



University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene Admissions Guide



Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (Pre-Dental Hygiene Track)

The dental hygiene program information is contained on this and associated web pages:

www.bridgeport.edu/academics/undergraduate/dentalas

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) combines the professional dental hygiene curriculum with liberal arts education, and enhances the dental hygienist's opportunities, skills, background knowledge, and professional values. With a baccalaureate degree, graduates find positions in the health industry—both public and private sectors—locally and globally.

In the first year, students will complete a comprehensive general education curriculum including the prerequisite course work necessary for entry into the second year clinical program: English Composition, Introduction to Chemistry, Intro to College Algebra with Statistics, Anatomy & Physiology I and II and Microbiology. Matriculation into the second year clinical program requires a cumulative GPA of 2.70 with a prerequisite GPA of 3.00 upon completion of the one-year Pre-Dental Hygiene curriculum.

In the second and third years, students will complete specialized dental hygiene course work in an outlined sequence. As part of the 120 credit BSDH program, students will complete the 78 credit Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene (ASDH) Clinical Program. Upon completion of the ASDH program, students are eligible for national, regional, and state board examinations, and to apply for licensure.

In the fourth and final year, students may choose to complete their advanced course work on-campus or online, while also employed as a registered dental hygienist. With licensure, students will have advanced internship opportunities and research activities bridging their education with professional development and affiliations.

Upon successful completion of the BSDH program, students may build upon their foundational undergraduate course work through the Online Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Program (MSDH). The MSDH degree provides career opportunities across multiple industries, with a focus in education and public health leadership. To learn more, visit online.bridgeport.edu/degrees/master-dental-hygiene/.

The Fones School of Dental Hygiene has a strong clinical and dental public health outreach program. Student educational experiences are rich in both lecture content and clinical application of knowledge. Job placement and salary outlook have been outstanding in both a strong and weak economy. Dental and dental hygiene professionals recognize the name of the Fones School as standing for excellence in the education it provides to future dental hygienists and, most notably, for its outreach and public health services, which are considered innovative and models for other dental hygiene schools across the country.

As the first school of dental hygiene in the world, the Fones School boasts a state-of-the-art dental hygiene health center as part of the UB Clinics, which are also home to the teaching clinics for UB's School of Chiropractic and Acupuncture Institute. Each of these specialty clinics offer comprehensive services, are open to the public, and provide numerous opportunities for patients to experience medical and wellness care. Fones students participate in inter-professional education through distinctive integrative health care rotations with graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in medicine and health care. Learn more: www.bridgeport.edu/clinics

The Fones School of Dental Hygiene and UB Admissions welcome prospective students to join us on campus to learn more about why we have remained the premier name in dental hygiene education. Visit www.bridgeport.edu/events to find an Open House or Dental Hygiene Information Session that works best for you!



**University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene
Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Curriculum (Pre-Dental Hygiene Track)**

Year I: Pre-Dental Hygiene Curriculum					
Fall Semester – 15 weeks			Spring Semester – 15 weeks		
MATH C103 Intro to College Algebra/Stats	3		BIOL 114/114L Anatomy & Physiology II	4	
BIOL 113/113L Anatomy & Physiology I	4		CHEM 113/113L Introduction to Chemistry	4	
ENGL C101 Composition & Rhetoric ^I	3		SOCI 101 Principles of Sociology	3	
BIOL 106 Microbiology	4		PSYC 103 Introduction to Psychology	3	
FYS 101: First Year Seminar ^{II}	3		DHYG 100 Intro to Dental Hygiene	1	
Total – 17 Credits			Total – 15 Credits		

Associate of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene- Total required credits: 78					
Year II: Entry Level Clinical Program					
Fall Semester – 15 weeks			Spring Semester – 15 weeks		
DHYG 123 Oral Anatomy and Embryology	4		DHYG 127 Pharmacology for the DH	3	
DHYG 124 Dental Radiology	3		DHYG 130 Clinical Practice II	4	
DHYG 129 Clinical Practice I	4		DHYG 140 Intro Periodontology	2	
HSCI 230 Nutrition/Bio Chemistry	3		DHYG 250 Dental Materials	3	
			DHYG 301 Dental Hygiene Practice Mgmt	3	
Total – 14 Credits			Total – 15 Credits		
Summer I Session					
DHYG 201 Summer Clinic	1				
DHYG 230 Local Anesthesia	1.5				
			Total – 2.5 Credits		

Year III: Clinical Program Completion					
Fall Semester – 15 weeks			Spring Semester – 15 weeks		
DHYG 227 Clinical Practice III	4.5		DHYG 228 Clinical Practice IV	5	
DHYG 222 Dental Public Health I	3		DHYG 232 Dental Public Health II	1	
DHYG 233 Oral and General Histo-Pathology	3		DHYG 303 Advanced Clinical Concepts	3	
DHYG 241 Periodontology	2		HUM C Humanities	3	
FA C Fine Arts	3		SOCS C Social Sciences	3	
Total – 15.5 Credits			Total – 15 Credits		

Upon successful completion of ASDH course-work student is eligible for board examinations and apply for DH licensure.

Year IV: Bachelor of Science Degree in DH Completion, hybrid or online with Flexible Scheduling					
Fall Semester – 15 weeks			Spring Semester – 15 weeks		
DHYG 302 Inst Strategies/Health Prof	3		DHYG 305 Dental Hygiene Research	4	
DHYG 315 Statistical Reasoning ^{III}	3		DHYG 304 Dental Hygiene Internship	3	
HUM C Humanities	3		CAP 390 Capstone	3	
HUSV 201 Intro to Counseling OR MKTG 205 Principles of Marketing	3		Electives	4	
Total – 12 Credits			Total – 14 Credits		

Highlighted courses in ASDH plan are required for the BSDH degree program

I – All incoming students must take English Placement tests to determine level of courses to be taken; ENG 100 or 101.

II – Students who transfer in more than 12 credits may substitute FYS101 with another acceptable course: Comm, Socsc, Hum, SciCore, or FA.

III – Prerequisite course or to be taken with DHYG 305 Research.

Specialized course work must be taken in the outlined sequence. A minimum grade of C or greater (74 or above) is required in ALL core courses (DHYG 100 and DHYG 200 courses) for progression in the program. Dental Hygiene majors must earn a minimum “C” or greater in all DHYG courses. Coursework subject to change at the discretion of the Fones School of Dental Hygiene and/or the University of Bridgeport.



**University of Bridgeport
Fones School of Dental Hygiene
Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Admission Requirements**

Freshmen Applicants:

High school students applying as freshmen must be attending a regionally accredited secondary school and completing four years of English, two years of Math, one year of College Prep Chemistry with a laboratory, one year of College Prep Biology with a laboratory and courses in social studies. An overall “B” is recommended (a GPA of 3.0 or higher).

Transfer Applicants:

Transfer applicants must have attempted 12 or more semester hours at a regionally accredited institution. Successful completion of prerequisite course work is an earned grade of “C” or better. A minimum overall GPA of 2.70 and a 3.0 GPA in pre-requisite courses, on a 4.0 scale, is required. All science courses must be taken within seven (7) years of entering the clinical dental hygiene program (Year II). While on-campus courses are preferred, accredited online courses with in person lab will be considered. Transfer students who have not completed college-level Anatomy & Physiology I and II, Microbiology, Chemistry, Intermediate Algebra and English Composition will be given consideration to the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Pre-Dental Track only.

All Applicants:

Please use this checklist to help guide you through the application process. When you can check off each item, you are ready to complete your application. See attached for required forms and applications. Once all materials have been received by Admissions, your application will be ready for review. Please allow 2-to-4 weeks for review and issuance of your decision. The application essay should address the applicant’s know of the dental hygiene profession, experiences interacting with people and their desire to attend Fones School of Dental Hygiene at the University of Bridgeport.

Required Application Materials Checklist:

- Completed University of Bridgeport Online Application or Common Application**
www.bridgeport.edu/apply
- High School Transcript**
- Transcripts from ALL Colleges/Universities Previously Attended**
(transfer applicants only)

All Documents Should Be Mailed To:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
University of Bridgeport
126 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Candidates will be considered for fall admission only. There is no spring admission to the program.



DENTAL HYGIENE APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

The following physical qualifications are required for admission to and participation in the Clinical Program at the UB Fones School of Dental Hygiene. These qualifications are essential for the preparation of the entry level AS and BS Degree in Dental Hygiene. Students at the School must be able to perform at a high level of competency in all phases of classroom, clinic, and laboratory activities as they will ultimately use the knowledge attained as dental hygienists.

The applicant and student must possess:

1. Critical thinking ability sufficient for judgment during clinical activities.
2. Communication abilities for effective interaction verbally and in written form with patients and other members of the health care team.
3. Coordination and use of both upper and lower limbs as required for, among other skills, the performance of dental hygiene clinical procedures and emergency skills such as cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.
4. Manual dexterity necessary for performance in the various clinical, dental laboratory, and basic science laboratories without posing a threat to her/himself, patients, or her/his fellow students' safety and well-being.
5. Hearing and visual abilities, appropriately assisted, acute enough to allow the individual recordation of patient histories, to provide routine safety instructions, and perform stethoscopic and other auscultatory examinations, and to read all forms of diagnostic imaging so that she/he can adequately interpret normal, abnormal, and pathologic changes.
6. Freedom from communicable diseases sufficient for rendering safe and effective dental hygiene care.
7. Ability to obtain a dental hygiene license as some states deny licenses for certain prior felony convictions.

Applicants with disabilities will neither be summarily denied admission, nor will higher scholastic requirements be demanded of them. All persons to be eligible for acceptance to the School must be capable of demonstrating upon request their ability to perform classroom, laboratory, and clinical assignments, including microscopic work, x-ray interpretation and techniques, or the equivalent, use basic computer program skills, pass written, oral, and practical examinations, and meet all of the requirements of the School as they evolve.

The University of Bridgeport requires that students who participate in course directed activities that include patient/client interactions, internships, practicums, and student teaching undergo a background report, health/vaccination screening and drug toxicology screening. The confidential screening is conducted by Viewpoint Screening or comparable agency; all associated fees are to be paid directly to Viewpoint Screening by the deposited student. The Director will review credentialing prior to the start of the Clinical Program. All students must provide evidence of physical fitness and non-contagion to infectious disease in meeting the University and Fones School health requirements. Testing positive or refusing drug screening may result in an inability to complete the clinical year, and to graduate, or maybe a barrier to obtain professional licensure.

It is the responsibility of the applicant/student to assess compliance with these requirements. By submitting an application to the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene, the applicant is confirming his or her ability to meet qualifications for entrance into the Fones School of Dental Hygiene program.

“Dental professionals may be at risk for exposure to numerous workplace hazards. These hazards include but are not limited to the spectrum of bloodborne pathogens, pharmaceuticals and other chemical agents, human factors, ergonomic hazards, noise, vibration, and workplace violence.” www.osha.gov/SLTC/dentistry/index.html

It is the responsibility of Fones School of Dental Hygiene to be compliant with institutional policy and applicable regulations of local, state, and federal agencies including, but not limited to radiation hygiene and protection, ionizing radiation, hazardous materials, and bloodborne and infectious diseases. The Fones School documents guidelines consistent with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens Standards and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Clinical Program Policies and Procedures Manual and continuously monitors compliance in order to minimize risk to safety, health, and well-being of all students, faculty, staff, and clients.

Please note that clinical and internship sites require applicant/student to be current on their immunization and to receive their COVID 19 vaccine and booster(s).

Questions on Fones School of Dental Hygiene and the University of Bridgeport policies may be answered through website pages or contacting the respective department.



University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene Frequently Asked Questions

What are you looking for from applicants to the Fones School of Dental Hygiene?

Admission to the Fones School of Dental Hygiene is highly competitive and selective. Our faculty are involved in the process from the very beginning. We are looking for students who have developed an interest in health care as a career and who have an interest in the type of curriculum we are offering. The review committee, comprised of faculty from the Fones School and Admissions staff, is looking for motivated individuals who have taken their academic preparation seriously, and will evaluate candidates using a holistic approach. Interviews for the Entry Level Clinical Program are required for qualified applicants.

Freshmen applications are reviewed relative to high school cumulative and science GPA. Transfer applications are reviewed relative to undergraduate cumulative and science GPA, and completion of personal essay, recommendation forms, and supplemental application. Due to the competitive nature of the program, most successful candidates will have met more than just minimum requirements. For additional applicant qualifications, please see the *Fones School of Dental Hygiene Applicant Qualifications* information page.

How many students are accepted each year?

While there is no cap on the number of students accepted into the Pre-Dental Hygiene Track, approximately 25 students are enrolled in this track each fall semester. A total of 50 students are accepted into entry-level clinical program (see Year II of the Curriculum Plan). These students are a combination of current UB students rising from our Pre-Dental Hygiene Track or those who are changing their major to Dental Hygiene, and new transfer applicants. *There is no spring admission to the program.*

When should I apply? Is there an application deadline?

The University of Bridgeport is a rolling admission school, however, we recommend completing your application by February 1 to allow ample time for consideration and associated processes. Review of completed applications will commence on November 1 of each year. Applicants will be notified of their decision on a rolling basis, and decision letters will be issued via mail. Admission is guaranteed to accepted students who commit to the University with a tuition deposit prior to the May 1 deadline.

Is experience in the dental field required for admission?

Students interested in pursuing a career in dental hygiene are strongly recommended, to observe/shadow a registered dental hygienist who is presently working in clinical practice to increase awareness of and knowledge about the profession prior to applying to the Dental Hygiene Program. Candidates are also encouraged to view the American Dental Hygienists' Association website to view *Career Paths* at <http://www.adha.org/professional-roles>.

How much does the program cost?

The cost of tuition and fees for the 2023 academic year is \$41,200.00 (note: may be subject to change). This includes the cost of dental hygiene instruments and other "kit" items such as a blood pressure unit, magnification loupes/light, and tooth model, and a one-time modular testing fee, but does not include room and board, scrubs sets, consultation jacket, clinical shoes, background check, health and drug toxicology screening, or additional costs associated with attending the University.

Are there scholarships available for Fones students?

Scholarships and financial aid are available for new students. All candidates should complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for financial aid opportunities and considerations.

Is your clinic on-campus? Will I be required to travel off campus to complete clinical hours?

Our state-of-the-art 30-chair learning clinic is located here on our campus in Bridgeport, CT, and is open to the public, as well as UB students, faculty, and staff. However, in their second year of the clinical program, students will be required to participate in off-campus outreach in dental public health settings. Health requirements are mandated by these outreach sites. In order to participate in the program and meet graduation requirements, the student must meet health requirements of these public health settings and as they evolve. Students are expected to find their own transportation to and from campus, and any outreach sites.

What is required of me once I am accepted?

Once you are accepted and have committed to the University, you will be required to submit health records and all final official academic documentation, as well as to attend Summer Orientation. To enter the second year clinical program, Fones School specifically requires additional medical, eye, and dental examinations, as well as current CPR certification, a background check and drug toxicology screening. It is the student's responsibility to complete and comply with all requirements and any costs associated with them. Fones School of Dental Hygiene maintains high standards and complies with OSHA and CDC regulations including guidelines related to professional clinical attire. Students are to comply with the professional standards set forth by the Fones Department in all clinical, laboratory and outreach patient interaction environments. Examples of compliance include, but are not limited to; fingernails short and neutral polish, no jewelry, hair held back and secured to head with no hair extensions unless medically required or for religious reasons.

