DENTAL SCHOOL ADMISSION INFORMATION

Dentists diagnose and treat tooth and gum problems to prevent tooth decay and gum deterioration. Of the Dentists who deal with a wide variety of dental problems, such as disease prevention, tooth fillings, extraction and oral surgery, ninety percent are general practitioners.

Admission to dental school is highly competitive. Generally speaking, a degree in dentistry requires four academic years of study. The first two years usually cover the basic sciences and the last two years, diagnosing oral disease, surgery, and clinical study. At the completion of the curriculum, students are awarded either a DMD (Doctor of Dental Medicine) or DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOWER DIVISION SUBJECTS REQUIRED BY MOST U.S. DENTAL SCHOOLS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One year of English</td>
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<tr>
<td>One year of Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>One year of Inorganic (General) Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>One year of Organic Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>One semester of Biochemistry</td>
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<td>One year of Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
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<tr>
<th>LOWER DIVISION SUBJECTS RECOMMENDED BY MANY U.S. DENTAL SCHOOLS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
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* All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Pass/No Pass.

Choosing an Undergraduate Major

“Pre-dental” is not a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. Most dental schools do not require a specific degree in order to apply. Instead, they are looking for a well-rounded applicant who does well in the dental school admissions requirements. Students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary. The majority of entering dental students have a bachelor’s degree. However, students who have completed their junior year could be accepted.

Students applying to dental school need to plan carefully and complete not only the dental school admissions requirements, but also the requirements for their undergraduate major and the general education required by the undergraduate transfer institution.

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for its specific requirements and the most up-to-date information.
DENTAL SCHOOL ADMISSION INFORMATION

Dental School Selection Criteria
- Completion of the prerequisite coursework listed in front.
- Bachelor’s Degree or 3 or more years of undergraduate coursework.
- GPA is a major factor in the selection process. Both overall college grades and science grades are considered.
- For most dental schools, the average "competitive" applicant has a cumulative grade point average of above a 3.40.
- Score on the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). This computerized test measures general academic ability, comprehension of scientific information and perceptual ability.
- Community service/leadership
- Letters of recommendation from science faculty, non-science faculty, and a supervisor from relevant clinical experience, research, or relevant work.
- Interviews with faculty at the institutions to where you apply.

Salary Information
In 2012, the average annual wage in California was $140,620 with most people making between $68,410 and higher according to (www.cacareerzone.com).

Recommended Websites
American Dental Education Association www.adea.org
American Dental Association http://ada.org/
American Student Dental Association www.asdanet.org/
Dental Admission Test www.scholarware.com

Select Dental School Websites
Loma Linda University www.llu.edu/llu/dentistry/
UCLA School of Dentistry www.dent.ucla.edu/
UC San Francisco www.ucsf.edu/
University of Pacific http://dental.pacific.edu/
USC School of Dentistry www.usc.edu/hsc/dental/

Preparation Programs
Summer Medical and Dental Education Prep www.smdep.org/start.htm
UCLA Pre-Dental Program http://uclasod.dent.ucla.edu/ContinuingEducation/index.asp?id=520
UCLA PREP www.medstudent.ucla.edu/prospective/premedical/?pgID=181

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