

DENTAL HYGIENE (BS)



This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2025-Spring 2026 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

Unit: School of Dentistry (<http://www.dental.louisville.edu/>) (SD)
Program: Dental Hygiene (<http://louisville.edu/dentistry/degrees/hygiene/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): DHU_BS

Program Information

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program is a four-year program with Lower and Upper Division requirements. Students complete the lower division requirements on the Belknap campus and then apply for competitive admission to the Dental Hygiene Upper Division, which is housed in the School of Dentistry on the Health Sciences Center Campus.

Because the program is housed within a school of dentistry building, hygiene students learn their skills in an environment that emphasizes their important place in the dental health team.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	31
	(13 hours of General Education requirements may be satisfied through coursework required by the degree program)	
	Lower Division Pre-Professional Curriculum ¹	36
	Upper Division Professional Curriculum	66
	Minimum Total Hours	120

¹ Some courses required in this degree program satisfy multiple requirements. To complete the degree **in the minimum number of hours listed**, some hours from the General Education Requirements must be satisfied by courses defined by the unit and/or program. Using other courses to satisfy General Education requirements will require additional hours to complete the degree requirements. See the Degree Requirements for specific coursework.

Specific coursework information can be found on the Degree Requirements tab.

Departmental Admission Requirements

Admission into the Dental Hygiene program is a tiered process: Lower and Upper Divisions. Students apply to the UofL Lower Division to complete general education and program pre-requisite courses on the Belknap Campus. Students apply to the Dental School Upper Division to complete the professional component of the Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene Degree Program on the HSC Campus in the School of Dentistry.

Admission to the Lower Division does not guarantee admission to the Upper Division. Admission to the Upper Division is competitive.

University of Louisville Students Changing Majors

Students who have completed at least one semester in another school of the University earning a grade point average of at least 2.8, and have a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or above for all college coursework may apply to the Lower Division Program in Dental Hygiene.

Please refer to catalog pages containing admissions details for the Dental Hygiene program (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/admission/dental-hygiene-program/>). (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/admission/dental-hygiene-program/>)

General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	31

The following courses are required by the program and should be taken to fulfill the respective General Education Requirement:

CHEM 101	Chemistry and Contemporary Society - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	
	or CHEM 105 Chemistry for Health Professionals - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
BIOL 102	Biology: Current Issues and Applications - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	
BIOL 104	Laboratory for Biology: Current Issues and Applications - SL (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	
MATH 105	Quantitative Reasoning - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
	or MATH 111 College Algebra - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
PSYC 201	Introduction to Psychology - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

All degrees require the completion of the University-wide General Education Program (link provided above). To complete the degree in the **minimum number of hours** listed on the Overview tab, some hours from the General Education Requirements must be satisfied by courses defined by the unit and/or program.

College/School Requirements

Dental Hygiene Lower Division Curriculum

Code	Title	Hours
CHEM 101	Chemistry and Contemporary Society - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
or CHEM 105	Chemistry for Health Professionals - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
BIOL 102	Biology: Current Issues and Applications - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
BIOL 104	Laboratory for Biology: Current Issues and Applications - SL (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	1
MATH 105	Quantitative Reasoning - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
or MATH 111	College Algebra - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
PSYC 201	Introduction to Psychology - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
DHED 101	Dental Hygiene Academic Orientation	1
BIOL 257	Introduction to Microbiology - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	3
BIOL 260	Human Anatomy & Physiology I ¹	3
BIOL 261	Human Anatomy & Physiology II ¹	3
BIOL 264 & BIOL 265	Human Anatomy and Physiology I Laboratory & Human Anatomy and Physiology II Laboratory ¹	1
or BIOL 262	Human Anatomy & Physiology Lab	
HSS 303	Human Nutrition ¹	3
or PHEH 331	Food Composition and Public Health	
Select one of the following Statistics courses:		3
MATH 109	Elementary Statistics - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
PSYC 301	Introduction to Social Statistics	
SOC 301	Introduction to Social Statistics	
Select one of the following Sociology courses:		3
SOC 201	Introduction to Sociology - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
SOC 202	Social Problems - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
SOC 203	Self and Society	
SOC 210	Race in the United States - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

Elective(s) ²	3
Minimum Total Hours	36

Program/Major Requirements

Dental Hygiene Upper Division Curriculum

Year 3		Hours
Fall		
DHED 301	Dental Hygiene Theory I	3
DHED 302	Dental Hygiene Principles of Practice I	2
DHED 303	Dental Anatomy	2
DHED 304	Radiography	2
DHED 305	Structural Biology of Head and Neck	3
DHED 307	Physical Diagnosis and Medical Management	3
Hours		15
Spring		
DHED 308	Pre-Clinical Radiography	1
DHED 309	General and Oral Pathology	3
DHED 310	Periodontology	3
DHED 311	Dental Materials	3
DHED 312	Oral Health Education	2
DHED 313	Dental Hygiene Theory II	3
DHED 314	Dental Hygiene Principles of Practice II	3
Hours		18
Summer		
DHED 315	Pain and Anxiety Control	3
DHED 316	Community Dental Health I	2
Hours		5
Year 4		
Fall		
DHED 402	Pharmacology	3
DHED 403	Evidenced Based Practice	1
DHED 404	Special Needs Patients	2
DHED 405	Advanced Periodontology I	1
DHED 406	Community Dental Health II	2
DHED 407	Advanced Technology and Patient Care Procedures I	2
DHED 408	Dental Hygiene Principles of Practice III	4
DHED 409	Clinical Radiography I	1
Hours		16
Spring		
DHED 410	Advanced Radiology	1
DHED 411	Clinical Radiography II	1
DHED 412	Dental Hygiene Principles of Practice IV	4
DHED 413	Advanced Periodontology II	1
DHED 414	Advanced Technology and Patient Care Procedures II	1
DHED 415	Dental Hygiene Ethics and Practice Mangement	2
DHED 417	Dental Hygiene Extramural Education - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	2
Hours		12
Minimum Total Hours		66

Students must earn a letter grade of C or better in all Dental Hygiene Upper Division Clinical and Science courses.

Code	Title	Hours
Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)		
Requirement fulfilled by completing:		

DHED 417 Dental Hygiene Extramural Education - CUE
(<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>)

¹ Students must make a C or above in these courses and must have completed them within 10 years of applying for Upper Division admission. To complete the degree in the minimum number of hours listed, some hours from the General Education Requirements must be satisfied by courses defined by the unit and/or program. Using other courses to satisfy General Education requirements will require additional hours to complete the degree requirements (or decrease the listed electives).

² Ethics course recommended.

Flight Plan

Year 1		Hours
Fall		
DHED 101	Dental Hygiene Academic Orientation	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
BIOL 102	Biology: Current Issues and Applications - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
BIOL 104	Laboratory for Biology: Current Issues and Applications - SL (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	1
CHEM 101 or CHEM 105	Chemistry and Contemporary Society - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) or Chemistry for Health Professionals - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3-4
MATH 105 or MATH 111	Quantitative Reasoning - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) or College Algebra - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Hours		14-15
Spring		
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
BIOL 257	Introduction to Microbiology - S (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
PSYC 201	Introduction to Psychology - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH		3
Hours		15
Year 2		
Fall		
BIOL 260	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3
BIOL 264	Human Anatomy and Physiology I Laboratory	1
MATH 109 or PSYC 301 or SOC 301	Elementary Statistics - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) (QR requirement must be previously satisfied to select PSYC 301 or SOC 301) or Introduction to Social Statistics or Introduction to Social Statistics	3
HSS 303	Human Nutrition	3

General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities Global Diversity - AHD2		3
Hours		13
Spring		
BIOL 261	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3
BIOL 265	Human Anatomy and Physiology II Laboratory	1
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3
SOC 201 or SOC 202 or SOC 203 or SOC 210	Introduction to Sociology - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) or Social Problems - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) or Self and Society or Race in the United States - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Elective(s), Ethics course recommended		3
Hours		13
Year 3		
Fall		
DHED 301	Dental Hygiene Theory I	3
DHED 302	Dental Hygiene Principles of Practice I	2
DHED 303	Dental Anatomy	2
DHED 304	Radiography	2
DHED 305	Structural Biology of Head and Neck	3
DHED 307	Physical Diagnosis and Medical Management	3
Hours		15
Spring		
DHED 308	Pre-Clinical Radiography	1
DHED 309	General and Oral Pathology	3
DHED 310	Periodontology	3
DHED 311	Dental Materials	3
DHED 312	Oral Health Education	2
DHED 313	Dental Hygiene Theory II	3
DHED 314	Dental Hygiene Principles of Practice II	3
Hours		18
Summer		
DHED 315	Pain and Anxiety Control	3
DHED 316	Community Dental Health I	2
Hours		5
Year 4		
Fall		
DHED 402	Pharmacology	3
DHED 403	Evidenced Based Practice	1
DHED 404	Special Needs Patients	2
DHED 405	Advanced Periodontology I	1
DHED 406	Community Dental Health II	2
DHED 407	Advanced Technology and Patient Care Procedures I	2
DHED 408	Dental Hygiene Principles of Practice III	4
DHED 409	Clinical Radiography I	1
Hours		16
Spring		
DHED 410	Advanced Radiology	1
DHED 411	Clinical Radiography II	1
DHED 412	Dental Hygiene Principles of Practice IV	4
DHED 413	Advanced Periodontology II	1
DHED 414	Advanced Technology and Patient Care Procedures II	1
DHED 415	Dental Hygiene Ethics and Practice Mangement	2

DHED 417	Dental Hygiene Extramural Education - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	2
	Hours	12
	Minimum Total Hours	121-122

More information about licensure is available at the following website: <https://louisville.edu/oapa/licensure-information> (<https://louisville.edu/oapa/licensure-information/>) (you may search by school or by the name of the program then click on 'View Details' to display the information).

The Flight Plan outlined above is intended to demonstrate one possible path to completing the degree within four years. Course selection and placement within the program may vary depending on course offerings and schedule, elective preferences, and other factors (study abroad, internship availability, etc.). Please consult your advisor for additional information about building a flight plan that works for you.

Degree Audit Report

Degree Audit reports illustrate how your completed courses fulfill the requirements of your academic plan, and which requirements are still outstanding. Degree audits also take transfer credits and test credits into account. "What-if" reports allow you to compare the courses you have completed in your current academic plan to the courses required in another academic plan. Should you have questions about either report, please consult with your academic advisor.

Flight Planner

The Flight Planner tool is available for you to create a personalized Flight Plan to graduation. Advisors have access to review your Flight Planner and can help you adjust it to ensure you remain on track to graduate in a timely manner.

To create these reports:

1. Log into your ULink account.
2. Click on the Academic Progress tile.
3. Select the appropriate report.
 - a. To run a Degree Audit report, click on "View my Degree Audit."
 - b. To create a What-if report, click on "What-if Advisement Report."
 - c. To run a Flight Planner report, click on "Use My Flight Planner."

Click here to run a Degree Audit report, create a What-if report, or run a Flight Planner report. (<https://ulink.louisville.edu>)

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program is broken into distinct academic plan codes for lower and upper division requirements. Incoming students complete the lower division preparatory coursework requirements on the main Belknap campus and then apply for competitive admission to the Dental Hygiene upper division program, which is housed in the School of Dentistry on the Health Sciences Center Campus. Completion of the lower division program does not guarantee admission to the upper division program. The lower division program does not prepare students for licensure as a dental hygienist. The upper division program is considered a licensure program designed to meet educational requirements for licensure as a dental hygienist. Upon acceptance, enrollment in the upper division program's academic plan code is considered the first term of enrollment in the licensure program under the Program Participation Agreement for Title IV federal financial aid eligible programs of the Higher Education Act (CFR § 668.14 (b)(32)).

If you plan to pursue professional licensure, first determine the state's criteria for examination and licensure to better understand how UofL's program meets those requirements prior to enrollment. We recommend that you also contact the state's licensing board directly to verify that the requirements have not changed and determine if there are additional requirements beyond the degree.