About the School of Dentistry

Offering outstanding clinical education, pioneering simulation education and technology, and leading biomedical research, the University of Louisville School of Dentistry (ULSD) continues its quest to provide quality education and unique opportunities. The philosophy of the school is to consider students partners in learning and to provide them with the knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of today’s dental profession.

The School of Dentistry is a state-supported institution located within the University Health Sciences Center (HSC) in downtown Louisville (metropolitan area population of more than one million). Founded in 1887, the school is housed in a building that opened in 1970 as part of the HSC campus. Total renovation of the clinics and classrooms, including state-of-the-art technology, was completed in 2011. The School of Dentistry houses clinical care services for community members as well as education for students within the same structure.

The School of Dentistry offers degrees at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels. The undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program is unique in being offered through a School of Dentistry, where students learn alongside their future peers in the dental field.

About the Dental Hygiene Program

The Office of Dental Student Affairs is available to assist students in planning their academic program and to provide students with information regarding policies, procedures, and general information.

It is the student’s responsibility to be knowledgeable of the policies and procedures, and to take the initiative in seeking help and advice. Students are encouraged to contact the office whenever they have a question, a problem, concern.

Name/Address Changes

It is the student’s responsibility to update any change in name, address, or telephone number. The student may complete a name/address change through the ULink option available from the UofL website or in the Registrar’s Office on Belknap Campus or by calling that office at (502) 852-6522.

Minimum Technical Standards

The University of Louisville School of Dentistry is committed to the principle of diversity in all areas. In that spirit, admission to the School is open to all qualified individuals and complies with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1993).

The School recognizes the award of a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree carries with it the full authority of the institution and communicates to those who might seek the services of the bearer that he or she is competent to practice dentistry. This degree is unique in that the graduate is prepared and, upon licensure, is allowed to practice all disciplines of the dental profession. This requires that the student acquire didactic knowledge as well as learning skills and attitudes essential to the profession and agreed upon by the faculty as requisite for the practice of dentistry. The student requires both cognitive and technical skills to negotiate the curriculum.

The School is aware of the unique nature of the dental curriculum. Applicants must possess the skills and abilities that will allow them to successfully complete the course of study and receive the full benefit of the education. In the process the student is required to manage or perform treatment on the patients of the School. The School has the responsibility of ensuring the well-being of patients. This includes the completion of treatment safely and within an acceptable amount of time. With this in mind, the student must be able to meet the following technical standards with or without accommodation:

- Motor Skills
- Sensory/Observation
- Communication
- Cognitive
- Behavioral
- Immunizations

Disability Statement

Students with disabilities who need reasonable modifications to successfully complete assignments and satisfy other course criteria are encouraged to meet with the course instructor as early as possible to identify and plan specific accommodations. Students may be asked to supply a letter from the Disability Resource Center or other documentation which will assist in modification planning.

Student Conduct Policies

The University of Louisville expects its students and student organizations to conduct themselves according to generally accepted moral and social standards and to respect the rights and privileges of others. Students who enroll in the University of Louisville dental hygiene program are subject to the rules and regulations of the University.
Ethical Violations
The dental hygiene program expects high ethical standards. As future professionals, students should exhibit appropriate professional ethical behavior in all academic and clinical matters.

A student may be dismissed from the program due to unethical conduct. A formal procedure has been established to review cases where a student is accused of unethical behavior.

Drug Use Prohibited
In accordance with the statutes of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the possession, use or distribution of hallucinogenic and/or illegal drugs will not be tolerated on University property. Infractions will result in disciplinary action by the University which may lead to suspension or dismissal from the dental hygiene program.

Student Rights
Students who believe they have been treated unfairly, discriminated against, or have had their rights abridged may initiate a grievance in accordance with procedures established in the University’s Redbook. Students would first seek to have the matter resolved through informal discussion and through administrative channels. Information about processing a grievance may be obtained from the School of Dentistry’s associate dean for academic affairs.

Student Health Policy
Each student must comply with the current health policy of the School of Dentistry. Because of contractual agreements with agencies and the changing needs of society, this policy is updated periodically. The current health policies are published in the School of Dentistry Dental Hygiene Undergraduate Student Handbook. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain his or her health in order to ensure safety for other students and patients. If faculty or the agency deem that any student creates a health or safety risk, the student may be excluded from the clinical experience and/or program.

Liability and Health Insurance
All upper division dental hygiene students are required to submit proof of health care insurance coverage. Students can be covered under the University’s student health insurance coverage. If students carry their own coverage, they can waive the University student health coverage by completing the online waiver form.

Liability/malpractice insurance is provided for all ULSD upper division students during their intern and extern experiences, including AHEC.

Immunization Requirements
All students are to comply with the University of Louisville Health Sciences Center immunizations requirements. Those requirements are distributed to students prior to matriculation.

Policies and procedures for immunization, testing, and post exposure incidents have been developed to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Dental Association (ADA), American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA), and extramural site recommendations or policies. Dental hygiene students, in the course of their clinical responsibilities, have exposure to blood, blood products, tissue, secretions, or body fluids of patients potentially containing hepatitis B (HBV) and are at risk for HBV as well as other infectious diseases. The following immunizations require documentation prior to matriculation and must be submitted on the Immunization Reporting Form to the Office of Clinical Affairs prior to the first day of class: measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis, varicella, hepatitis-B (series must be initiated-first and second doses), and tuberculosis skin test. A tuberculosis skin test is required on a yearly basis for all students. All students must maintain compliance with the University of Louisville Health Sciences immunization and testing requirements. Students must be in compliance with immunization and testing prior to contact with patients in the clinical areas. Any student not in compliance will not be allowed in the clinical areas.

Students are strongly advised to consider latex allergy testing prior to matriculation if there is a medical history indicating latex sensitivity.

Transportation
Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from clinical sites as needed. Students are not allowed to provide transportation for patients.

Policy on Clinical Attire
The University of Louisville School of Dentistry expects the student entering the professional clinical/academic program to present a neat, clean, and professional attire appearance. The current policy is published in the School of Dentistry Student Clinic Manual and is updated periodically. All students must maintain compliance with the current policy. Final evaluation of student compliance with the dress code will rest with the Office of Clinic Affairs and the program faculty and director.

Academic Achievement Committee
The Dental Hygiene Academic Achievement Committee Guidelines (DH-AAC Guidelines) have been developed by the dental hygiene faculty of the School of Dentistry to provide students and faculty with pertinent information about the academic and professional standards of the School and about the process and procedures used to review student performance. Admitted upper division students are provided these guidelines, updated annually, via Blackboard.

Academic bankruptcy and forgiveness policies allow students who are returning to college after an absence of two or more years to request the adjustment of their records for one or more entire semesters of previous college work, provided certain criteria are met. View information on academic bankruptcy and forgiveness and the new Fresh Start policy in the academic policies section of this catalog.

Advising Services
Lower Division Advising
All dental hygiene students are encouraged to meet with an advisor to seek support and referral information as needed. The academic counselor for the dental hygiene program has office hours on both the Belknap and HSC campuses. Students may call (502) 852-5081 for an appointment on either campus.

Freshmen students and transfers with less than 30 credit hours earned are required to be advised prior to registration. Students on conditional, warning or probationary status must also be advised prior to registering for courses. Students who are out of sequence in their program of study must meet with their advisor to revise their program of study.

Upper Division Advising
Academic advising is available to upper division students through the program advisor, program faculty, and the School of Dentistry academic support counselor.
Undergraduate Programs

- Dental Hygiene (BS) (http://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/majors/dental-hygiene-bs)