

PRE-DENTAL HYGIENE

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences - Advising Center
Smith Memorial Student Union mezzanine (M305), (503) 725-3822, askclas@pdx.edu

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Dental hygienists help people maintain a healthy mouth and a nice smile. Using preventive procedures in the office, the hygienist helps meet the health care needs of the patient. In addition, the hygienist educates the patient in preventive procedures to be used in the home. The dental hygienist is a licensed health care provider.

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Dental Health Science is offered at **Pacific University**. In order to apply to the Dental Hygiene program, students must complete the prerequisite coursework outlined below and have earned a minimum of 72 transferable quarter hours from an accredited institution(s). If accepted to the Pacific University School of Dental Health Science program, students then complete two additional years of coursework at Pacific to earn the BS in Dental Health Science.

Lane, Mt. Hood, Blue Mountain (ODS LaGrande), and Portland Community College offer an associate of sciences degree in dental hygiene. These dental hygiene programs are 2 or more years in length. Qualified students may be able to enter the community college programs without having any prior college work. Students should contact the schools directly for more information on the program.

| Pacific University Prerequisite Courses | Equivalent PSU Courses |
|--|--|
| Natural Sciences – minimum 24 quarter credits (16 semester credits) Required natural sciences courses should be completed within the past 7 years | |
| Chemistry with lab – 1 course Microbiology with lab – 1 course Human Anatomy & Physiology with lab – year long sequence Note: all parts of the series should be taken at the same institution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH 104/107 (5) – Introductory Chemistry with lab (prerequisite is MTH 95) • BI 234/235 (6)– Elementary Microbiology with lab • BI 301, 302, 303 (12) - Human Anatomy & Physiology with lab (BI 301-303 has a highly recommended prerequisite of one year of college biological science and a previous course in chemistry. BI 101/104, 102/105, 103/106 – General Biology with lab *OR* BI 251, 252, & 253 - Principles of Biology) |
| Social Science – minimum 9 quarter credits (6 semester credits) | |
| Psychology – 1 course Sociology – 1 course Social Science elective – 1 course (if needed to complete required hours) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSY 200 (4)- Psychology as a Natural Science *OR* PSY 204 (4) Psychology as a Social Science – (PSY 200 & 204 are recommended prerequisites for PSY 311) AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOC 200 (4) – Intro to Sociology • PSY 311 (4) – Human Development (if needed to meet minimum of 9 quarter credit hours) |
| Communication – minimum 9 quarter credits (6 semester credits) | |
| English Composition or Writing – 1 course Interpersonal Communication – 1 course Communication Elective – 1 course (if needed to complete required hours) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WR 121 (4) – College Writing • COMM 218 (4) – Interpersonal Communication • Communication Elective (if needed to meet minimum of 9 quarter credit hours) |
| Statistics – minimum 3 quarter credits or 3 semester hours Statistics should be completed within the past 7 years | |
| Statistics – 1 course Note: it is recommended that this be taken from a department of psychology, sociology, statistics or mathematics. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAT 243 (4) – Introduction to Probability & Statistics (non-business section is preferred) |

(Prerequisites Continued on Back)

Prerequisite Coursework, Continued

| Pacific University Prerequisite Courses | Equivalent PSU Courses |
|---|--|
| Art – 4.5 quarter credits or one course (3 semester hours) | |
| Art, Music OR Theater – 1 course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose from ART, MUS, or TA |
| Humanities minimum 15 quarter credits (10 semester hours) | |
| Ethics, History, Language, Literature, Media Arts, Philosophy AND/OR Religion – Approximately 5 courses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 credits from any of the following departments – ENG, HST, FL, COMM, PHL |
| Nutrition – 2 quarter hours or 2 semester hours | |
| Nutrition – 1 course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CH 250 (4) – Nutrition OR PHE 425 (4) – Nutrition for Health |
| Spanish 3 quarter hours or 3 semester hours | |
| Spanish – 1 course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPAN 101 (4) – First Year Spanish I (or higher) |
| Medical Terminology | |
| Medical Terminology – 1 course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not offered at PSU – check with local community colleges |

Completion of the preparatory courses does not guarantee acceptance into the School of Dental Health Science program. Admission is limited and competitive. Most professional programs require that an **A, B, or C** be earned in all required preparatory courses, and most students accepted by professional schools have an average overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Additional Pacific University – Dental Hygiene Admission Requirements:

- Minimum number of credits in preparatory phase – 72
- Minimum of 30 hours of observation is required – 10 hours must be in a public health setting: (example: public dental clinic, dental school clinic, dental hygiene school clinic, or mobile dental van). If you are currently working in the dental health field, you only need to complete the 10 hours of the public dental experience or observation. It is recommended that you get a letter signed by the supervising party after you have completed your observation or shadowing experience. If no documentation is available, Pacific University will go on the honor system.

Pacific University – Dental Hygiene Application Information:

- Application will be available August
- **Preferred Application: Mid-December (check website for preferred application deadline)**
- **Final Application: Mid-February (check website for final application postmark deadline)**
- On campus interviews: March
- Notification of admissions decision: April
- Degree awarded – B.S. Dental Health Science
- Program begins fall semester and enrollment in the professional program is limited to 36 students per class.
- The best way to ensure that Pacific will accept your courses is to complete a prerequisite worksheet (available at <http://www.pacificu.edu/dentalhealth/admission/prerequisite-worksheet.cfm>) and submit it to Pacific, along with a copy of your transcripts and course descriptions.

Tips & Recommendations:

- We encourage you to get in contact with the Dental Hygiene schools you will be applying to as early as possible.
- **Begin completing financial aid forms in January; the priority filing deadline is March 1.**
- **Periodically** and before the beginning of your last year at PSU, **check with the adviser** for recent changes, remaining requirements, and application procedures.
- Personally read the information/admission brochure of each of the professional programs to which you plan to apply.

Pacific University’s School of Dental Health Science :

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 Phone: (503) 352-7224 or 1-800-933-9308
 Web: www.pacificu.edu

ODS School of Dental Hygiene

For more information on the ODS School of Dental Hygiene, please visit:
 Office of Admissions
 909 Adams Avenue
 La Grande, OR 97850

Email: dentalhygiene@odsdenalhygiene.org
 Phone: (541) 962-2165
 Web: <http://www.odsdenalhygiene.org>