

DENTAL HYGIENE - FAQ

- 1 Is there a website with information?**
<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/academics/programs/dental-programs/index.h>
 - 2 Who can I talk to about the program?**
Elmer Gonzalez, Prog. Director, DASH 84F/(575) 528-7216/egonzalez@dacc.nmsu.edu
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 - 3 In a nutshell, what does a student need in order to apply?**
Approximately 3.0/3.5 GPA, completion of all prerequisite courses prior to applying,
 - 4 How does repeating prerequisites apply to this program?**
 - a. If a student earns a grade of F in a prerequisite course and repeats the course, how is the new grade used toward consideration of acceptance into the program? Does the new grade replace the previous grade or is it averaged in with the F? What if the student repeats the course a second time?**
The new grade replaces the F or the best grade is considered. The F isn't averaged into the GPA. A maximum of two repeat attempts are allowed.
 - b. If a student earns a grade of D in a prerequisite course and repeats the course, how is the new grade used toward consideration of acceptance into the program? Does the new grade replace the previous grade or is it averaged in with the D? What if the student repeats the course a second time?**
The new grade replaces the D or the best grade is considered. The D is not averaged into the GPA. A maximum of two repeat attempts are allowed.
 - c. If a student earns a grade of C in a prerequisite course and repeats the course, how is the new grade used toward consideration of acceptance into the program? Does the new grade replace the previous grade or is it averaged in with the C? What if the student repeats the course a second time?**
The new grade replaces the C or the best grade is considered. The C is not averaged into the GPA. A maximum of two repeat attempts are allowed.
 - d. Is there a cap on the number of times a student can repeat a course before the student will no longer be considered?**
Yes, two attempts. However, students admitted to the program are not allowed to repeat any of the courses within the Dental Hygiene Program. If a student fails to meet minimum requirements, the student will be dismissed from the program and will need to re-apply to the program.
 - e. Do any prerequisites or other courses have a time expiration? (Example: BIOL 225/2210 must be repeated if taken more than 5 years prior to admission into the program.) If so, what are these courses and how do the new grade(s) work into the selection process?**
Yes, 5 years is the standard time for all science courses.
 - f. How is transfer credit treated? Do you use the grade from the transcript where they previously attended and consider those grades or just take into consideration the CR, CD, or GR?**
The original grade is used.
 - g. Are students selected based on their prerequisite GPA alone, or a combination of their prerequisite and cumulative GPA?**
Students are selected for interview based on the following: overall pre-requisite GPA and science GPA and admission entry exam if applicable. For those who meet minimum qualifications, (top 20) are invited to an interview, writing sample and presentation are also part of the selection process.
- 5 How does exercising the Adjusted Credit Option (ACO), affect student's application?**
Some selective admission programs add or deduct points for exercising the ACO. This program does not. Students and advisors should, however, be aware of the overall consequences of exercising the ACO. The policy is outlined under the Academic Regulations section of the current DACC catalog.
 - 6 What kind of a salary do graduates earn?**
According to the Bureau Labor Statistics in 2024, the median pay was \$94,260 annually or \$45.32 per hour.
 - 7 What kinds of grades are needed in order to graduate?**
Students must receive a final grade of C (77%) or higher to remain in the program. Seniors must achieve an 85% or better on some evaluations.
 - 8 Are there any special exams that may be taken upon completion of the program?**
Graduates qualify to take national and state examinations to become a licensed dental hygienist anywhere in the United States. There are international employment opportunities for dental hygienists educated in the U.S.

- 9 Does having a felony/misdemeanor prevent students from applying?**
Students must know that convictions may prevent them from partaking in extracurricular rotations, and/or obtaining their license after graduation.
- 10 Is there an application deadline?**
The application is to be completed on the DACC Dental Programs website:
<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/academics/programs/dental-programs/index.html>
It becomes available on January 1 and must be completed by the March 15 deadline.
- 11 How many students apply? How many are admitted?**
Average number of students applying: 35
Admitted: 12 Only the 12 most qualified applicants are admitted.
- 12 What is the average GPA of students accepted?**
Average GPA is between 3.3 and 3.7
- 13 Is the program accredited?**
Accredited by The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)
- 14 Are there additional program costs?**
Estimated costs for the program
(includes tuition and clinic requirements)
1st year = \$8,550.00
2nd year = \$4,700.00
Total = \$13,250.00
Estimated costs for licensure exams and professional licenses = \$2,500.
These fees are estimates and are subject to change
- 15 Are there any special proficiencies students need to have?**
None specified

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