

**Dental School Prerequisites   
Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Primary Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

### **Standard pre-requisites for dental schools and Recommended courses (some dental schools may require**

**DAT preparation^ these courses): \*Strongly Recommended**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| COURSE | GRADE |
| BIOL 106 Introductory Biology: Organismal^ |  |
| BIOL 107 Introductory Biology: Cell^ |  |
| CHEM 105 Principles of Chemistry I |  |
| CHEM 106 Principles of Chemistry II |  |
| CHEM 345 Organic Chemistry I^ |  |
| CHEM 348 Organic Chemistry II^ |  |
| MBIOS 303 Introductory Biochemistry^ |  |
| MBIOS 304 Microbiology Lab |  |
| MBIOS 305 General Microbiology^ |  |
| PHYS 101 General Physics I |  |
| PHYS 102 General Physics II |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| COURSE | GRADE |
| BIOL/MBIOS 301 General Genetics\* |  |
| STATS 212 Intro to Statistical Methods |  |
| MATH 140 or 171 Calculus |  |
| BIOL 315 Gross and Microanatomy\* |  |
| BIOL 353 Advanced Human Physiology\* |  |
| MBIOS 401 Cell Biology |  |
| ENGL 101 College Composition |  |
| ENG 201, 301, or 402 Technical Writing^ |  |
| FINE ARTS (Drawing, Sculpture, Ceramics)^ |  |
| PSYCH 105 Introductory Psychology |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cumulative GPA’s | F 20\_\_ | F 20\_\_ | F 20\_\_ | F 20\_\_ | F 20\_\_ |
|  | S 20\_\_ | S 20\_\_ | S 20\_\_ | S 20\_\_ | S 20\_\_ |

**Dental school admissions committees will consider:**

**Completion of pre-requisites** (check with each school)  
**GPA:** Varies, but most require a 3.5 or higher  
**DAT Scores:** Average: 19-21  
**Letters of Evaluation:** Up to four letters, 2 from science professors and 2 from dentists. Each should write about your integrity, judgement, ethics, reliability, personal communication skills, strengths and weaknesses.  
**Experience:** Significant time spent shadowing general and specialty dentists. Experience in community service and in the dental field (optional). Evidence of leadership experience. Evidence of manual dexterity.

**Compassion:** Evidence of honest, forthright concern and empathy for the sick, elderly, injured, or disabled.   
**Personal statement:** Your opportunity to make a case as to why you are the best candidate. Incorporate why you want to be a dentist, steps you have taken to accomplish this goal (reflection), provide background information, explain special situations, and describe where you see yourself in the future.

**The personal interview:** Evaluation of students may include several 30-60 minute personal interviews used to assess the applicant's maturity, motivation, communication skills, knowledge of the profession, and desire to contribute to society through dentistry. Revised May 2017

**Timeline/Checklist for Pre-Dental Studies at WSU**

FRESHMAN YEAR

* Explore coursework and work on earning a strong GPA.
* Besides meeting with your academic (major) advisor, also meet with your pre-health specialist in HPSC.
* Get some experience. Volunteer in the community. Become actively involved in clubs. Sign up for committee work, help organize events and participate in activities.
* Understand the significance of manual dexterity. Begin to develop your manual dexterity skills.
* Start shadowing dentists (second semester or summer after freshman year). Your goal is to learn more about the work of dental professionals.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

* Meet with your pre-health specialist.
* Continue to volunteer, shadow, and increase your activity and responsibility in clubs (leadership). Explore research opportunities if you are interested (optional).
* Explore dental schools using ADEA website. Consider 1) mission statement, 2) faculty, & 3) past cohort stats.
* Consider studying for the DAT, which will cover organic and inorganic chemistry, general biology and perceptual aptitude. Some students take it summer after sophomore year, although summer between junior and senior year is more common.

JUNIOR YEAR

* Identify individuals who are willing to write letters of evaluation on your behalf and communicate submission deadlines.
* Begin studying for the DAT. Take it in May, after finals. Obtain a sample DAT test from the American Dental Association (no charge).
* [Register for the DAT](http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test/) with the American Dental Association.
* If you would like to re-take the DAT, you must wait 90 days. The DAT can only be taken up to three times, so plan to score well the first time you take the test.
* [Review the dental school application process and create a timeline for the submission of your application materials (ADEA AADSAS).](http://www.adea.org/GoDental/Application_Prep/The_Application_to_Dental_School__ADEA_AADSAS.aspx)
* Start making decisions about the type of dental school you want to attend.
* Continue to volunteer, participate in leadership opportunities, and shadow.

SUMMER BETWEEN JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR

* Take the DAT in early May, after finals.
* Submit your ADEA AADSAS application as close to the opening date as possible (early June). An early application significantly enhances your chances of having your application reviewed early.
* Thank you notes to evaluators.
* Order and send WSU transcripts once Spring semester grades are posted to AADSAS. Do the same for all other institutions where you received credit.
* Secondary Applications: respond as soon as you get them (within two weeks).

SENIOR YEAR

* Prepare to go on interviews. In the early Fall attend *Interview Basics* and *Small Group interviews* offered by the Health Professions Student Center.
* Sometime after December 1, you will (hopefully) receive offers of admission. Depending on the date of an offer of admission, you will have specific response time. Most (but not all) schools require a deposit to reserve a space in the class at the time you accept the offer of admission.
* Initiate the financial aid application process to the dental school you choose to attend. Do not procrastinate! Many financial aid awards are based on the date of application. Work with your dental school’s financial aid office to stay on top of the application process.
* If you did not receive an offer of admission, meet with your HPSC specialist and write to the dental school admissions office to ask what might be done to make future applications more competitive.