



# The Dental Hygiene Program

**A** dental hygienist is a vital member of a team of dental professionals dedicated to improving oral health and supporting the general health of individuals and communities.

As licensed professionals, dental hygienists, provide educational, clinical, and therapeutic services. Hygienists are also involved in research, administration, client/patient advocacy, and marketing or consulting. Dental hygienists can practice in a variety of setting such as private dental offices, public health facilities, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and other settings.

Dental hygienists are well paid, with an average national hourly salary of \$35.97. The profession is one of the fastest growing occupations in the country according to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics "Employment of dental hygienists is projected to grow 11 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for dental services will increase as the population ages and as research continues to link oral health to overall health. "Graduation from this program qualifies students to take national and state examinations to become a licensed dental hygienist anywhere in the United States.

## REQUIRED SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Students need to demonstrate good oral expression (speech clarity) and written comprehension in English, critical thinking skills, optimum vision, and the ability to sit for long periods of time, as well as the ability to manipulate dental/medical equipment, move/lift patients and equipment up to 50 pounds without assistance, and perform patient care procedures with manual dexterity.

## PROGRAM ADMISSION SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

This is a limited entry program. Successful candidates generally have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Faculty to student ratio in the clinical setting is 1:5, thus, allowing for individualized instruction.

## DACC AAS TO UNM BSDH:

The DACC Dental Hygiene Program and The University of New Mexico Dental Hygiene Program work together in offering DACC students the opportunity to enroll at UNM Dental Hygiene while completing their dental hygiene curriculum at DACC. Please contact the DACC Dental Hygiene advisor for the criteria needed to enroll in the program once you are admitted or close to applying to DACC.



575-528-7071



DACCDHProgram@dacc.nmsu.edu