BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL HYGIENE

Dental School (http://www.umkc.edu/virtualtour/sod.asp), Room 415
(816) 235-2050

About the Undergraduate Dental Hygiene Program

Dental hygiene is a rapidly growing and increasingly dynamic allied health profession for qualified persons who wish to participate as active members of a health field. Service to mankind is the primary purpose of health professions. The dental hygienist with a baccalaureate degree accomplishes this objective through a variety of challenging and rewarding opportunities.

There is informal evidence that a nine-month dental hygiene program existed at UMKC (then the Kansas City Western Dental College) in 1922-23, as did a one-year program during the '30s. However, concrete documentation indicates that the official program began in 1952.

The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

The student at UMKC can earn a bachelor of science degree in dental hygiene in two ways. The first alternative offers an opportunity for the student who has completed two academic years of liberal arts pre-requisites at any accredited community/junior college, college or university to matriculate into the entry level clinical dental hygiene program. The second alternative provides for the licensed dental hygienist with a certificate or associate degree an opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree (degree completion).

D.D.S. Program & B.S.D.H. Entry-Level Program Time Limits (March 2019)

Continuous enrollment is required for D.D.S. and B.S.D.H. entry-level students every semester (fall/spring/summer) from the time of matriculation until degree conferral except for cases with an approved Leave of Absence (as defined in the UMKC SOD Student Handbook).

The normal timeframe for completion of required coursework for the D.D.S. degree is four (4) academic years and two (2) academic years for the B.S.D.H. entry-level degree. In the event of academic and or personal difficulties, a student may require additional time. In such situations, the Academic Standards Committee may establish a schedule for that student which departs from the norm. Regardless of the rationale for extended time limits, the D.D.S. program must be completed within six (6) years and the B.S.D.H. entry-level program must be completed within three (3) years of initial matriculation.

Failure to complete the work with the periods specified may include but not limited to reevaluation of the student’s entire program and/or notice of dismissal from the School of Dentistry.