

YOUR DENTAL CAREER STARTS HERE



SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

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 Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program unparalleled opportunities to learn, lead and collaborate.

<h3>FIRST YEAR CLASS PROFILE</h3>	<h3>21 students</h3> <p>(Class of 2026)</p>
<h4>About the class</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">95.2% students from Minnesota85.7% female students47.6% racially and ethnically diverse <p><small>*2 not reported</small></p> <p>100% on-time graduation (class of 2024)</p>	<h4>Average GPA</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Total: 3.59Prerequisite: 3.49Science: 3.28

Find your place.

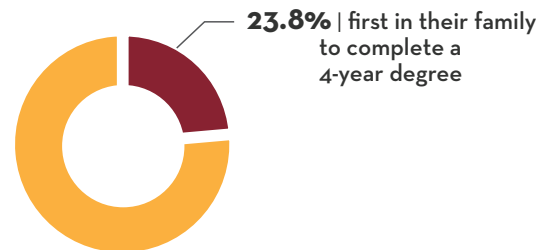
The Dental Hygiene program at the University of Minnesota is the only baccalaureate program affiliated with a school of dentistry in Minnesota. Dental hygiene students are trained alongside dental and dental therapy students in a team-based setting. Students in the three programs work in comprehensive care groups to deliver care to patients as a dental team.

Why a BSDH?

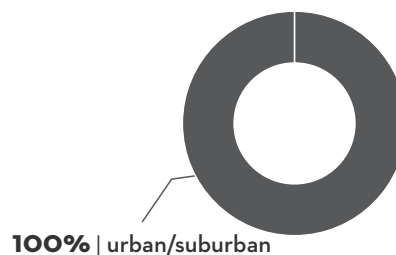
Besides practicing in a dental office, a BSDH opens opportunities to work in school programs, state facilities, in a private practice as a manager, or as a patient advocate. It also opens the door for advanced education, such as a master's in dental hygiene or public health that can prepare you for leadership positions in industry or research.

Alumni report being employed as clinical dental hygienists in their first positions following graduation. A majority of alumni report starting employment as a clinical hygienist within two months of graduation.

First generation college students



Urban/Suburban/Rural



Find your future in oral health here.

“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

Applying to the BSDH program

There is a two step, holistic application process for the BSDH program. All applicants should complete the online application at z.umn.edu/DHDTapply.

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

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.

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

The Dental Hygiene Freshman Guarantee Program allows you to pursue your degree in three calendar years, starting as a first year student. More information available online.

Student experiences

Dental hygiene students complete at least four weeks in outreach, providing care in Health Professional Shortage Areas in urban community health clinics and rural communities in Minnesota. Through the community outreach program, students enhance their clinical skills as they treat a variety of patients with diverse oral care needs and develop a broader understanding of their social responsibilities as oral health professionals.

The Division of Dental Hygiene offers a study abroad opportunity in Bergen, Norway. The program provides students with the opportunity to understand the practice of dental hygiene in another country, gain cross-cultural experiences, and make lifelong friends with students from other countries.

Licensure

Licensure varies in each state. In Minnesota, dental hygiene licensure requires successful completion of a written National Board Dental Hygiene examination and a clinical examination. Both examinations are offered on the University of Minnesota’s Minneapolis campus. In 2019, 100% of students passed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination, and 99% passed the Central Regional Dental Testing Service Examination.

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	
Introductory Sociology	3 credits	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.
General Psychology	3 credits	
Physiology	3 credits	
Human Anatomy	3 credits	
Statistics	3 credits	