

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Academic Programs Committee, University Council

Date: March 19, 2026

Presented by: Paul Jones, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

Subject: Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene Admission Qualification Changes

MOTION

It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the admission qualification changes for the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene, effective for the 2027-2028 application cycle.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The College of Dentistry is proposing an admission change to the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program where all post-secondary coursework from any recognized or accredited institution be included when calculating admission averages, provided applicants have completed at least 18 credit units. The current admission policy classifies applicants with 18 or more transferable credit units to the University of Saskatchewan as post-secondary students, but because the College of Dentistry does not accept transfer credits, applicants with dental education have not had those courses recognized in the admission process.

Additional proposed updates include adjusting the English prerequisite to require only one 30-level course in response to upcoming provincial graduation changes, formally recognizing fine and performing arts subjects as acceptable elective options, and calculating admission averages using prerequisite subjects to align with other direct-entry programs.

CONSULTATION

The College of Dentistry submitted a proposal to the Academic Programs Committee (APC) on February 4, 2026. APC had the opportunity to review the proposal and voted in favour of the changes. University Council has the authority to approve changes to admission qualifications. Senate confirmation of the decision is required before the changes can take effect.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene Admission Qualification Changes**



Changes to Undergraduate Program Admission Requirements

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Degree(s) Bachelor of Science	
Fields of study Dental Hygiene	
Concentration (i.e. option, specialization within a major, themes, streams, focus, etc.):	
Academic Unit (unit offering the program): Dentistry	Proposed date for implementation: Fall 2027
Contact person name Jamie Wilkie	Email jamie.wilkie@usask.ca
Motion Carried at the College Faculty Council Approval or equivalent: MOTION: That the updated Dental Hygiene admission template be approved as distributed. <i>Donald T./Brilz R</i>	

Admission requirements are made up of several factors including admission qualifications and selection criteria which are governed under the [Policy on Admission to Degree Programs](#).

Select the area in which you are proposing to change/create:

Admission Qualifications

These are the credentials that an applicant must present in order to establish eligibility for admission. They include but are not restricted to objective qualifications such as high school subjects, secondary or post-secondary standing, minimum averages, English proficiency, and minimum scores on standardized tests. Qualifications may vary for some admission categories. Admission Qualifications become part of your "Admission Requirements" for applicants.

Admission category

Admission categories are approved at a university wide level and are a way to differentiate and compare applicants with similar qualifications (i.e. Regular Admission, Special Admission, Indigenous Specific Seats, etc.).

Enrolment Management

Changes to the capacity of seats available for new admits if different from the college/school strategic enrolment plan.

☒ **Selection Criteria**

The means by which a college assesses and ranks its applicants for admission. They include but are not restricted to admission test scores, cut-off averages, interview scores, departmental recommendations, auditions, portfolios, letters of reference, admission essays, definitions of essential abilities for professional practice, and the relative weighting to be given to the various requirements. Selection criteria may vary for some admission categories.

☐ **Learner Pathway**

Different routes that individuals choose to progress into, within, and out of the post-secondary education system.

Note: If the learner pathway requires individuals to adhere to a **different set of admission qualifications** this would then require Council level approval.

RATIONALE

Admissions Qualifications

- Previously, applicants who completed 18 or more transferable credit units to the University of Saskatchewan were classified as post-secondary students, and their admission average was calculated based on those transferable credits. However, the College of Dentistry does not accept transfer credits into its programs. As a result, applicants with dental education have not had those courses recognized in the admission process.

We propose that, instead of limiting consideration to courses transferable to the University of Saskatchewan, all post-secondary coursework from a recognized or accredited institution be included. Applicants would still be required to have a minimum of 18 credit units of post-secondary coursework from such an institution for their admission average to be based on those studies.

- Saskatchewan's high school graduation requirements are changing to require only one Grade 12-level English course instead of two. Students graduating under these new requirements will first appear in 2027. In response, we propose adjusting our prerequisite to require only one 30-level English course, rather than two.
- Fine and performing arts subjects are recognized for meeting high school graduation requirements. We propose that these subjects be formally included as acceptable elective options within our admission criteria.
- To align with the method used to calculate admission averages for our other two direct-entry programs, we propose basing the admission average on the prerequisite subjects rather than using a five-subject formula.
- Prerequisites have always been required for applicants under the Special Mature Admission category. We are now adding this information to the template to ensure clarity and transparency

Selection Criteria

- We have determined that personal statements do not provide an accurate representation of applicants. Therefore, we propose removing the personal statement from the selection criteria for regular admission applicants and introducing an interview component in its place. Additionally, we recommend adjusting the weighting to allocate greater emphasis to the interview than was previously given to personal statements.
- We propose revising the selection criteria for Special Mature Admission applicants to include an interview component and to factor in their prerequisite average. These changes will align the criteria with those used for other admission categories and programs.

Note: The Academic Programs Committee is responsible for evaluating academic implications of admission requirements. Approval at APC, Council and Senate (where applicable) does not imply approval of required resources (faculty complement, additional space requirements, etc.). Academic units are responsible for implementing these changes within the resources available including any incremental tuition generated

Admission Qualifications

Regular Admission – High School (less than 18 credit units of transferable post-secondary coursework from a recognized and/or accredited institution)

- Grade 12 standing or equivalent
- ~~ELA A30 and B30~~ ELA A30 OR ELA B30; Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Foundations of Math 30 or Pre-calculus 30; one elective from social sciences, natural sciences, or humanities or fine or performing arts at the 30 level (no deficiencies allowed) or equivalents.
- Minimum average of 75% on five subject high school average the prerequisite subjects.
- Proficiency in English.

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Regular Admission – post-secondary (18 credit units or more transferable of post-secondary coursework from a recognized and/or accredited institution)

- Minimum average of 60% on 18 or more transferable credit units or the cumulative weighted average from a recognized and/or accredited post-secondary institution; average calculated on all attempted courses (without breaking up an academic session) which are transferable to the University of Saskatchewan from a recognized and/or accredited post-secondary institution.
- ~~ELA A30 and B30~~ ELA A30 OR ELA B30; Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Foundations of Math 30 or Pre-calculus 30; one elective from social sciences, natural science, or humanities or fine or performing art at the 30 level (no deficiencies allowed) or equivalents.
- Proficiency in English.

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Special Mature Admission

- Proof of age (21 or older).
- A written submission demonstrating capacity to undertake university-level studies.
- ELA A30 OR ELA B30; Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Foundations of Math 30 OR Pre-Calculus 30; one elective from social sciences, natural science,

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~~humanities, or fine or performing arts at the 30 level (no deficiencies allowed) or equivalents.~~

- ~~Less than 18 credit units of transferable post-secondary coursework from a recognized and/or accredited post-secondary institute.~~
- Transcripts of any secondary ~~and/~~or post-secondary coursework.
- Resume.
- Proficiency in English.

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Selection Criteria

Regular Admission:

- Academic average – ~~80%~~ 60% weighting (Average is calculated using five high school subjects based on prerequisite subjects or on 18 or more transferable credit units from a recognized and/or accredited post-secondary institute)
- ~~Written Statement – 20% weighting~~
- ~~Interview – 40% weighting (Interview selection is based on the academic average)~~

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Special Mature Admission: ~~Special admission package – 100% weighting~~

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- ~~Applicants are admitted at the discretion of the college. The admission decision is based on the applicant's written submission and demonstrated academic potential. Special admission package – 30% weighting (Based on the applicant's written submission demonstrating capacity to undertake university-level studies and based on the applicant's resume)~~
- ~~Academic average – 30% weighting (Average calculated based on prerequisite subjects)~~
- ~~Interview – 40% weighting (Interview selection is based on the academic average and special admission package score)~~

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Categories of Applicants

The College of Dentistry admits 30 students to the program each year. Seat allocation amongst the different applicant pools (high school, post-secondary and special mature) is to be determined by the Admissions Committee on an annual basis.

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Saskatchewan Residents

To be eligible as a Saskatchewan resident, applicants must have resided in Saskatchewan for at least FOUR years immediately prior to September 1 of the year admission is being sought. ~~For 2026-2027~~2027-2028, applicants must have resided in Saskatchewan since September 1, 2022~~2023~~. Applicants who have left the province, but previously lived in Saskatchewan for an accumulated period of 15 years (permanent residency), will be considered residents. Applicants who have previously lived in Saskatchewan for an accumulated period of less than 15 years and who do not qualify under the four-year requirement will receive credit of one year toward the four-year requirement for every four years of residency in the province. **There are NO EXCEPTIONS to the four-year Saskatchewan residency rule.**

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In order to support a claim as a resident of Saskatchewan, the following proof and circumstances will be taken into account:

- **Date of issue** of your Saskatchewan Health Card¹ **AND** either the date of issue of your Saskatchewan Drivers' License² **OR** Saskatchewan Income Tax Forms confirming taxes paid in Saskatchewan.
- Applicants who have completed four years of full-time study at a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution immediately prior to the year admission is being sought are considered Saskatchewan residents. Official transcripts must be submitted by the document deadline to support this claim.
- Reasons for any break in continuity of residence, which includes attendance at an out-of-province educational institution, summer employment where applicable and any other reason deemed to be relevant
- Saskatchewan high school transcript (if you are NOT currently registered at the University of Saskatchewan) or
- Resident of the Yukon, Northwest or Nunavut Territories.

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1. If the date of issue of your Saskatchewan Health Card is newer than the original date of issue, a letter from Saskatchewan Health confirming the date of issue is required.
2. If the date of issue of your Saskatchewan Driver's License is newer than the original date of issue, a Drivers Abstract is required.

Canadian Applicants

Regular Admission

Admission is based on successful completion of secondary level standing with a minimum overall average of 75% in the required subjects; or admission is based on the successful completion of at least 18 credit units of ~~transferable~~ university-level coursework at a recognized and/or accredited postsecondary institution, with an average of at least 60%.

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Special (Mature) Admission

Special (Mature) Admission is available to applicants who do not qualify for Regular Admission. Applicants must be 21 years of age or older by the first day of classes, be entering their first year of study, and have successfully completed less than 18 credit units of ~~transferable~~ university-level coursework. Applicants must submit a special admission package including proof of age, a written request for Special (Mature) Admission that demonstrates reasonable probability of academic success and a summary of work and personal experience since leaving school. Academic transcripts must be submitted if any Grade 12 or post-secondary courses have been completed.

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Indigenous Specific Seats

~~This program has 4~~ 17% of seats are designated for Indigenous applicants. Verification of Indigenous Membership/Citizenship at the University of Saskatchewan is led and determined by the deybewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin:

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Indigenous Truth policy and Standing Committee in accordance with the processes developed to enact the policy. Verification of Indigenous Membership/Citizenship with documentation is a condition of acceptance for this program. Applicants wishing to apply in this category must self-declare on the application for admission.

International Applicants

Regular Admission

Admission is based on successful completion of secondary level standing with a minimum overall average of 75% in the required subjects; or admission is based on the successful completion of at least 18 credit units of ~~transferable~~ university-level coursework at a recognized and/or accredited postsecondary institution, with an average of at least 60%.

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Consultation with the Registrar (CWR) – Proposal Highlights

Title of Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene [B.Sc.(DH)] – Changes to Admission Requirements, Selection Criteria, and Seat Quota

General Description: The College of Dentistry proposes the following changes:

Admission Requirements:

- Calculate admission average using all post-secondary coursework from a recognized or accredited institution, rather than limiting calculation to courses transferable to USask.
- Require one 30-level English course, rather than two.
- Accept fine and performing arts courses as acceptable elective options within admission criteria.
- Base admission average calculation on prerequisite subjects, rather than on a five-subject formula.
- Introduce an interview component to replace personal statement for regular and Special Mature applicants.
- Clarify the prerequisite requirements for Special Mature Admission category. This was previously unclear in the Catalogue.

Selection Criteria:

- Replace personal statement with an interview component for regular applicants. Weighting applied to interview will be greater than that given to personal statement.
- Factor in prerequisite average and interview component for Special Mature Admission.

Seat Quota:

- Increase seats from 26 to 30.

College Approval: College of Dentistry Faculty Council approved, December 17, 2025.

Provost's Office Review: Provost's office has reviewed and supports the proposal.

Effective Term: 2027-28 application cycle

Course implications

- N/A

Registration and classes

- N/A

Convocation

- N/A

Financial and Budget

- N/A

Student Mobility

- N/A



PROVOST & SFO CONSULTATION

To: Academic Programs Committee of Council

From: Kyla Shea, Academic Programs and Planning Specialist

Date: January 30, 2026

Re: Dental Hygiene Admission Changes

SUMMARY

The Provost and Strategic Finance Offices are aware of these changes and have been advised by the College of Dentistry that these changes will not negatively impact program enrolment. Therefore, a financial review was not completed.

Date: January 30, 2026		Communicated By: Kyla Shea
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