



ADMISSION SELECTION PROCESS

Admission to the Utah College of Dental Hygiene (UCDH) Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) program is competitive, based on specific criteria, procedures, and policies. The selection process consists of two parts. Part one includes the submission of a completed application. If an individual's application is competitive, they may be invited to part two of the selection process. Part two includes a personal, virtual interview. An invitation for an interview will only be extended once three science and three general education prerequisites have been completed. An interview does not guarantee acceptance to the program. All interviews are subject to cancelation or rescheduling at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

Both objective and subjective factors are used in the selection process to determine an applicant's potential for successfully completing the program without compromising the established standards of ethical, academic, and clinical performance expected of all students and graduates of UCDH. These include the following, in no particular order:

- Completed, in progress, or appropriately scheduled prerequisite work. Due to the nature of the program, prerequisite work must be either completed, in progress, or scheduled for completion prior to entry into the program. Students with completed prerequisite work will be given priority in the selection process.
- Overall quality of prior educational experiences and grades based on where each course was completed. Tier One educational institutions (those with doctoral degree programs) are considered as the highest quality experience.
- Previous experience in the dental field. This requirement will be established through a minimum of 40 hours documented shadowing of a dental hygienist during their workday for all applicants.
- The ability to meet the application deadlines and apply critical thinking skills.
- Evidence of a desire to provide oral healthcare to the underserved, rural areas and/or become a dental hygiene educator.
- Content of application information and the ability to follow the instructions of the application.
- Positive respectful attitude towards college employees and/or students as the applicant communicates ideas and expresses opinions during the interview and application process.
- Grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, general focus, and overall content of the written essay.
- Ability to benefit from the educational program.
- Other appropriate life experiences may be considered. However, all decisions regarding applications, petitions, submissions, interactions, and/or special circumstances relating to applicants (or their application process) reside with the Admissions Committee.

PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS

Students must enter the program with the following post-secondary coursework completed. All prerequisite transfer credit courses must be approved by a UCDH Administrator. The courses must be of sufficient depth, scope, sequence of instruction, and emphasis to reflect the objectives and philosophy of higher education. Prerequisite courses may only be transferred from an approved accredited institution at the post-secondary level. Applicants must have a **minimum of thirty-three (33)** semester credit hours of the required prerequisite coursework.

The UCDH BSDH program requires a minimum of **122 credit hours** (which includes a minimum of **33 credit hours** of prerequisite coursework). The UCDH curriculum is structured into semesters. One semester credit hour equals fifteen (15) hours of study for lecture components or thirty (30) hours of study for laboratory, clinical and independent study components. Breaks are scheduled between all semesters.

When an application is submitted with courses in progress, a mid-semester progress report is required from the student. It is the responsibility of the student to submit this report at midterm and official transcripts for courses taken after an application is submitted.

All applicants must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale in each individual science and general education course, to qualify for admittance to the program. Even with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, any course with a grade lower than a C does not meet the standard of the prerequisite requirement and must be retaken.

A foundational grade point average (FGPA) is computed using an applicant's best grades in the courses listed above. The FGPA is used in the selection process.

Prerequisite Courses	Minimum Credit Hours
Anatomy and Physiology I and II OR Anatomy AND Physiology (with lab*)	8
Microbiology (with lab*)	4
General or Introductory Chemistry (with or without lab)	3
College Level Mathematics Credit may be earned with a statistics course from the departments of education, business, or mathematics with a petition to transfer. See: PREREQUISITE COURSE TRANSFERABILITY	3
Nutrition	3
English	3
Public Speaking (Oral Communication)	3
Sociology	3
Psychology	3
Total Credit Hours	33
*Virtual or integrated lab acceptable	

UCDH PREREQUISITE COURSE RETAKE POLICY

Only letter grades of C or better will be accepted. If your transcript indicates a final letter grade of C- or lower or has an unfamiliar letter that is specified on the transcript legend as a failure, an unofficial withdrawal, or incomplete in any required prerequisite, the course must be retaken.

To be eligible to apply to UCDH, prerequisite courses may only be taken two times. On the second attempt of a prerequisite course, the applicant must receive a letter grade of a C or higher, otherwise the applicant is ineligible to apply to the program at UCDH.

If a retake attempt was five or more years ago, and you earned a grade of C or lower, the applicant may petition to have a retake attempt waived. If you meet this criterion, you may submit a petition. Petition for Course Transfer form. This appeal does not guarantee approval.

PREREQUISITE COURSE TRANSFERABILITY

An applicant can petition for prerequisite course transferability for any class that does not match the required prerequisites or if you are eligible to petition the retake policy. In these instances, please complete the Petition for Course Transfer form along with a course description/syllabus. Petitions will not be reviewed without a course description/syllabus attached. As these petitions are only valid for each specific application cycle, a new petition(s) must be completed for subsequent cycles.

CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT

All applicants must be a citizen of the United States or have a valid visa. Any questions regarding US citizenship should be directed to financialservices@ucdh.edu. If English is the applicants second language, a standardized test such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) may be required.

POLICY ON HS DIPLOMA VALIDITY FOR ADMISSIONS & FIN AID ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION OF HIGH SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT

All applicants to UCDH who report having earned a high school diploma must provide documentation verifying the validity of the diploma. This policy applies to all incoming students and is particularly enforced for those applying for federal financial aid under Title IV programs.

Acceptable Documentation of High School Diploma Validity

UCDH may obtain one or more of the following forms of documentation to validate a high school diploma:

1. **Official High School Transcripts**
 - Showing final grades and proof of graduation.
2. **Written Descriptions of Course Requirements**
 - Provided by the high school, outlining the coursework necessary for graduation.
3. **Signed Statements from School Officials**
 - Statements from principals or executive officers confirming the academic rigor and graduation standards of the school.
4. **Verification from Oversight Agency**

- Documentation from the appropriate state agency, the Utah State Board of Education, Tribal agency, or the Bureau of Indian Education affirming that the school is recognized and meets applicable graduation requirements.
- 5. **Cross-Check Against Federal List**
 - Confirmation that the high school does not appear on any list published by the U.S. Secretary of Education identifying schools that issue invalid diplomas.

Criteria for Invalid Diplomas

A high school diploma is considered invalid under any of the following conditions:

- The diploma does not meet the academic requirements established by the state, Tribal agency, or Bureau of Indian Education where the school is located.
- The diploma has been deemed invalid by a state agency, the U.S. Department of Education, or a legal proceeding.
- The diploma was issued by an institution that requires little or no coursework or instruction, or by a testing method that does not meet federal standards for recognized high school diploma equivalency (per 34 CFR 600.2).

FAFSA Considerations

- Students completing the FAFSA must provide the name, city, and state of their high school.
- The FAFSA interface uses a list of high schools provided by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); however:
 - Inclusion on the list does not guarantee validity of the diploma.
 - Exclusion from the list does not automatically indicate invalidity.

Conflict Resolution and Self-Certification

- Self-certification by the student is not sufficient to validate a diploma in question.
- If there is any conflicting information between the FAFSA form and other documentation provided by the student, UCDH must resolve the discrepancy before awarding federal financial aid.

Responsibility

UCDH Office of Admissions will:

- Ensure documentation is received and verified.
- Maintain accurate records related to high school diploma validation.
- Enforce this policy consistently across all applicants.

Review and Revisions

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Office of Admissions in coordination with the Financial Aid Department to ensure ongoing compliance with federal regulations and institutional standards.

For questions or clarifications regarding this policy, please contact:

Office of Admissions – 801-426-8234 or admissions@ucdh.edu

DISCLOSURES

The Utah College of Dental Hygiene is a private institution. Admissions requirements may change or be amended on a semi-annual/annual basis in response to requirements or recommendations submitted by the College's Board of Directors, Program Advisory Committee, College Administration, or any/all applicable Government or oversight agencies. These may include but are not limited to: Accreditation Bodies/Agencies, Federal Agencies, State Agencies, Regulatory Agencies (Federal, State, or Regional), and other local or applicable authorities.

No documents will be stored/logged in our database without the submission of your application. Completion of the UCDH application and submitting the information/required forms properly is the sole responsibility of the applicant. In the event an application is not completed in 365 days, any forms sent prior to that point will not be retained by the admissions office.

Re-applicant status. If you were previously offered conditional acceptance into the program, but did not attend, you can consider the option to reapply. Important note: re-applicants will only be considered for alternate positions. This also applies to applicants who started the program but withdrew early.

Please check your state license requirements as a misdemeanor or felony may result in the denial of a license to practice dental hygiene.

Bloodborne Pathogens Statement: Students in the Dental Hygiene program may be exposed to bloodborne pathogens and other infectious and/or life-threatening diseases while providing clinical services at UCDH. Students are provided with instruction on the mechanisms of disease transmission and other potential risks associated with infectious diseases, including infection control procedures that can be used to potentially reduce the risk of disease transmission. The instruction on infectious diseases includes those published by national public health agencies, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

After acceptance into the program, students will be provided with a list of required immunizations, which must be completed prior to enrolling into the program. Contact the Admissions Department at admissions@ucdh.edu with additional questions.

UCDH does not guarantee the transferability of credits to or from other colleges and universities.

Transferability is determined solely by the discretion of the school/institution the student is applying to attend.