

Preparation for a Profession in Dentistry

A bachelor's degree is required for admissions into most dental schools. Any academic major is acceptable, as long as the degree includes the prerequisite core courses in math and sciences. Dental schools expect candidates to demonstrate the intellectual, analytical, and problem-solving skills necessary to succeed in dental school. Students are strongly advised to balance coursework in the natural sciences with coursework in humanities and social sciences. The General Education component of a Liberal Arts degree provides a sound foundation for demonstrating an interest in and knowledge of a diverse and global society. Candidates should also consider coursework in areas such as anthropology, communication, economics, ethics, logic, psychology, sociology, and statistics.

A profile of the freshman class is usually posted on the website of each dental school.

Most schools base admissions decisions on a balanced combination of the following:

- Grade point average: This varies by school but is usually above a 3.0 minimum.
- DAT (Dental Admission Test) scores
- Personal statement from the candidate
- Professional experience (employment, volunteer work, shadowing, etc.)
- Interview
- Recommendations from academic instructors (usually in the sciences), an academic advisor, and a dental professional

Core Courses for Dental Programs: a minimum requirement

- Engl 101 English Composition I (3) **and** 102 English Composition II (3)
- Comm 111 Public Speaking (3)
- Math 111 College Algebra (3) **and** 123 College Trigonometry (3) **or** Math 112 Pre-Calculus (5)
- Chem 211 General Chem. I (5) **and** 212 General Chem. II (5)
- Chem 531 Organic Chem I (5) **and** 532 Organic Chem II (5)
- Chem 661 Intro BioChemistry (3) **or** Chem 662 Biochem I (3) **and/or** Chem 663 Biochem II (3) **and/or** Chem 664 Biochem Lab (3)
- Biology 210 General Biology I (4) **and** 211 General Biology II (4)
- Biology 330 General Microbiology (5)
- Biology 420 Molecular Cell Biology (4)
- Biology 527 Comparative Anatomy (5) **and** Biology 534/535 Mammalian Physiology w/lab (5)
- Physics 213 General Physics I (5) **and** 214 General Physics II (5) **or**
Physics 313 University Physics I with lab (315) **and** 314 University Physics II with lab (316)

The core classes above meet the minimum prerequisites for admission to most dental schools. Recommended additional science courses include histology, neuroscience, microbiology, immunology and genetics. Courses demonstrating manual dexterity such as sculpting or jewelry making can be beneficial. Core courses may require prerequisites and are not offered every semester – consult with your advisor.

Admission Test: The Dental Admissions Test (DAT) is required for admission to dental school. This test is offered only by computer through Sylvan Technology Centers. To be a competitive applicant, a grade point average of 3.4 and DAT score of 19 or higher is required.

Application: The application period for dental school occurs during the summer and fall before the fall semester one wishes to begin dental studies. All applications are processed through AADSAS, the Association of American Dental Schools Application Service. The state of Kansas maintains a contract for seats each year with the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Dentistry. Since competition for these seats is highly competitive, students are encouraged to apply to a number of schools for admission. If you would like to know more about specific dental schools in the US, your advisor has access to a book listing US dental schools.

Midwest Dental Schools:

- University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry dentistry.umkc.edu/
- Creighton University School of Dentistry cudental.creighton.edu/
- University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry www.unmc.edu/dentistry/
- University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry dentistry.ouhsc.edu/
- University of Colorado Denver School of Dentistry www.uchsc.edu/sod/

Important Websites:

- American Dental Association www.ada.org
- American Dental Education Association (ADEA) www.adea.org
- Listing of Dental Schools: www.ada.org/prof/ed/programs
- DAT registration: www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat
- Application for dental schools: www.aadsas.org

Pre-Med Advising Resources

Pre-med Student Association: www.wudoc.org

Blackboard site for Pre-Med professions students:

Pre-Med information

Scholarship Information

Speakers

Shadowing opportunities

To join, send your email address and WSU ID to an advisor listed below.

LASI 150P Intro to Health Professions (1) A fall semester class that shows student a wide range of professions, salaries, and admission requirements.

Pre-Medical Advisors

Blake Cicenas: all medical areas

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Nick Endicott: all medical areas

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Nancy Krehbiel: all medical areas

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