

# YOUR DENTAL CAREER STARTS HERE



SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Driven to Discover®

## Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene/ Master in Dental Therapy

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry has been preparing oral health professionals for more than 130 years, and today the school is a national leader in dental education, research and oral health patient care. Located on the University of Minnesota's vibrant Twin Cities campus, the school offers students in its Dental Hygiene/Dental Therapy program unparalleled opportunities to learn, lead and collaborate.

<h3>FIRST YEAR CLASS PROFILE</h3>	<h3>7 students</h3> <p>Class of 2026</p>
<h4>About the class</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>85.7% female, 14.3% male</li><li>23 years average age</li><li>100% Minnesota residents</li><li>57.1% BIPOC students</li></ul>	<h4>Average GPA</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Total: 3.39</li><li>Prerequisite: 3.46</li><li>Science: 3.19</li></ul>

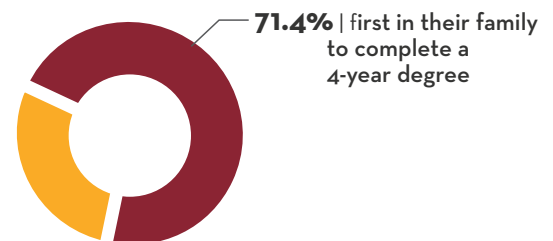
### The History

In 2009, the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry became the first dental school in the nation to create an educational program for dental therapists, in response to growing concerns of access to oral health care. In 2023, the program became CODA accredited—the first program associated with a dental school to achieve accreditation. Graduates earn a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene and a Master in Dental Therapy. When you graduate, you'll be eligible to practice as a dental hygienist anywhere and a dental therapist in Minnesota.

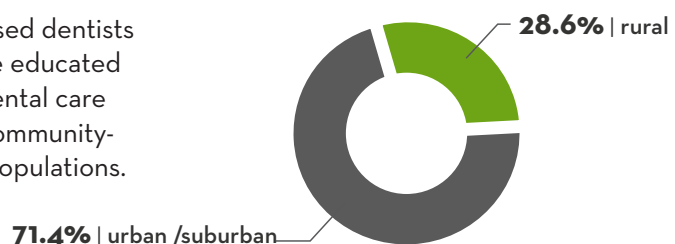
### Why Dental Therapy?

Dental therapists work under the supervision of licensed dentists and can provide basic restorative procedures. They're educated to provide evaluative, preventative, and restorative dental care in Minnesota. As a dental therapist, you'll engage in community-based oral health care and serve underrepresented populations.

First generation college students



Urban/Suburban/Rural



# Find your future in dentistry here.

## Applying to the BSDH/MSDT program

There is a two step application process for the BSDH/MDT program. All applicants should complete the online application at [z.umn.edu/DHDTapply](http://z.umn.edu/DHDTapply).

Current or former University of Minnesota students from any college should submit a Change of College Form.

Students who have never been enrolled at the University of Minnesota should submit an Undergraduate Transfer Student Application Form.

Applicants may also need to submit official transcripts for high school and college coursework, official ACT or SAT scores, and TOEFL scores for non-native English speakers.

Applicants undergo a holistic review process, which considers additional factors like work, volunteering, exposure to dentistry, diversity, aptitude, and interview.

Competitive candidates will be invited to interview for the School of Dentistry, where they can connect with faculty, admissions personnel, and students.

## Practicing Dental Therapy

Dental therapists are required by law to work in settings that serve low-income and underserved populations or in a designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Area, including clinics where 50% or more of patients seen by the dental therapist are enrolled in a Minnesota Health Care Program, have a medical disability or chronic condition, or have no health coverage and a gross family income under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Currently, 54 out of 87 Minnesota counties are designated in whole or part as Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas. Dental therapists work in private practice, nonprofits, large clinics, federally qualified health care centers, educational institutions, and hospitals.

## Licensure

To become a licensed dental therapist in Minnesota, you must graduate with a baccalaureate or master's degree from an approved dental therapy program and pass a comprehensive competency-based clinical examination, as well as an examination of Minnesota's laws and rules.

**“WILLIAM GIES, CREDITED AS THE FOUNDER OF MODERN DENTAL EDUCATION, STATED IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY THAT DENTISTRY IS A ‘LEARNED PROFESSION,’ HIGHLIGHTING THE PROFESSION’S STRONG CONNECTION TO THE UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS. TODAY, IN THE 21ST CENTURY, ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PROVIDE CARE WITH AN UNDERSTANDING THAT ORAL HEALTH CONTRIBUTES TO A PATIENT’S OVERALL HEALTH. THEREFORE, DENTISTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS, AND DENTAL THERAPISTS ARE SIGNIFICANT MEMBERS OF EVERY PATIENT HEALTHCARE TEAM.”**

- Dean Keith Mays

## Prerequisites

Composition	3 credits	Courses or equivalents must be completed at the University of Minnesota or another accredited U.S. or Canadian college or university. All courses must be taken on an A-F grading basis.
General Biology + lab	3 credits including lab	
General Chemistry + lab	3 credits including lab	Biology or chemistry must be completed so the grade is listed on the application for the program. You are strongly encouraged to complete composition and psychology or sociology so these grades are listed on the transcript. Chemistry and biology must have been completed within 5 years of entry into the program.
Introductory Sociology	3 credits	
General Psychology	3 credits	
Physiology	3 credits	
Human Anatomy	3 credits	
Statistics	3 credits	

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