



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

College of Dentistry

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Caruth School of Dental Hygiene

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### 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, 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 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 450 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 are open to dental hygienists with a Bachelor of Science degree.

### What college should a prospective dental hygiene student attend?

No preference is given in terms of which pre-dental 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.

# Frequently Asked Questions continued...

## What type of academic calendar is followed?

The College of Dentistry operates on a semester system with new classes beginning 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?

Currently, observing a dental hygienist is not mandatory. This requirement has been waved due to COVID-19.

## How do I apply?

You may access the application information and forms from our website:  
<http://www.dentistry.tamhsc.edu/dental-hygiene/admissions/applications.html>.  
Go to "Dental Hygiene Application."  
The catalog can be accessed from:  
<http://www.tamu.edu/education/catalog/> or  
<http://catalog.tamu.edu>.

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 interview with the Admissions Committee.

## How much does it cost to attend Caruth School of Dental Hygiene?

The tuition and fees for students are mandated by the state of Texas and may be adjusted as economic conditions warrant. Estimated expenses for the incoming class of 2021 follow.

	Junior	Senior
*Tuition		
In state	\$2,100.00	\$1,325.00
Out of state	\$19,824.00	\$12,508.00
**Designated tuition	\$6,636.00	\$4,187.00
Out-of-State Designated	\$6,557.44	\$4,137.63
Differential	\$1,412.88	\$891.46
Manuals/Supplies	\$1,074.00	\$272.00
***Books	\$1,106.00	\$1,021.00
Instruments	\$1,726.03	\$0.00
Instruments Tax	\$142.40	\$0.00
Other fees	\$2,777.79	\$1,837.89

An admission deposit of \$200 is required upon notification of acceptance of the student. The deposit will be applied to the first semester tuition.

\* Tuition is based on \$50.00 per semester hour for in state and \$472.00 per semester hour for out-of-state residents.

\*\*Designated tuition is \$158.00 per semester hour.

\*\*\*Books, both recommended and required in this estimate.

To view the Cost of Attendance (COA) estimate provided by the Financial Aid Office, please visit <http://financialaid.tamu.edu>. On the left side of the webpage, click "Undergraduate," then "Cost of Attendance" and then "Dental Hygiene Undergraduate."

## What other expenses are there?

The written national board examination is required by states for licensure. The cost is approximately \$500.00. The clinical examination fee for state licensure will vary depending on the state in which you decide to practice. Texas participates in the Western Regional Examining Board, and the fees are approximately \$1,100.00. Both exams are taken in the senior year.

## Is financial aid available?

Financial aid is available, to students who can establish a need for assistance. Dental hygiene students are also eligible for several grants and scholarships available only to undergraduate students.