

General Dental School Requirements

This sheet summarizes the basic information regarding coursework, requirements and admission to most dental schools. **You should always check with your intended school's catalog to verify requirements and prerequisites.**

A more comprehensive set of resources for pre-health students can be found at <http://www.seattleu.edu/prehealth>.

Applying to Dental School

In addition to the coursework listed on the other side of this handout, applicants will need to pursue the following:

Dental Admissions Test (DAT): DAT is the standardized test for students seeking admission into most US dental schools. Information on preparation, registration and other related resources can be found here: <http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx>. Test score averages for admitted students vary; consult the specific program you are interested in for more information on admitted student profiles.

Experience: Volunteering, research and other service in the healthcare industry are essential for preparing you for dental school and your future profession. Seattle University is located near many outstanding medical facilities, clinics and hospitals. Contact the facilities directly about shadow, volunteering and job opportunities. Also use Career Services (<http://www.seattleu.edu/careerservices/>) and Center for Service and Community Engagement (<http://www.seattleu.edu/csce/>).

Letters of Recommendation: Consider using the PreHealth Advisory Committee to help prepare for your interview as well as the submission of a committee letter. Other letters should come from academic and professional connections, which is even more reason to have strong connections to your faculty and agency supervisors.

Interviews: Many programs conduct interviews in the fall. Again, the PreHealth Advisory Committee is a great resource for you in preparing for the interview. You can also get interview resources and practice at Career Services.

The application process is managed through the ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS). See http://www.adea.org/dental_education_pathways/aadsas/Pages/default.aspx for details.

Further Resources

The websites below will be extremely helpful in your research, application and planning process.

American Dental Education Association: <http://www.adea.org/>

American Dental Association: <http://www.ada.org/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook (Bureau of Labor Statistics): <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos072.htm>

Seattle University Pre-Health Advising

Science and Engineering Advising Center • 300 Engineering • prehealth@seattleu.edu • 206/296-2500

Course Requirements: Dental School

Below is a recommended sequence for dental school pre-requisites. This does not include Core or major coursework. Be sure to work closely with your major advisor to make sure you are completing all requirements for graduation. Also:

- Check with your intended dental school(s) for additional requirements.
- Check the course pre-requisites closely. MATH 120 is the minimum requirement to start most of this coursework.
- This sequence assumes that you plan to start dental school immediately after completion of your degree. However, some students opt to take a year or more off between graduation and dental school. Students who plan to start in a program immediately after graduation should begin the application process, including completion of the DAT during junior year.

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Freshman year	BIOL 161/171 CHEM 121/131	BIOL 162/172 CHEM 122/132	BIOL 163/173 CHEM 123/133
	Attend a pre-health info meeting and meet with the pre-health advisor. Meet with your advisor regularly to map out a graduation plan including pre-requisites, Core and major coursework. Join student organizations like Pre-Health Club. Research shadow, volunteer and job opportunities. Secure summer opportunity.		
Sophomore year	CHEM 335/345*	CHEM 336/346*	CHEM 337/347*
	Continue to meet with advisor and pre-health advisor to discuss interests, experiences and progress. Continue to gain shadow, volunteer and work experience. Network with professionals and practitioners. Stay current on health care issues and news. Continue involvement with on and off-campus professional organizations. Consider taking a leadership role.		
Junior year	PHYS 105**	PHYS 106**	PHYS 107**
	Update pre-health advisor on plans and progress. Interview with Pre-Health Advisory Committee in May. Continue to gain shadow, volunteer and work experience. Depending on personal timeline: study for and take DAT in spring or summer.		
Senior year	Major coursework and electives aligned with your program of interest		
	Depending on personal timeline: study for and take DAT in fall, complete and submit applications in the spring. Continue to gain shadow, volunteer and work experience. Network with professionals/practitioners. Stay current on health care issues and news. Make post-graduation plans.		

*some schools may accept CHEM 231/241 and 232/242 to fulfill the organic chemistry sequence; contact your school of interest to clarify

** PHYS 121, PHYS 122, PHYS 123 can also fulfill the physics requirement

Information on this handout adapted from Dr. Margaret Hudson's Pre-Health Handbook, University of Washington Pre-Health Advising resources and the websites listed.