

## PRE-DENTAL HYGIENE

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences - Advising Center  
498 Neuberger Hall, (503) 725-3822, askclas@pdx.edu  
**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

Updated: July 2007

Dental hygienists help people maintain a healthy mouth and a nice smile. Using preventive procedures in the office, the hygienist helps meet the health care needs of the patient. In addition, the hygienist educates the patient in preventive procedures to be used in the home. The dental hygienist is a licensed health care provider.

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Dental Health Science is offered at **Pacific University**. In order to apply to the Dental Hygiene program, students must complete the prerequisite coursework outlined below and have earned a minimum of 72 transferable quarter hours from an accredited institution(s). If accepted to the Pacific University School of Dental Health Science program, students then complete two additional years of coursework at Pacific to earn the BS in Dental Health Science.

Lane, Mt. Hood, Blue Mountain (ODS LaGrande), and Portland Community College offer an associate of sciences degree in dental hygiene. These dental hygiene programs are 2 or more years in length. Qualified students may be able to enter the community college programs without having any prior college work. Students should contact the schools directly for more information on the program.

Pacific University Prerequisite Courses	Equivalent PSU Courses
<b>Natural Sciences – minimum 24 quarter credits (16 semester credits)</b>	
Chemistry with lab – 1 course  Microbiology with lab – 1 course  Human Anatomy & Physiology with lab –year long sequence Note: all parts of the series should be taken at the same institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CH 104/107 (5) – Intro to Chemistry</b> (prerequisite is MTH 95)</li> <li>• <b>BI 234/235 (6)– Elementary Microbiology with lab</b></li> <li>• <b>BI 301, 302, 303 (12) - Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology</b> (BI 301-303 has a highly recommended prerequisite of one year of college biological science and a previous course in chemistry. <b>BI 101/104, 102/105, 103/106 – General Biology with lab OR BI 251, 252, &amp; 253 - Principles of Biology,</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Social Science – minimum 9 quarter credits (6 semester credits)</b>	
Psychology – 1 course  Sociology – 1 course  Social Science elective – 1 course (if needed to complete required hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PSY 200 (4)- Psychology as a Natural Science OR</b></li> <li>• <b>PSY 204 (4) Psychology as a Social Science – (PSY 200 &amp; 204 are recommended prerequisites for PSY 311)</b></li> </ul> <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SOC 200 (4) – Intro to Sociology</b></li> <li>• <b>PSY 311 (4) – Human Development</b> (if needed to meet total credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Communication – minimum 9 quarter credits (6 semester credits)</b>	
English Composition or Writing – 1 course  Interpersonal Communication – 1 course  Communication Elective – 1 course (if needed to complete required hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WR 121 (4) – College Writing</b></li> <li>• <b>SP 218 (4) – Interpersonal Communication</b></li> <li>• <b>Communication Elective – (if needed to meet total credits)</b></li> </ul> Note: Pacific may accept university studies credits towards the writing and communication elective requirement – submit course descriptions to Pacific for review.
<b>Statistics – minimum 3 quarter credits or 3 semester hours</b>	
Statistics – 1 course Note: it is recommended that this be taken from a department of psychology, sociology, statistics or mathematics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>STAT 243 (4) – Introduction to Probability &amp; Statistics I</b> (take the non-business version)</li> </ul>

(Prerequisites Continued on Back)

Prerequisite Coursework, Continued

Pacific University Prerequisite Courses	Equivalent PSU Courses
<b>Art – minimum 4.5 quarter credits (3 semester hours)</b>	
Art, Music OR Theater – 1 course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose from ART, MUS, or TA</li> </ul>
<b>Humanities minimum 15 quarter credits (10 semester hours)</b>	
Ethics, History, Language, Literature, Media Arts, Philosophy AND/OR Religion – Approximately 5 courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16 credits from any of the following departments – ENG, HST, FL, SP, PHL</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition – 2 quarter hours or 2 semester hours</b>	
Nutrition – 1 course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CH 250 (4) – Nutrition</li> <li>OR</li> <li>PHE 425 (4) – Nutrition for Health</li> </ul>
<b>Spanish 3 quarter hours or 3 semester hours</b>	
Spanish – 1 course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SPAN 101 (4) – First Year Spanish I (or higher)</li> </ul>

Completion of the preparatory courses does not guarantee acceptance into the School of Dental Health Science program. Admission is limited and competitive. Most professional programs require that an A, B, or C be earned in all required preparatory courses, and most students accepted by professional schools have an average overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

**Additional Pacific University – Dental Hygiene Admission Requirements:**

- Minimum number of credits in preparatory phase – 72
- Minimum of 30 hours of observation is required – 10 hours must be in a public health setting: (example: public dental clinic, dental school clinic, dental hygiene school clinic, or mobile dental van). If you are currently working in the dental health field, you only need to complete the 10 hours of the public dental experience or observation.

**Pacific University – Dental Hygiene Application Information:**

- Application will be available August 2007
- **Preferred Application deadline (postmarked): November 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Final Application deadline date (postmarked): February 15<sup>th</sup>
- On campus interviews: March 2008
- Notification of admissions decision: April 2008
- Degree awarded – B.S. Dental Health Science
- Program begins Fall semester and enrollment in the professional program is limited to 32 students per class.
- The best way to ensure that Pacific will accept your courses is to complete a prerequisite worksheet (available at <http://www.pacificu.edu/dentalhealth/admission/prerequisite-worksheet.cfm>) and submit it to Pacific, along with a copy of your transcripts and course descriptions.

**Tips & Recommendations:**

- We encourage you to get in contact with the Dental Hygiene schools you will be applying to as early as possible.
- **Begin completing financial aid forms in January; the priority filing deadline is March 1.**
- **Periodically** and before the beginning of your last year at PSU, **check with the adviser** for recent changes, remaining requirements, and application procedures.
- Personally read the information/admission brochure of each of the professional programs to which you plan to apply.

**Pacific University's School of Dental Health Science :**

Cory Nelson  
 PACIFIC UNIVERSITY  
 2043 College Way Forest Grove, OR 97116

Email: [cnelson@pacificu.edu](mailto:cnelson@pacificu.edu)  
 Phone: (503) 352-7222 or 1-800-933-9308  
 Web: [www.pacificu.edu](http://www.pacificu.edu)

**ODS School of Dental Hygiene** (for more information on the ODS School of Dental Hygiene, please visit:

<http://www.odsdenalhygiene.org/>  
 Office of Admissions  
 909 Adams Avenue  
 La Grande, OR 97850  
 541-962-2165  
[dentalhygiene@odsdenalhygiene.org](mailto:dentalhygiene@odsdenalhygiene.org)