions attended.
   b. Copy of National Board Dental Hygiene Examination.
   c. Two professional letters of recommendation.
   d. Current CPR/AED/First Aid certificate/biennially requested.
   e. Current resume
5. Applicants who hold an associate of applied science degree rather than an associate of science degree must meet the University’s lower-level General Education requirements.

Curriculum for B.S.D.H. Post-licensure Online Program

Requirements

Transfer students must satisfy the following:

1. Certificate or associate degree in dental hygiene from an accredited dental hygiene program.
2. Pass the Writing Sample Placement Test (WSPT).
3. Successful completion of the University Lower-Level General Education requirements and/or equivalent. The general education requirement in philosophy and ethics is satisfied in the major for the Post-licensure Online program.
4. Successful completion of department requirements or the equivalent. A grade of (C) or better is required in all courses:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT 130M</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 105N</td>
<td>Introductory Chemistry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; CHEM 106N</td>
<td>and Introductory Chemistry Laboratory*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 250</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology I *</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 251</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology II *</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 103</td>
<td>Basic Bacteriology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 201S</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSYC 203S</td>
<td>Lifespan Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 201S</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Successful completion of up to 15 Upper-Division General Education credit hours.
6. Successful completion of five major courses:
   a. DNTH 420W Perspectives on Dental Hygiene Practice | 3
   b. DNTH 414 Educational Concepts for the Health Professional I | 3
   c. DNTH 415 Research Methods in the Health Sciences | 3
   d. DNTH 416 Administrative Leadership and Professional Development | 3
   e. DNTH 440T Telehealthcare Technology | 3

7. Current CPR certificate (renewed annually).
8. Successful completion of ENGL 110C, ENGL 211C or 221C or 231C, and the writing intensive (W) course in the major with a grade of C or better and the Senior Assessment Survey.

Continuance

In addition to the Old Dominion University continuance policies, the following policy is specific to the B.S.D.H. Post-licensure Online program. A grade of C (2.00) is required in all DNTH courses for graduation. A grade of D (1.00) in any dental hygiene course will result in academic dismissal from the 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. 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.

Linked Bachelor of Science to Master of Science Program

Entry-level and B.S.D.H. Post-licensure online dental hygiene students who have a 3.3 grade point average from each institution attended and who have senior standing may apply to the bachelor's to master's linked program. This program allows gifted undergraduate students the opportunity to take up to 12 credit hours of graduate course work and apply them to both degrees. Taking linked coursework does not guarantee admission into the master's program. Students must formally apply and be accepted into the dental hygiene graduate program. Students in the linked program must earn a minimum of 150 credit hours (120 for the undergraduate degree and 30 for the graduate degree). Consult with the graduate program director for more information.
The Dental Hygiene Research Center

The focus of the Dental Hygiene Research Center is to support research through collaboration and partnerships that will provide a foundation for dental hygiene services and practice, advance the practice of dental hygiene, and improve the oral health status of the public. Research capabilities are multifaceted with a wide variety of projects relating to occupational risk assessment as well as product and device testing. Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary projects are developed with healthcare facilities, private industry, and other academic institutions. Undergraduate and graduate students are integrated into the research process, which contributes to the understanding between theory and practice.