

Bachelor of Oral Health



The Bachelor of Oral Health is a three year full-time program that is offered through the School of Dentistry at The University of Adelaide.

Qualification

Graduates are able to register and practice as both a dental therapist and a dental hygienist.

Dental therapists practice preventive and general dentistry on children and young adults (age limit varies between states).

Dental hygienists practice preventive and periodontal treatment on all age groups.

Program Objectives

On successful completion of the Bachelor of Oral Health, graduates will have received education and training in the theory and practice of dental therapy and dental hygiene, enabling them to work in both private and government oral health services in accordance with the legal and legislative limitations governing each Australian state (e.g. supervision requirements).

Each graduate will have developed the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to:

- work as an integral part of the dental team, public and private, providing holistic oral health care for individuals and communities
- promote the importance of general and oral health to individuals in dental and community health settings
- recognise dental diseases and formulate strategies that address the preventive and treatment needs of individual patients
- work effectively with other allied health professionals to foster optimum oral health practices within the community
- communicate effectively and provide education to people within a multicultural society that will encourage patterns of behavior that favour optimal oral health
- apply the principles of lifelong learning that will enhance their ongoing professional practice.

What can you expect from the program?

Dental and Health Science

Dental and Health Science aims to familiarise students with the oral environment and to the areas which support the practice of dental therapy and dental hygiene, such as professional practice, oral health education, periodontology and cariology. It also explores community oral health issues and develops the role of the operative and preventive oral health practitioner.

Human Biology

Human Biology aims to provide students with the biological foundation of dental therapy and dental hygiene, including the anatomy and physiology of the human body; in particular the orofacial region. It provides an understanding of the medical aspects of clinical dentistry, including basic pharmacology, the use of local anaesthetics and the management of dental and medical emergencies in dental practice.

Clinical Practice

Clinical Practice provides students with the opportunity to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical application in a clinical setting. The stream builds skills as a clinician in both fields of dental hygiene and dental therapy.

General Studies

The stream assists students in developing a broad range of generic skills to support the role of a health care professional. Areas such as information technology, oral and written communication, evidence-based dentistry and epidemiology are included.

Oral Health Elective

This stream is offered in third year and provides students the opportunity to focus on a major area of interest that will enhance the role of the oral health professional. Study will be in the form of a research-based project that will explore a focus area in depth.

Recommended knowledge

English and Biology

What can you earn?

Graduates can earn between \$50,000-80,000 p.a.

Further Information

The School of Dentistry Office

Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Adelaide

Tel: (08) 8303 5256

Or visit the website: www.dentistry.adelaide.edu.au

