

## **Pre-Dental Hygiene Studies**

<http://www.pacificu.edu/dentalhealth>

The School of Dental Hygiene Studies at Pacific University offers a dental hygiene entry-level program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene. This program includes two years of dental health courses completed at Pacific University, following completion of required prerequisite coursework. Students must complete all prerequisite coursework prior to beginning the dental hygiene program. Enrollment in this program is limited and admission is selective.

The mission of the dental hygiene entry-level program is to prepare students to become dental hygienists who provide high quality, patient-centered care to diverse patient populations in a variety of health care settings. Graduates will have the foundation to pursue careers in education, public health and management.

The dental hygiene program is offered at Pacific University's Hillsboro, OR campus. Students receive their basic clinical education in the university's 16-chair Dental Hygiene Clinic and complete clinical enrichment experiences at off-campus affiliations sites.

If you have any questions, or need additional information regarding the School of Dental Hygiene Studies, please contact:

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Links for more information about careers in dental hygiene:

American Dental Hygienists' Association: <http://www.adha.org>

American Dental Association: <http://www.ada.org>

American Dental Education Association: <http://www.adea.org>

## Prerequisites

The following courses must be completed prior to starting the dental hygiene entry-level program. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or above. Science courses should be taken within the last seven years.

Natural Science – 14 semester hours

- Chemistry (with lab) - 4 semester hours
- Microbiology (lab preferred) - 4 semester hours (see Advising Center Director for prerequisite information)
- Human Anatomy & Physiology (with lab) - 8 semester hours

Communication – 6 semester hours

- English Composition / Writing - 3 semester hours
- Interpersonal Communication / Speech - 3 semester hours

Spanish – 3 semester hours

- Must be at the college level

Social Sciences – 6 semester hours

- Psychology - 3 semester hours
- Sociology - 3 semester hours

Mathematics – 3 semester hours

- College Level Mathematics course (prefer statistics) – 3 semester hours

Nutrition – 2 semester hours

Medical Terminology – one course

Arts and Humanities – 8 semester hours

- Courses in art, music, theatre, world language, literature, philosophy, religion, ethics, history, media arts, anthropology, communications and HUM 100 (FYS)

Students must complete a minimum of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours prior to starting the dental hygiene entry-level program. All prerequisite courses must be 100-level or above.

## **Grade Point Averages**

In order to be considered for Admissions, applicants need to have a Natural Science Prerequisites and Last 45 Semester Hour GPA of a 2.5 or higher.

## **Observation Requirement**

A minimum of 20 hours of dental observation is required. If an applicant has worked or currently works in a dental setting, they are exempt from this requirement, although observation of a dental hygienist specifically is preferred.

The program is committed to public health and prefers some observation hours to be in public health. Dental public health settings provide care to specified target populations that lack access to traditional dental services. Settings may include a public dental clinic, dental school clinic, dental hygiene school clinic, mobile dental van, dental clinics in community health centers, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, prisons and other institutional settings.

## **Preferred Admissions**

The School of Dental Hygiene Studies will give preferred admissions to current students who have completed the last 30 of 40 semester credits at Pacific University if the following criteria are met:

- Complete all prerequisite courses with a “C” or higher by start of Dental Hygiene program
- Maintain a Natural Science Prerequisite GPA and a Last 45 Semester Credit GPA of a 3.0\*
- Observe in a dental setting for 20 hours (primarily during Freshman or Sophomore years, some HS observation accepted).
- Observe in Pacific’s Dental Hygiene Clinic which can be included in the total of 20 hours needed (during Freshman or Sophomore years)
- Maintain a relationship with the advisor for Pre-Dental Hygiene students
- Attend one Open House (during Freshman or Sophomore years)
- Fill out the application (spring of Sophomore year, fee will be waived)
- Attend the interview day
- No major violations of the Student Code of Conduct or any academic misconduct violations. Meet all other matriculation requirements for all Dental Hygiene students (immunizations, background check and drug screen, etc)

\*3.0 GPA requirement is for students starting Fall 2018 at the Forest Grove campus. Students starting Fall 2018. Students who started prior to Fall 2018 are under the old GPA requirements.