

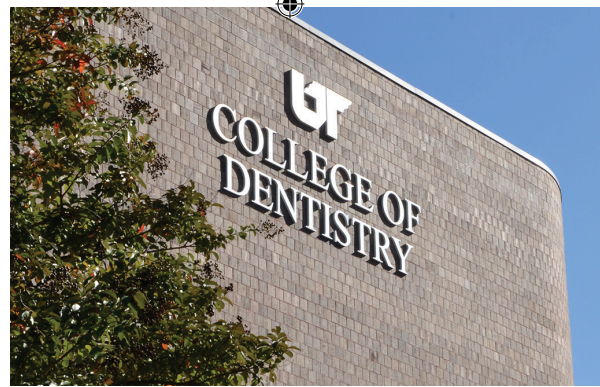
## About a career in dental hygiene

Dental hygienists are highly-skilled, licensed professionals who serve as vital members of the dental health care team. They work with dentists to provide treatment for patients.

- perform oral screenings and examinations
- chart the condition of teeth and oral structures
- develop individualized oral hygiene programs for plaque control
- remove calculus and plaque that has collected above and below the gum line
- apply cavity-preventative agents, such as fluoride and dental sealants
- administer local anesthetics

Statistics show that a career in dental hygiene is highly rewarding. Employment in this field is expected to grow by 19 percent between 2014 and 2024, according to the U. W. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website\*, the median pay for dental hygienists in 2016 is \$72,910 per year.**

\*Accessed August 19, 2016, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/mobile/dental-hygienists.htm>



The UTHSC College of Dentistry was founded in 1878, making it the oldest dental college in the South, and the third-oldest public college of dentistry in the United States.

The college is located in downtown Memphis in the Winfield C. Dunn Building. Named for the dental school's distinguished alumnus and former Tennessee governor, it offers a four-year dental program enrolling approximately 350 students. In addition, there are approximately 60 residents taking part in postgraduate dental programs and 76 students in the dental hygiene program.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TENNESSEE**  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER  
COLLEGE of DENTISTRY

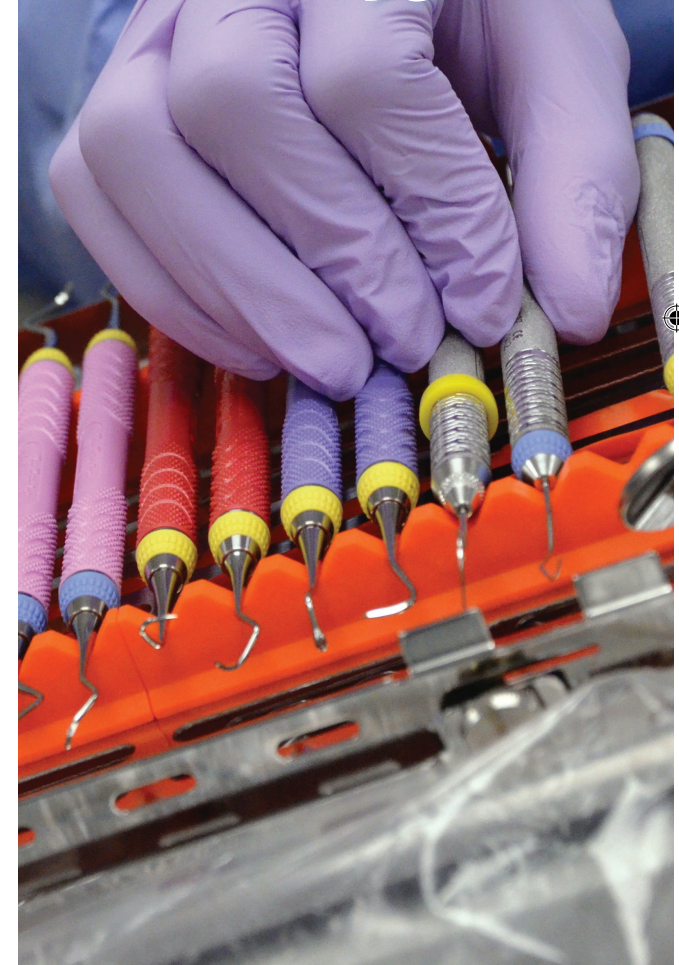
Department of Dental Hygiene

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## Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene



## UTHSC College of Dentistry Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

The UTHSC Dental Hygiene program, a part of the College of Dentistry, is the only bachelor of science degree program in West Tennessee. The program was established in 1926, and is among the oldest in the nation. It offers unparalleled clinical experiences on campus and in health care facilities throughout the city and surrounding areas, including an urban outreach program that provides care to underserved children.



As a part of their training, our dental hygiene students provide regular, ongoing preventative maintenance care to a patient base of over 2,700. They see patients who are receiving dental care in the College of Dentistry clinics located in Memphis, Union City and Bristol Tennessee. Our students also have scheduled clinical rotations in the college's dental specialty clinics.



### Curriculum

The course of study is designed as the third and fourth years of a bachelor of science degree program. It consists of two academic years of full-time instruction. Upon the successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to take national, regional and state licensing examinations.



Public service is an integral part of the dental hygiene program. Shown here, hygienists pack instruments for the MidSouth Mission of Mercy, one of the many events where dental hygiene students volunteered in 2016.

### How to apply

Prior to enrollment in the UTHSC Dental Hygiene program, students must complete the 60 semester hours of pre-professional college coursework listed. A grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 is the minimum required for application to the program. A GPA of 3.0 or higher in prerequisite courses is considered competitive for admission.

A final transcript verifying course completion must be received prior to entry into the program. Courses with grades of "D" are not acceptable. If a required course is repeated, both grades are used in calculating a cumulative GPA.

All applicants must submit:

- A completed online application accompanied with the application fee
- An admissions essay
- His or her official transcripts
- A projected plan for the completion of prerequisite course work no later than July 1 of entering year.
- Two pre-professional evaluations from advisors

Apply online at [www.utshc.edu/admiss/](http://www.utshc.edu/admiss/)

### Prerequisite Course Requirements

(Effective for class entering Fall 2017)

*Semester Hours*

English Comp I .....	3	Medical Terminology.....	3
English Comp II .....	3	Electives*** .....	9
English Literature.....	3	U.S. History (one year high	
Speech.....	3	school or six semester	
Psychology .....	3	hours of college level)	
Sociology .....	3	<b>TOTAL HOURS.....</b>	<b>60</b>
College Algebra .....	3	*Must be appropriate for science	
Gen. Biology w/lab* .....	4	majors.	
Gen. Chemistry I w/lab**	4	**Chemistry courses for	
Gen. Chemistry II		Pre-Nursing students are ac-	
w/lab** .....	4	ceptable. Must include content in	
Anatomy & Physiology I		biochemistry.	
w/lab .....	4	***Suggested Electives: Upper	
Anatomy & Physiology II		level biology, Spanish and	
w/lab .....	4	Computer/Technology Skills	
Microbiology		**** Proof of one year of American	
w/lab .....	4	History at the high school or	
Nutrition.....	3	college level is a requirement for	
		graduation from UTHSC.	
		Science courses including labs	
		should be taken in a face-to-face	
		format as opposed to online.	