

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

## HEALTH SCIENCE



### PRE-DENTISTRY

#### HEALTH SCIENCE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

Dentists diagnose and treat problems with a patient's teeth, gums and parts of the mouth. They provide advice and instruction on taking care of teeth and gums and on diet choices that affect oral health. Studying dentistry is great training for careers in general practice, orthodontics, periodontics, oral or maxillofacial surgery and oral pathology.

#### Responsibilities of a dentist:

- Removes decay from teeth and fills cavities
- Straightens teeth to correct bite issues
- Places sealants or whitening agents on teeth
- Repairs cracked or fractured teeth and removes teeth
- Gives anesthetics to keep patients from feeling pain during procedures
- Writes prescriptions for antibiotics or other medications
- Examines X-rays of teeth, gums, the jaw and nearby areas for problems
- Teaches patients about dental care like diet, flossing or use of fluoride
- Makes models and measurements for dental appliances such as dentures

*Successful students majoring in health sciences display good moral character, value healthcare, communicate well, lead with confidence, show compassion and adapt to change.*

#### Benefits of health careers

- Secure and meaningful employment
- Opportunities for advancement
- Variety of jobs in different settings
- Chance to help people in need

### Alumni profile

"I chose UNK because I didn't want to get lost in the shuffle," said Kole Kugler, D.D.S., a biology major, 2007 alumnus and now dentist at Meadowlark Dental Associates in Kearney, Neb. "When I took my campus visit at UNK I was relieved when I noticed most of the classrooms in Bruner Hall seated about 25 to 30 students. The average class size and student-to-faculty ratio was a big deciding factor for me."



**KOLE KUGLER, D.D.S**

Kugler, a rural farm kid from Eustis, Neb., says UNK provided exactly what he was looking for. "The instructors and advisers in the biology and health science departments made a genuine effort to get to know me as a person and knew me by name which made my educational experience a very personable one."

Throughout Kugler's time at UNK, he always had the general feeling that the faculty and staff wanted him to succeed. "But on the other hand, they also wanted to challenge me to learn and fully understand what they were teaching."

**CHEW ON THIS** – Paul Revere, known for his famous ride and his work as a silversmith, put ads in a Boston newspaper offering his services as a dentist.

**HEALTH SCIENCE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM****Dentistry****SUGGESTED SEQUENCE OF KEY PREREQUISITE COURSES**

Consult with your academic adviser.

<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
CHEM 160 MATH See adviser for placement BIOL See adviser for suggestions	CHEM 161 BIOL See adviser for suggestions
<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>Semester 4</b>
BIOL 225 (recommended) CHEM 360	BIOL 226 (recommended) CHEM 361
<b>Semester 5</b>	<b>Semester 6</b>
PHYS 205 CHEM 351 (recommended)	PHYS 206
<b>Semester 7</b>	<b>Semester 8</b>
Complete final major courses	Complete final major courses

**STUDENT PROFILE – Sarah Sexton**

"After practicing dental hygiene in Minden, Neb., for 10 years, I am currently taking the courses needed to fulfill my prerequisites for dental school at UNK," Sarah Sexton said.

In 2004, Sexton completed the dental hygiene program at UNMC College of Dentistry and earned a bachelor of science degree. "Now, I want to expand the scope of my career by pursuing my DDS degree," she said.

Sexton chose UNK for several reasons. "UNK provides a quality education, and is close enough to commute to while still working and raising a family in Minden."

UNK has provided a fantastic learning atmosphere said Sexton. "The organic chemistry professors are not only very knowledgeable, but also willing to take the time to help their students one-on-one. Dr. Cao's office was always open, and he encouraged his students to stop in any time if they had questions."

Sexton says she was well prepared, especially in organic chemistry, to take the Dental Admission Test, an exam for prospective dental school students.

**Health Science Club**

**Members in Health Science Club would love to have you join!**

- Be sure to check your LoperMail for the weekly edition of the Health Science Weekly newsletter that will include information on upcoming activities.
- Interested students can also **Like** UNK Health Sciences on Facebook to learn more about the organization.

**Did you know?**

**More than 700 students are enrolled in Health Science programs at UNK.**

That means, one of 10 Loper students are interested in health-related careers.

**UNK has an excellent record helping health science students gain acceptance into professional schools or clinical programs.**

For more than a decade, the overall acceptance rate of UNK students into various health programs has been approximately 70 percent.

**Job shadowing leads to employment according to the U.S. Department of Labor.**

Not only will you benefit from the on-the-job training and gain insight into a particular career, industry, or company, but you will also be mentored.

**Learn more at**  
[www.unk.edu/healthsciences](http://www.unk.edu/healthsciences)

For more information, contact:

**Peggy Abels**

Director of Health Sciences  
Bruner Hall of Science 170  
Email: abelsp@unk.edu

**Elizabeth Stout**

Assistant Director of Health Sciences  
Bruner Hall of Science 170  
Email: stoutea@unk.edu

**Phone: 308.865.8260 Fax: 308.865.8942**