



Pre-Dental Advising Sheet

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.

Note: All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Credit/No Credit.

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 that 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.

Dental School Selection Criteria

- Completion of the **prerequisite coursework**.
- **Bachelor’s Degree** or 3 or more years of undergraduate coursework.
- **GPA** in terms of overall college grades and science grades are a major factor in the selection process. For most dental schools, the average "competitive" applicant has a cumulative grade point average of above a 3.4.
- 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 from the institutions you apply to.

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/
UCLA PREP	www.medstudent.ucla.edu/prospective/premedical/

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up-to-date

Coursework	Citrus College Courses
One year of English	ENGL 101 & 102, 103 or 104
One year of Biology	BIOL 124 & 125
One year of Organic Chemistry	CHEM 210/211 & 220/221
One year of Physics	PHYS 201 & 202 or 203
Recommended Courses:	BIOL 200, BIOL 201, BIOL 220, ART 140, SOC 201, PSY 101, SPCH 101, MATH 190