

Preparation for Admission to Dental Hygiene Programs

Listed below are the courses required for admission to the dental hygiene program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson (UMMC). Other dental hygiene programs have similar requirements, but you should study the specific prerequisites for the schools to which you plan to apply. The prerequisite courses are typically completed in 2 years at DSU. After successful completion of 2 additional years at UMMC, you receive a bachelor of science degree in dental hygiene.

	Courses	Credit	Notes
General Education Requirements			
English Composition	ENG 101 and ENG 102 or 103	6	Two semesters of English composition
Communication Studies	COM 101	3	Public speaking
Humanities and Fine Arts	One course in art music, or theater, plus two from: history, literature, foreign language, journalism, or philosophy.	9	Because literature, fine arts, and history are required for all DSU majors, most students should select courses that will count toward a DSU degree in case they decide to stay at DSU until graduation. See the current DSU Bulletin for details on general education courses.
Mathematics	MAT 104	3	College algebra
Perspectives on Society	PSY 101 and SOC 101	6	General psychology and sociology.
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Science and Other Requirements			
General Chemistry	CHE 101, 102, 103, 104	8-10	First and second semesters of general chemistry with laboratories
Biology	BIO 100, 217, 230, and 231	16	Principles of biology I, microbiology, and both semesters of anatomy and physiology. You should also consider taking BIO 101, principles of biology II, to give you better preparation for microbiology and anatomy/physiology.
Psychology	PSY 302, 307, 313, or EPY 341	3	Choose one from: abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, adolescent psychology, or educational psychology.
Nutrition	FCS 345	3	General nutrition
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Additional Notes:

- The dental hygiene program at UMMC begins each August. The deadline for application is typically around January 15th, but check their website for the current deadline.
- A minimum of 57 hours is required.
- Enrollment in upper-level BIO courses (BIO 200 and above) requires that you have "Full Admission" status. You have full admission status if you have completed BIO 100 and CHE 101, 102, 103, and 104 with no grades below C. Consult the Bulletin or the Division of Biological and Physical Sciences web site, or see your advisor for more information.
- You must complete at least 16 hours of required sciences before the application deadline.
- Also required: 8 hours of observation time with two licensed dental hygienist in two different clinical environments.
- ACT scores must be submitted.
- Credit for physical education, military science, dogmatic religion, vocational courses, and science courses designed for non-science majors may not be counted toward the prerequisites for professional school.
- Admission to the dental hygiene program at UMMC requires a grade point average of at least 2.5. (To be competitive, you need a GPA significantly higher than this minimum. All grades, including failing grades and grades of repeated courses, are used to calculate your GPA for the purpose of admission). A minimum grade of C is required in each course accepted for prerequisite credit.
- The main criteria used in selecting students to the Dental Hygiene Program are: (1) overall GPA on prerequisite courses, (2) ACT scores (3) interview scores (4) hands-on dexterity exercise.
- For more information on the dental hygiene program at UMMC, visit their web site at: <http://shrp.umc.edu/DH>
- Also see our frequently asked questions (FAQ) at: <http://www.doctortee.com/dsu/tiftickjian/faqs/dent-hyg-faq.html>
- **IMPORTANT:** Application to health professional schools is very competitive. Completion of the minimum requirements will not ensure admission. Admission decisions are based on policies established by the professional school's faculty and admission committee. Successful applicants typically have GPAs and other qualifications well in excess of stated minimums. Talk to your advisor for more information on what is realistically needed to have a good chance of getting into your desired professional school.