

SCHOOL OF DENTAL HYGIENE



Dental hygiene professionals play a primary role in health promotion and preventive oral health care.

BACHELOR OF DENTAL HYGIENE

The Bachelor of Dental Hygiene (BDH) program combines a minimum of 30 credit hours of university course work with two years in the dental hygiene program. The two-year professional, evidence-based Bachelor of Dental Hygiene (BDH) program is taught in a positive and learner-centred environment.

Most classes, research, and clinical work take place in the Dentistry Building, while medical science courses may be taught elsewhere on campus. The BDH program also offers interprofessional education (IPE) opportunities with other health professions.

The program is fully accredited and has a reputation for excellence in dental hygiene education in a way that balances knowledge and skills.

Pre-clinical experience

First-year BDH students learn basic skills in a state-of-the-art simulation laboratory.

Clinical experience

BDH students treat 8-10 patients each in the dental clinic during the second and third terms of their first year in the program.

Second-year BDH students treat 40-60 patients in collaboration with fourth-year dentistry students in the clinic's small group practice.

Rotations and outreach clinics

BDH students benefit from rotations in orthodontic, paediatric, and oral maxillofacial clinics.

Throughout their studies, BDH students are introduced to community health concepts and program planning. Outreach placements include:

- the Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Building at the QEII Health Sciences Centre
- elementary schools in the Halifax area
- the North End Community Health Centre (NECHC) dental clinic
- the Government Assisted Populations (GAP) Clinic

Admission requirements

Admission to the two-year BDH program requires the completion of at least 30 credit hours of university study, including, but not limited to:

- at least 3 credit hours in introductory chemistry
- at least 6 credit hours in introductory biology
- at least 6 credit hours in an approved writing course
- at least 3 credit hours in human anatomy
- at least 6 credit hours in human physiology
- 6 additional credit hours

These courses must be completed by May 1 of the year of expected entry to the School of Dental Hygiene.

Up to 34 students are accepted each year. The applicant pool varies from year to year. Most applicants who are accepted have an average of B+ (75-79) or better in their most recent university courses. Applicants with the best academic record have the greatest chance of being accepted for admission.



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

BACHELOR OF DENTAL HYGIENE WITH HONOURS

The School of Dental Hygiene also offers a Bachelor of Dental Hygiene with Honours [BDH(Hons)], which is a one-year full-time or two-year part-time degree completion program. It consists of 30 credit hours or five full credit equivalents (10 half credits) and is focused on four areas: teaching, research, health policy, and health promotion.

Admission requirements

The admission requirements for the BDH(Hons) program are:

- completion of a minimum of 30 credit hours of university study, plus completion of a 60-credit hour Diploma in Dental Hygiene from an accredited program in Canada or the United States; OR completion of a Bachelor of Dental Hygiene from an accredited program in Canada or the United States
- eligibility for licence to practise dental hygiene in Nova Scotia

A minimum of 45 credit hours of programming outlined above, including the 30-credit hour BDH(Hons), must be completed at Dalhousie University.

Please visit dal.ca/dental-hygiene for more information on this program.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The School of Dental Hygiene is committed to increasing the number of qualified dental hygienists who come from the African Nova Scotia or Indigenous populations of the Atlantic region. Applicants from these groups who have completed the entrance requirements by May 1 of the year of expected entry, have achieved a B average or better in a full course load in their most recent year of university study, and have acceptable scores on all other admission criteria, will be admitted to the BDH program.

APPLICATION DATES

The dental hygiene application form must be submitted to the Dalhousie University Office of the Registrar by **February 15**. Final university transcripts must be submitted by **May 30** of the planned year of entry.

The following supporting documentation must be submitted as part of an application:

- application form and fee
- official transcripts

FAST FACTS ABOUT OUR BDH PROGRAM:

- **Faculty-to-student ratio:** 1:34 in classroom settings; 1:7 in preclinical settings; 1:6 in clinical settings
- **100% passing rate** on the National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination (NDHCE)
- **Graduate employment rate:** 100% within 6 months of successful completion of the NDHCE
- Dental hygienists earn an average of **\$39–\$58 per hour** in Canada

Application packages must be complete to be considered by the admissions committee.

Upon notice of acceptance to the School of Dental Hygiene, applicants must submit the sum of \$1,000 to the Office of the Registrar. This amount is credited toward tuition fees if the student registers in the program, but it is not refundable if she/he withdraws.

MORE INFORMATION

There is a strong demand for dental hygienists in the workforce. New graduates can expect a starting salary of \$35+ per hour in a private dental practice in Nova Scotia.

Students who are considering dental hygiene as a career are encouraged to investigate the program by talking to a practising dental hygienist. The following websites will also be useful:

- Canadian Dental Hygienists Association — cdha.ca
- College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia — cdhns.ca
- International Federation of Dental Hygiene — ifdh.org

COSTS

The tuition fee schedule can be found at dal.ca/tuition.

CONTACT

If you have **general questions** about application procedures or Dalhousie University, please contact the **Registrar's Office**:
902.494.2450 | admissions@dal.ca | dal.ca/registrar

For **program-specific information**, please contact the **Admissions Office, Faculty of Dentistry**:
902.494.2824 | admissions.dentistry@dal.ca



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dal.ca/dental-hygiene

Bachelor of Dental Hygiene program

Dalhousie University Applicants

Academic Requirement* (Prerequisite courses* for admissions):

Applicants must have completed before May 1 of the year of expected entry to the diploma in dental hygiene program, **at least 30 credit hours of study at an accredited university.**

These credit hours should include:

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Dalhousie University</u>
Introductory Biology - 6 credits	BIOL 1010 & 1011 or BIOL 1020 & 1021
Introductory Chemistry- 3 credits	CHEM 1011
Human Physiology – 6 credits	PHYL 1011 & 1012 or PHYL 1001 & 1002 (online) or PHYL 2041 & 2044 or PHYL 1400 (Pharmacy Students)
Human Anatomy – 3 credits	ANAT 1010
Writing Course** - 6 credit hours	Examples of courses that fulfill the writing requirement are ENGL 1030, ENGL 1005, ENGL 1015, ENGL 1025, ENGL 1040, ENGL 1050, ENGL 1060, and ENGL 1100. Note courses ending in -1 (i.e., ENGL 1051) do not fulfill the writing requirement.
Electives - 6 credit hours	6 credit hours of elective courses from any discipline

*Admissions requirements are reviewed annually and the admissions requirements from previous years may not apply. Please monitor our website for up-to-date information. www.dal.ca/dental-hygiene

**Writing course: Any English course(s) or any course requiring a significant amount of written work that is evaluated for composition, structure, spelling, grammar, etc. as indicated in the course outline (must be approved by Admissions Committee).

Please use our [TRANSFER CREDIT EQUIVALENCY TABLE](#) to find the equivalent courses offered at other institutions.



Looking for the complete admission requirements and process?

Visit www.dal.ca/dental-hygiene or scan the QR now to complete the Dentistry Admission Information Request form.