

Dental Hygiene

Herman Ostrow
School of Dentistry
of USC

Dental Hygiene is a rapidly growing profession. It provides the hygienist the opportunity to be a member of the dental health team and aid the dental profession in promoting optimum dental health.

About 70% of all dental hygienists work in private dental offices, 20% in local public health and school programs, and the remainder in State and Federal health programs, industry, research, and teaching.

In 1928, the School of Dentistry, realizing the ever increasing need for dental auxiliary personnel, established a dental hygiene program. Responsibility for the clinical and didactic courses for dental hygiene students is shared by the dental hygiene and dental faculties.

CURRICULUM

The Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene requires successful completion of the Dental Hygiene curriculum which includes course work in the basic sciences, clinical, and general education.

Dental hygienists provide educational, clinical, and consultative services to individuals and populations of all ages, including the medically compromised, mentally or physically challenged, and socially or culturally disadvantaged. Students will learn about the ethics, values, skills, and knowledge essential to the profession. Health promotion, disease prevention, as well as the dental hygienists role in the community are emphasized. Dental hygiene students use their skills to assess the patients medical, dental, and social histories. Dental hygiene sciences education, nutritional counseling, and tobacco cessation are included in the curriculum. Through dental examinations of patients, emphasis is placed on teaching students to problem solve, interact with the dentist, treat a wide variety of patients, perform preventive procedures, and evaluate patient outcomes.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Admissions to the school is through the Office of Admissions which receives and processes all applications, evaluates credentials, and mails letters of acceptance. Because of the University's selective admission policy and limited enrollment, the Committee on Admissions vote to admit only those applicants who present evidence of intellectual promise, and strong personal qualifications, including good moral character and sound health. (Before registration, the Student Health Service form, signed by the applicant's attending physician, must be filed with the university Student Health Center.)

Although students may transfer to USC at any time and begin prerequisite course work, the dental hygiene curriculum begins in the junior year. Students must complete all university undergraduate general education courses, the writing requirement and the dental hygiene prerequisite courses listed below prior to beginning the junior year dental hygiene program. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the dental hygiene program.

The Committee on Admissions examines credentials and bases its decision on the objective evaluation of these factors: evidence of scholarship, personal evaluation of the applicant, and pre-professional training. Applicants with English as a second language may be required to take TOEFL exam.

As a private institution, USC actively seeks a culturally and geographically diverse population. Therefore, out-of-state applicants are evaluated and selected based on the same criteria as California residents.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

There is no minimum number of transfer units you must complete before applying for admission; however, *no foreign course work will be accepted*. Dental hygiene prerequisite courses, at least one course in each of the USC general education categories I,II,III,V, and one course to fulfill the diversity and lower division writing requirement, must be completed or in progress by the time of application. The Dental Hygiene program has no foreign language requirement. USC does require a minimum of three years of high school math including advanced algebra with a C or better, or intermediate algebra at the college level with a C or better.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to document the completion of the required number of transferable courses and prerequisite courses. SEE ARTICULATION OFFICER AT HOST INSTITUTION OR VISIT THE USC TRANSFER CENTER for additional information. You can also view on-line at www.usc.edu/dept/ARR/articulation

University of
Southern California
Norris Dental
Science Center
925 West 34th Street
Los Angeles,
California 90089-0641
<http://dentistry.usc.edu>

- Course work from schools that offer accelerated programs in the sciences is generally not acceptable. Most courses from four-year institutions are transferable. Online course work will be accepted for GE and prerequisites, but not for any science courses that require a lab. Where applicable, the applicant may contact the USC School of Dentistry Office of Admissions for specific acceptability and course equivalences for purposes of admission to the dental hygiene program.

- Technically or vocationally related courses will NOT be accepted. Examples of unacceptable courses are: dental assisting courses, dental technology courses, secretarial science, or any other technically or vocationally related courses.

Completion of the following dental hygiene prerequisite courses must be documented prior to acceptance:

General Anatomy and lab (1 semester) *must be a transferable course*
General Biology and lab (1 semester) *must be a transferable course*
General Chemistry and lab (1 year) *must articulate to USC CTEM 105a1.g & 105b1.g*
English Composition (1 year) *course work equivalent to USC WRIT 130 or 140*
Introduction to Sociology (1 semester) *must articulate to USC SOCI 200**

* USC's Sociology 200 will meet the requirement for Category VI and the Diversity requirement.

General Psychology (1 semester) *must be a transferable course*
Introduction to Speech (1 semester) *must be a transferable course*
General Nutrition (1 semester) *must be a transferable course*
General Physiology (1 semester) *must be a transferable course*
General Microbiology (1 semester) *must be a transferable course*

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Two applications are required:

1. Apply directly to the School of Dentistry, Office of Admissions before the deadline date of February 1 of the year in which enrollment is desired. A non-refundable application fee of \$25.00 and a 2x2 inch passport style photograph must accompany the application. A School of Dentistry application form can be obtained by writing or visiting: University of Southern California School of Dentistry, Office of Admissions, Room 201, 925 W. 34th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0641, calling (213) 740-2841 or via the internet at www.usc.edu/dental. Current USC students are NOT required to submit the \$25 application fee.
2. At the same time submit a transfer application for undergraduate admission to the University by applying to the USC Office of Undergraduate Admission before the deadline date of February 1. Applications for undergraduate study may be obtained in person or by writing to: Application Requests, University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0911. You may also apply on-line at <http://www.usc.edu>. This application must be accompanied with the payment of the appropriate application fee. **If you are currently enrolled or have previously been admitted to any USC program this application is not necessary. You will however, still be required to complete the USC Dental Hygiene Application for Admission.**

Applicants must submit complete records, and include official transcripts from all colleges and/or universities attended. These transcripts must be collected by the applicant and forwarded with completed application materials directly to the USC School of Dentistry Office of Admissions and to the Undergraduate Office of Admissions. All supporting documentation must be completed and returned according to application instructions. Official transcripts must be submitted with both applications. Upon acceptance the applicant will be required to submit final, official transcripts of all work.

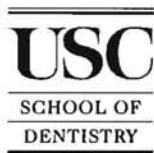
Applicants selected for an interview will be contacted by the Office of Admissions to check availability.

Accepted applicants will be required to reserve their position in the class within 14 days of acceptance with a \$500.00 non-refundable deposit. A second refundable deposit of \$1,500.00 will be due July 15th.

The dental hygiene curriculum begins in September. Limited enrollment in University general education course work may be completed during the summer preceding enrollment in the dental hygiene curriculum.

Grades of C- or lower are not acceptable in fulfillment of prerequisite courses. Pass/No-Pass grades are not accepted in fulfillment of dental hygiene prerequisite courses. Letter or numerical grades must be provided for these courses.

A limited number of prerequisite course work may be in progress at the time of the application. However, all course requirements must be completed prior to the date of expected enrollment.



Class of 2013 Entering Profile

- ✓ The 40 entering students for the class were assembled from an applicant pool of nearly 225 applicants.
 - ✓ The class has an average science GPA of 3.02, and an overall GPA of 3.23.
 - ✓ The class is 85% female and 15% male. 40% of the class is Caucasian, 31% Asian, 27% Hispanic, 2% African American.
 - ✓ 31% of the class have a previous Bachelors degree, 29% have an Associates degree.
 - ✓ A variety of 2 year and 4 year institutions are represented, including: Santa Monica College, Glendale Community College, Pasadena City College, UC Los Angeles, University of Southern California, Irvine Valley College, La Valley College, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, CSU Northridge, CSU Long Beach, and West LA College.
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