




Dental School Prerequisites

Name: _____

Major: _____

ID: _____

Primary Advisor: _____

- The **non-shaded boxes** are the **standard prerequisite or strongly recommended courses (required by 8 or more dental schools)** for the 70 ADEA dental schools.
- The **shaded boxes** are typically recommended courses but may be required by some dental schools.
- **DAT Prep** – Please note the courses below that are recommended to take prior to the DAT (Dental Education Admission Test).
- It is strongly advised that you create a **dental school list and look at each school's requirements**. Also consider each school's policy for community college, AP, & online credits for their prerequisite courses. Please review ADEA AADSAS Participating Dental Schools Required and Recommended Courses 
- **These are the classes required / recommended to apply to dental schools. Consult with your primary, academic advisor re: your major requirements.**

COURSE	COMP	GRADE
BIOL 106 Intro Biol: Organismal <i>-Standard Prerequisite / DAT</i>		
BIOL 107 Intro Biology: Cell <i>-Standard Prerequisite / DAT</i>		
CHEM 105 Prin. of Chemistry I <i>-Standard Prerequisite / DAT</i>		
CHEM 106 Prin. of Chemistry II <i>-Standard Prerequisite / DAT</i>		
CHEM 345 Organic Chemistry I <i>-Standard Prerequisite / DAT</i>		
CHEM 348 Organic Chemistry II <i>-Standard Prerequisite / DAT</i>		
MBIOS 303 Intro. Biochemistry <i>-Standard Prerequisite / DAT</i>		
MBIOS 304 Microbiology Lab <i>-Recommended - some may require</i>		
MBIOS 305 General Microbiology <i>-Standard Prerequisite / DAT</i>		
PHYS 101 & PHYS 111 Physics I & Lab <i>-Standard Prerequisite</i>		
PHYS 102 & PHYS 112 Physics II & Lab <i>-Standard Prerequisite</i>		
BIOL/MBIOS 301 General Genetics <i>-Recommended – None require</i>		

COURSE	COMP	GRADE
STATS 212 Intro to Statistical Methods OR PSYCH 311 Elementary Stats (Psych Majors) <i>-Strongly Recommended – 8 schools require/ DAT</i>		
MATH 140 or 171 Calculus <i>-Recommended – 4 schools require</i>		
BIOL 315 Gross and Microanatomy <i>-Strongly Recommended – 17 schools require/ DAT</i>		
BIOL 353 Adv. Human Physiology OR NEURO 425 & 426 Med. Physiology <i>-Strongly Recommended – 13 schools require/ DAT</i>		
MBIOS 401 Cell Biology (SMB Majors) OR BIOL 352 Cell (SBS Majors) <i>-Recommended – 1 school requires</i>		
ENGL 101 College Composition <i>-Standard Prerequisite</i>		
ENG 201, 301, or 402 Tech. Writing <i>-Standard Prerequisite / Check specific ENGL requirement at each school</i>		
FINE ARTS (Drawing, Sculpture, Ceramics) <i>-Recommended - some may require</i>		
PSYCH 105 Introductory Psychology <i>-Recommended – 4 schools require</i>		
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology <i>-Recommended – 2 schools require</i>		

Dental school admissions committees will consider - GPA: Varies, but most require a **3.5 or higher** **DAT Scores:** Average: 19-21

Semester/GPA	Fall ___/___	Fall ___/___	Fall ___/___	Fall ___/___	Fall ___/___
	Spring ___/___	Spring ___/___	Spring ___/___	Spring ___/___	Spring ___/___

Experiences: (be sure to log all your experiences: date, hours, supervisor, and a reflection) The following information is from this [website](#):

- Dental Experience:** "Either paid or unpaid work in a dental field where you observed patient care, interacted with practitioners, or had responsibility for patient care."
- Dental Shadowing:** "Time spent officially following and observing a dental professional at work." Aim for 100+ hours; at least 25 hours with a general dentist.
- Volunteer:** "Volunteer work done outside of the dental field; for example, working for Habitat for Humanity, tutoring students, participating in, or working for a fundraiser walk or blood drive, etc."
- Employment:** "Paid work done outside of the dental field or a research lab; for example, a retail or restaurant job."
- Extracurricular Activities:** "Related activities you would like your selected programs to review; for example, academic clubs and competitive teams. Do not include paid work experience in this section."
- Research:** "Any experience working on a research project, preferably in addition to or outside of regular classroom work. This may include student research positions, research technician positions, summer research student, master's rotational student, etc."
- Academic Enrichment:** "Programs sponsored by colleges, universities, or other not-for-profit organizations; for example, Summer Medical and Dental Education Program and Summer Health Professions Education Program."
- Manual dexterity** – e.g., painting, drawing, woodcarving, playing an instrument, sewing, needlepoint, knitting, tying fishing knots, etc.
- Leadership Roles**

Recommendations:

1. Dental Schools require a C or better in all prerequisite courses. You received a PP grade for BIOL106 - this equates to a C- or lower. I recommend that you retak BIOL106. If a schools require PSYCH105, you will need to retake this class, at WWU you received a D in this class.
2. You will need to check that the dental schools you plan to apply to in the future will accept P/F grading during covid - CHEM105 - P (spring 2020)
3. When you get a chance, let me know what classes you plan to take this Summer 2021, Fall 2021, and Spring 2022 semesters. It's important to not overload your semesters so that you can do well in your classes.

Dental Schools also consider the following when you apply:

Personal statement: 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: Interviews assess the applicant's maturity, motivation, communication skills, knowledge of the profession, and desire to contribute to society through dentistry.

Letters of Evaluation: Up to four letters, typically 2 from science professors and 2 from dentists. Each should write about your integrity, judgement, ethics, reliability, personal communication skills, strengths and weaknesses

General Timeline/Checklist for Pre-Dental Studies at WSU: (This timeline is not fixed and varies with each student.)

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Explore coursework and work on earning a strong GPA. Use the tutoring resources on campus! Go to professor/TA office hours.
- Meet with your academic (major) advisor and your pre-dental specialist in HPSC.
- Get some experience. Volunteer in the community. Become actively involved in clubs.
- Begin to develop your manual dexterity skills.
- Start shadowing dentists.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Continue to earn a strong GPA and access extra help through tutoring and professor/TA office hours.
- Meet with your academic (major) advisor and pre-dental specialist.
- Continue to volunteer, shadow, and increase your activity and responsibility in clubs (leadership). Explore research opportunities.
- Explore dental schools using ADEA website.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Identify individuals who are willing to write letters of evaluation.
- Begin studying for the DAT. If ready, take it in May/June, after finals. [Register for the DAT](#) with the American Dental Association.
- **DAT Sections:** Biology / General Chemistry / Organic Chemistry / Perceptual Ability / Reading Comprehension / Quantitative Reasoning.
- Review the dental school application process and create a timeline for the submission of your application materials ([ADEA AADSAS](#)).
- 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 May/June 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.
- Sometime after December 1, you will (hopefully) receive offers of admission.
- Initiate the financial aid application process to the dental school you choose to attend. Do not procrastinate!
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.