

PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM



COLLEGE OF
SCIENCE AND
MATHEMATICS

Pre-Dentistry

The opportunities and responsibilities that exist for dentists this time of change in health care delivery make dentistry one of the most exciting, challenging and rewarding professions. It is projected that careers in dentistry will increase significantly over the next 10 years. There are many reasons for pursuing dentistry as a career, including control of time, service to others, self-employment opportunities, income potential and art of working with your hands. To become a dentist, one must obtain either a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) to be certified to practice. There are currently 75 dental schools in the United States that grant the D.D.S. or D.M.D. degrees.



Career Options

A career in dentistry has two key components: what the dentist does and how s/he does it. The “what” refers to the specific field of dentistry in which he or she practices and the “how” refers to the type of practice itself. These components offer many options for fulfilling professional and personal goals. Clinical Fields include General Dentistry, Dental Public Health, Endodontics, Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics and Prosthodontics. Practice options and other professional opportunities include Self-Employed in Private Practice, Practice as a Salaried Employee or Associate, Academic Dentistry and Dental Education, Dental Research, Service in Federal Government, Public Health Care Policy, and International Health Care.

Core Pre-Requisites

The Ohio State University		Case Western Reserve University		Additional Recommended Courses	
General Biology	BIO 1120, 1150	General Biology	BIO 1120, 1150	Cell Biology	BIO 2120
Microbiology	BIO 3100/3110	General Chemistry	CHM 1210, 1220	Genetics	BIO 2110
Human A&P	ANT 3100, 3120	Organic Chemistry	CHM 2110, 2120	Vertebrate Histology	BIO 4430
General Chemistry	CHM 1210, 1220	General Physics	PHY 1110	Immunology	M&I 4260
Organic Chemistry	CHM 2110, 2120				
Biochemistry	BMB 4210, 4230			Basic Accounting, 3-D Art or	
General Physics	PHY 1110			Engineering Graphics, Humanities &	
English	ENG 1100, 2100			Social Sciences	

Dental Programs in Ohio

The Ohio State University

- 3rd largest public dental school
- Consists of 8 academic units representing all major dental specialties
- Class size 104 students; ~75% are from Ohio
- 4-year program of study leading to a D.D.S.
- www.dent.osu.edu/admissions
- An applicant must compete a minimum of 90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours including prerequisites at an accredited four-year institution
- Two-thirds of the prerequisites courses must be completed at the time the AADSAS application is submitted. Prerequisite science course may not be completed on-line or via distance learning and may not be audited

Case Western Reserve

- Dental profession evolving into something closer to a physician specializing in oral health
- Class size is around 70 students
- 4-year program of study leading to a D.M.D.
- <http://www.dental.case.edu>

Pre-Dentistry at Wright State University

Wright State University provides students with the necessary course requirements for admission to any dental school in the United States. In addition, all required courses are offered two to three times a year to accommodate students' schedules.

While most students wishing to enter a health sciences career pursue a degree in Biological Sciences, professional schools encourage diversity. Students can major in any discipline and include the required pre-professional courses within their program of study.

What is the DAT?

Students interested in dentistry must take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) in the spring of the year prior to admission. The DAT is designed to measure general academic ability, perceptual ability and comprehension of scientific information. This half-day, multiple-choice exam is administered on the computer around the country on almost any day of the year. Candidates for DAT should have completed pre-requisite courses in biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry. The exam consists of four separate parts:

- Natural Sciences
- Perceptual Ability
- Reading comprehension
- Quantitative reasoning

What Makes a Competitive Application?

In 2015, of the 12,001 individuals who applied to dental school, 41.2% enrolled. Women comprised 45.7% of the enrollees.

Dental schools consider many factors when deciding which applicants to accept into their programs. Using "whole" application review, admissions committees assess biographical and academic information provided by the applicant and by the undergraduate and graduate schools the applicant attended. These committees generally assess the applicant's results from the DAT, grade point average, extracurricular activities, letters of evaluation and interviews.

A competitive science GPA for dental school admission is 3.5-3.6 with an overall GPA of 3.6-3.7. Average DAT scores for dental school enrollees ranges from 19-20 in both academic and perceptual ability.

Perks of the Profession

It is projected that careers in dentistry will increase greatly over the next 10 years. Currently 90% of dental school graduates are in private practice (solo or groups), 80% are generalists and 20% are specialists. The median income for 2014 was \$154,640 per year.



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