



Faculty of Health Sciences

What career opportunities exist for Bachelor of Oral Hygiene (BOH) graduates?

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

- 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
- Candidate who is a graduate from another tertiary institution or has been granted the status of a graduate of such an institution
- Candidate who is a graduate of another faculty at the University of Pretoria
- Candidate who is currently in university

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)

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.



Career opportunities



‘The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service of others’ – Mahatma Gandhi.

‘In few other faculties or schools, will you learn to open your heart and serve those who cannot offer you anything.

The past two years have not only been a fulfilling and rewarding experience as an oral hygiene student, but have built my character in more ways than one. I have learned that our profession reaches much further than only treating mouths. It is a challenging programme that instils a mindset of civic responsibility.

I have gained the ability to leave all patients that I meet, better than how I found them. I am eager to see what my future holds, all thanks to UP who gave me the opportunity to become a competent, passionate, holistic healthcare professional and a lifelong learner.’

Chené Horn – Third-year BOH student

Minimum admission requirements

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2023			
	Achievement level			APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	
School of Dentistry				
Bachelor of Oral Hygiene (BOH) [3 years] Closing date: 30 June	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 healthapplications@up.ac.za



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