

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	General Dental Council (provisional approval granted)
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Dental Hygiene CertHE Dental Studies (this award is not registerable with the GDC)
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 120 UCAS tariff point or equivalent, BBB (A-Level including Biology), DMM (BTEC), Merit (T Level) or Access to Higher Education Diploma (Applied science / Applied science (medical science) / Healthcare science / science) – a minimum of 45 Level 3 credits at merit grade or above. Applicants holding Dental Nursing Qualifications, including National Certificate or Diploma in Dental Nursing, must also hold at least two A Levels at BC, including Biology. Qualified nurses with 2 years' experience + 1 post graduate certificate in either: Oral health education, dental sedation, dental radiography or dental implant nursing Applicants are required to hold five GCSEs at grade 4/C or above to include Mathematics and English (or equivalent). Subject to satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks prior to commencing the course
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	B750

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy (IHRDHT/IDHTSGLE23)

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This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2027-28 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy course is designed to develop dental practitioners who can fully contribute to the improvement of an individual's oral health, across a diverse population; upon graduation they will be expected to work independently within dental teams to promote oral health and restore tooth function in order to maintain a healthy oral environment. They are responsible for diagnosing, assessing, preventing and treating oral diseases and have a strong focus on prevention and health promotion; they are trained to carry out a range of activities that include the management of periodontal diseases and restorations in both primary and permanent teeth, and carry out pulp treatments and extractions on primary teeth. The interventions provided by dental hygienists and dental therapists are underpinned by contemporary evidence-based literature to ensure the most appropriate care is provided.

Students will initially develop their clinical skills in our dental clinical simulation laboratory, which contain phantom heads, and also our Centre of Dental Development, which has treatment chairs. Students will put what they learn at the University into practice within our supervised primary and secondary care placements and help to provide vital oral healthcare for local communities. Students will work within a dental and wider healthcare team, alongside dentists, dental nurses and other healthcare students. Students will undertake health promotion activities within the region, as oral health is integral to overall general health with links to systemic diseases. Professionalism and the creation of appropriate behaviours is integral to being a registered dental professional, and these are continually being developed throughout the programme of study.

The BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy course will be accredited by the General Dental Council (GDC) following the first cohort of students completing their studies. Students graduating from this programme will be eligible to register with the GDC as both a dental hygienist and dental therapist. Graduation opportunities will include general dental practice, the community dental service, the hospital environment, research and academia.

Course Aims

In providing this programme, the University and course team aim to:

- provide educational opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, skills and behaviours that are essential for dental hygienists and dental therapists to make a vital contribution to the oral health agenda.
- utilise authentic learning in 'real world' environments, enabling our dental graduates to manage complex oral health needs and challenges by creative thinking and collaborative working.
- build opportunities to be a socially responsible citizen, advancing the promotion of oral health through education.

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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- ensure employability through embedding core transferrable skills from the start of the programme.
- develop a desire for lifelong learning, creating curious dental clinicians, researchers, academics and leaders for the future.
- fulfil the requirements to be eligible to register with the *General Dental Council* and practice as a safe, competent and confident dental hygienist and dental therapist.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the management of individuals with complex health and social needs, integrating theories, principles, and evidence-based practices to deliver effective oral healthcare.
2. Synthesise and evaluate research evidence from various sources to support clinical practice, decision-making, and the delivery of personalised oral healthcare.
3. Show adherence to regulatory requirements for professional registration, ensuring ethical and legal compliance in the delivery of oral health services.
4. Demonstrate competency across the full scope of a dental therapist's role, working effectively as an autonomous clinician within a dental team.
5. Engage in shared decision-making with a broad range of patients, fostering inclusivity, diversity, and non-discriminatory practice in oral healthcare.
6. Develop, implement, and evaluate management plans for patients in diverse environments, integrating evidence-based practices, research methodologies, and skills in oral health practices and decision-making.
7. Critically analyse and interpret evidence to support clinical decision-making, enabling the provision of high-quality oral healthcare to individuals and the wider public.
8. Analyse and solve complex problems in oral healthcare using appropriate guidelines, evidence, and applying social, legal, and ethical principles.
9. Demonstrate effective skills with patients, colleagues, and the public, utilising communication, IT, problem-solving, teamwork, and reflective skills.
10. Recognise personal limits, engage in continuous professional development (CPD), and plan lifelong learning as a future healthcare professional, embracing an inquiring

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)
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stance and contributing to the development of new evidence in oral health practice and education.

Course Design

The design of this programme has been guided by the following General Dental Council Frameworks:

- Preparing for Practice Dental team learning outcomes for registration (2015 revised edition)
- Scope of Practice (2013)
- Standards for the Dental Team (2013)

Course Structure

BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6. Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Introduction to Professional Practice	30	M
	Pre-Clinical Dental Sciences	30	M
	Clinical Skills Development 1	30	M
	Clinical Practice	30	M
Level 5			
	Dental Sciences	30	M
	Clinical Skills Development 2	30	M
	Dentistry in Society 1	30	M
	Research Skills for Oral Health	30	M
Level 6			
	Dentistry in Society 2	30	M
	Oral Health Dissertation	30	M
	Integrated Clinical Practice	30	M
	Preparing for Professional Practice	30	M

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Dental Hygiene on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CerHE Dental Studies on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy are likely to have approximately 270 contact hours for level 4, 204 contact hours for level 5 and 164 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, group work, simulated skills sessions and self-directed hours including guided learning using the online learning platform BrightSpace. Students will also be required to participate in 14 hours a week of work placement from the third block of the programme, which will be arranged by the University. A blend of both primary and secondary care environments will be used to gain clinical experience; the location of these placements will initially be in Suffolk and then extend into neighbouring counties. Students will normally be expected to undertake 25-30 hours of independent study each week but should be prepared for this to vary based on module requirements and coursework.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be a mixture of coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, debate, research proposal and project), and examinations and practical assessments.

Special Features

At the end of the course, graduates will be eligible to register with the GDC as a hygienist and therapist and students exiting with a named DipHE will be eligible to register with the GDC as a hygienist.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are, where appropriate, registered with the General Dental Council or their own PSRB.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Therapy will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£10,050 per year
Full-time International/EU	£19,000 per year

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

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Students are likely to incur other costs for travel and car parking costs to and from placements amounting to approximately £400 per year. Optional attendance at both regional and national conferences are in the region of £15-50, excluding travel and accommodation.

Students will be required to pay for their DBS check and a small ID check and processing fee; additional fees may be incurred upon a student returning from a period of intercalation. The cost of DBS checks can be found on the [DBS page of the University of Suffolk website](#). Students are likely to incur other costs for learning materials such as printing, books and stationery. Students may be eligible to claim for travel and car parking costs whilst on placement; however, these are paid retrospectively.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).