



Make today matter

An oral hygienist is a dental professional trained to promote oral health, prevent oral diseases and provide related dental services. This is a three-year degree programme during which students receive training in both medical and dental subjects.

Additional requirements

- A candidate who is in possession of a school certificate or diploma that is deemed by the University to be equivalent to the required National Senior Certificate (NSC) with university endorsement
- A candidate who is a graduate from another tertiary institution or has been granted the status of a graduate of such an institution
- A candidate who is a graduate of another faculty at the University of Pretoria
- A candidate who is currently in the university



Who is the ideal candidate?

The ideal candidate is someone who has:

- a passion for oral health;
- interpersonal skills;
- good manual dexterity;
- hard worker;
- good communication and people skills;
- attention to detail; and is
- compassionate and patient.



What makes this programme unique?

- The programme is accredited by the HPCSA.
- The students are trained at state-of-the-art facilities.
- Students are trained in first aid. They receive first aid certificates on completion of the training.
- Students are exposed to various departments to enhance clinical skills.



What does the programme entail?

Students receive training in basic medical and dental subjects. Theory and practice are integrated from the first year of study.

- Community dentistry (outreach programmes within communities around Pretoria at schools, old age home and nursery schools)
- Preventive Clinic (oral health education, oral health promotion and treatment of patients in the Preventive Clinical Ward)
- Orthodontic Ward (work hand in hand with the qualified oral hygienist, specialist and registrars)
- Periodontics and Oral Medicine Ward (treatment and maintenance plan of patients with periodontal disease, assist in surgeries and maintenance of implants including preparation for the patients pre- and post-surgery)
- Maxillo-Facial and Oral Surgery (assist and prepare patients before surgery, removing sutures, splinting of mobile teeth, administering local anaesthetic, and participating in cleft lip and palate clinics)
- Patient management (treatment of emergency patients within the scope of oral hygiene practice, comprehensive patient management, effective communication, public speaking, ethics and practice management)
- Odontology (learning and application of dental materials)





UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Health Sciences

Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe
Lefapha la Disaense tša Maphelo

Bachelor of Oral Hygiene (continued)



Career opportunities

Academic/
Lecturer

Private practice
owner

Work with a dentist or specialist
(Community Dentist, Orthodontist,
Periodontist, Maxillo-facial and oral
surgeon and Prosthodontist)

Insurance
companies

South African
Military
Services

Public/
Private
sector

Health
promoter

Dental
representative

Policy-maker



‘I reflect on the transformative journey I’ve undergone while studying oral hygiene at the University of Pretoria. The exceptional support and education provided by the university have been instrumental in shaping me into a proficient oral hygienist. Through this programme, I have not only honed my technical skills but also discovered my innate ability to lead and assist patients effectively. The University of Pretoria has been a nurturing environment where I’ve grown both professionally and personally, preparing me to make a positive impact in the field of oral hygiene.’

Shahina Saifi – Bachelor of Oral Hygiene

Minimum admission requirements

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2026			
	Achievement level			APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	
School of Dentistry				
Bachelor of Oral Hygiene [3 years]	4	4	4	25

For advice on a second-choice programme, please consult a Student Advisor. To make an appointment, send an email to carol.bosch@up.ac.za.

Selection is based on a candidates' final Grade 11 examination results.

Career: Oral hygienists

Email healthsciences@up.ac.za



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Minimum requirements for
applicants with a school
leaving certificate not issued
by Umalusi (South Africa)



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Refer to the International undergraduate prospectus at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission Information or [click here](#) for more information.

- The closing date for applications for programmes in this faculty is 30 June.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES Programmes	Minimum requirements for 2026									
	Achievement level									
	Compulsory subjects	GCSE #		HIGCSE NSSC HL	AS Level	A Level	IB		KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE
		The qualifications in the two columns below will be considered only for conditional admission. If final AS and/or A levels have been completed, these two columns will not apply. It can also not be used for final admission and/ or registration.			GCE CIE NSSC AS	GCE CIE CGCE UACE WAEC ZGCE	IB SL	IB HL		
CIE	UK	GCE CIE NSSC AS	GCE CIE CGCE UACE WAEC ZGCE	IB SL	IB HL	KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE			
Bachelor of Dental Surgery	English	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery**	Mathematics	B	5	2	B	D	5	4	70-79%	B+
[Also referred to as MBChB]	Physics	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
	Chemistry	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Oral Hygiene										
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Physiotherapy	Mathematics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Radiography in Diagnostics	Physics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Dietetics	Chemistry	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Sports Science	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice [Also referred to as BCMP]	Mathematics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Physics/	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Chemistry	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	combination or Biology*	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Nursing Science	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Mathematics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Biology	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+

English must be on the A and/or AS Level for final admission before registration.

* A PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY combination, or BIOLOGY and another subject on the A or AS Level

** Applicants who are not South African citizens and come from countries that have medical schools will not be considered for placement in the Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery programme [also referred to as MBChB], except where intergovernmental agreements are in place.