What is dental hygiene all about?
Dental hygiene is an exciting career choice for anyone interested in promoting health. A dental hygienist is a licensed preventive oral health professional who provides educational, clinical and therapeutic services supporting total health through the promotion of optimal oral health. Dental hygiene offers an excellent opportunity to serve the community in: private dental practices; dental clinics; public health agencies; schools; hospitals; government agencies; industry, including sales; education and research.

What does dental hygiene education include?
The education of the dental hygienist emphasizes the basic sciences, which include microbiology, chemistry, pathology, anatomy and physiology. Other components of the curriculum develop the clinical and educational skills of the dental hygienist. A dental hygienist is eligible for licensure after graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program and upon successful completion of both a written National Board Dental Hygiene Examination and a clinical examination.

Why should I choose Caruth School of Dental Hygiene at Texas A&M College of Dentistry?
The baccalaureate degree program in dental hygiene is the only one in North Texas that exists within a dental college. In addition to dental hygiene students, approximately 400 dental students and 50 graduate students are enrolled. The distinct advantage of being associated with a dental school is a team practice approach with dental and dental hygiene students.

Caruth School of Dental Hygiene is associated with many community and institutionally based health care programs and facilities. The extramural curriculum provides the students with superior training. The basic science faculty are an integral part of the College of Dentistry and are continually active in research.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area offers many educational, cultural and entertainment opportunities in the metroplex.

What are the advantages of a baccalaureate degree over a two-year certificate or associate degree program?
Positions in teaching, administration and public health generally require a baccalaureate degree or an advanced degree. Many “two-year” programs, in practice, become more than two years because of prerequisite courses required for admission. In many of these programs, students are enrolled for three or even four years of college but do not receive a bachelor’s degree.

Will a baccalaureate degree prepare me for an advanced degree?
Yes, the dental hygiene curriculum at Texas A&M College of Dentistry provides excellent preparation for admission to master’s degree programs with a focus in dental hygiene, public health, education and health administration. Master’s degree programs with a focus in dental hygiene and the basic sciences at the college are open to dental hygienists with the Bachelor of Science degree.

What college should a prospective dental hygiene student attend?
No preference is given in terms of which predental hygiene college to attend. Any accredited institution is acceptable, but an institution with strong science departments is suggested.

Is there an alternative to the full-time program?
There is currently a modified program available to students who are unable to initially attend the program full-time. Students may have family responsibilities or need to work part time. The junior year of the curriculum is divided over a two-year period. The senior year is completed as a full-time student.

Are courses transferable?
Dental Hygiene Program courses may be transferrable, dependent upon the policy of the school in which you are transferring.
What type of academic calendar is followed?
The College of Dentistry operates on a semester system with new classes beginning only once a year. The dental hygiene curriculum includes a summer session between the first and second years of the program.

Does Texas A&M College of Dentistry have campus housing?
Off-campus apartments and other housing facilities are available but are not provided by the College of Dentistry. The college does not inspect or approve listings; however, the Office of Student Affairs will offer assistance in locating accommodations.

Is observing a dental hygienist required?
Applicants should observe a dental hygienist for 16 hours, document that observation (see form with application) and reflect on that observation in their biographical sketch.

How do I apply?
You may access the application information and forms from our website:
Go to “Dental Hygiene Application.”
The catalog can be accessed from:

If you have questions about the application process you may contact the Office of Recruitment and Admissions at 214-828-8231.

The application materials should be submitted to:

Texas A&M College of Dentistry
Office of Recruitment and Admissions
3302 Gaston Ave., Room 525, Dallas, TX 75246-2013

When should I submit an application?
The application deadline is January 5. All materials related to the application must be received by February 1.

Is an interview required?
Applicants who appear to be the best qualified are invited to interview with the Admissions Committee. The college is located at: 3302 Gaston Ave., Dallas, Texas 75246.