While pursuing a degree at UCO, the following courses must be completed with a “C” or better to qualify for admission to the Dental Hygiene Program:

**Required Courses (Check Prerequisites):**

- ENG 1113 English Composition
- ENG 1213 English Composition and Research
- MCOM 1113 Fundamentals of Speech
- PSY 1103 General Psychology
- POL 1113 American Federal Government
- HIST 1483 U.S. History to 1877 OR HIST 1493 U.S. History since 1877
- SOC 2103 Sociology
- NTRN 1513 Introduction to Nutrition
- CHEM 1103 General Chemistry I
- CHEM 1112 General Chemistry I Recitation/Laboratory
- *CHEM 1124 Intro to Organic & Biochemistry
- BIO 2314 Introduction to Microbiology & Lab OR BIO 3054 Microbiology for Majors & Lab
- BIO 2504 Human Anatomy and Laboratory
- BIO 2604 Human Physiology and Laboratory
- BIO 2604L Human Physiology Laboratory

*UCO does not offer this course. It is only offered at Rose State College or Tulsa Community College and must be taken before the program starts.

**Admissions Requirements:**

Admission to the Dental Hygiene Program is very competitive, as only 12 students are admitted. The application period is December 1st – February 1st. Selection is based on the applicant’s post-secondary academic record, life experiences, and the potential for success in a baccalaureate program of study in dental hygiene. New students are admitted for the fall semester only. To be considered for admission, students must meet the following requirements:

1. All application requirements must be submitted by February 1st of the year in which admission is sought.
2. Submit true copy/official transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended including Rose State College. This is your responsibility. Copies of transcripts with the Rose State College seal indicating “true copy of official document” are acceptable from Rose State College Admissions. It is the responsibility of the applicant that ALL current transcripts or copies are on file with the Dental Hygiene Program.
3. ACT composite scores are required and must be submitted with the application.
4. Minimum average GPA is 2.0 of a 4.0 scale with a grade of “C” or better on all specifically required courses.
5. Employment or observation, other than as a patient, in a dental office is required. This is usually a strong deciding factor in the decision to seek a career in dental hygiene. Additional points will be added to your application depending on the length of your employment or if you spent the equivalent of one week (32-40 hours) observing in a dental office. If observation is less than 32 hours no points will be awarded. To receive this credit, complete the Dental Office Experience form. Blank form may be duplicated for verification by more than one dentist. No points or credit will be awarded unless form is signed by the dentist and the applicant, and submitted with the application. [https://www.rose.edu/media/9497/dental-office-experienceobservation-form-2019.pdf](https://www.rose.edu/media/9497/dental-office-experienceobservation-form-2019.pdf)
Admissions Requirements Cont’d:

6. If you have worked as a dental assistant and have current expanded duty certificates from the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry, points will be added to your application. If you are currently a Dental Assisting National Board, Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) one point will be earned. To receive credit, provide copies of the current certificates and national board certification. These documents must be turned in with your application.

7. Complete Application Academic Worksheet and include all documents verifying worksheet entries: transcripts; test scores; diploma or certificate verification. [https://www.rose.edu/media/9499/dh-application-2019part-2.pdf](https://www.rose.edu/media/9499/dh-application-2019part-2.pdf)

8. Letters indicating your application status will be sent to you at the address on your application during the first week in March. If selected for an interview, instructions for scheduling will be stated in the letter. All interviews will be scheduled in March. At the time of the interview you will complete several short essay questions. Your written skills will be evaluated and assigned points.

9. Letters of recommendation are not required and will not be utilized if submitted.

Pre-Dental Hygiene Program

The registered dental hygienist (RDH) is a licensed primary health-care professional, oral health educator, and clinician. Responsibilities of the dental hygienist include preventive services that promote or maintain oral health and clinical treatments designed to arrest or control oral disease. Quality dental hygiene care requires critical thinking to assess the patient’s needs, determine a dental hygiene diagnosis, develop individualized patient care, implement dental hygiene treatment, and evaluate outcomes of dental hygiene treatment. The dental hygienist works closely with and under supervision of a dentist.

Most dental hygienists are employed in a dental office; however, they can be found in long-term care facilities, hospitals, corporate health facilities, school systems, research centers, state and federal agencies, and public health clinics. The baccalaureate RDH may also be employed as an educator, a researcher who conducts clinical studies and analyzes scientific data, a corporate representative, and as a provider of continuing education seminars. Dental hygienists may provide care in dental clinics for the underprivileged, participate in mission trips, or provide education and preventive services to schoolchildren as allowed by state laws.

**Opportunities:** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected employment prospects for dental hygiene to remain excellent, with the dental hygiene profession expected to be one of the fastest growing occupations through the year 2024. There is considerable freedom for dental hygienists to select employment days and hours.

**Starting Salaries:** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national average salary for Dental Hygienists is approximately **$75,000**

For more information about Dental Hygienists and Dental Hygiene programs: [http://www.adha.org/](http://www.adha.org/)

Department of Dental Hygiene Contact: Ms. Michelle Gaddy - (405) 736-0289 or email mgaddy@rose.edu

For additional information, please visit: [https://www.rose.edu/content/academics/academic-divisions/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/](https://www.rose.edu/content/academics/academic-divisions/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/)

To apply, Rose State College, Dental Hygiene: [https://www.rose.edu/content/academics/academic-divisions/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/admission/](https://www.rose.edu/content/academics/academic-divisions/health-sciences/dental-hygiene/admission/)