



Dentistry Prerequisites Guide

This guide contains common requirements for dental programs in the United States. However, each dental program has its own specific course prerequisites and other requirements for applying to their program. It is important to consult with each program's website or admissions office for specific information.

You can also consult the [American Dental Association](#) (ADA) for resources in preparing for dental school. Additionally, [ADEA](#) (American Dental Education Association) is the sole national organization representing academic dentistry. Its purposes are to determine and disseminate best practices for dental education and to provide its members with professional networking opportunities.

Recommended Courses

Biology

- General Biology with lab (highly recommend for DAT preparation)
 - BIOL 106 – Introductory Biology: Organismal Biology
 - BIOL 107 – Introductory Biology: Cell Biology and Genetics
- Human Anatomy with lab (highly recommend for DAT preparation)
 - BIOL 315 – Gross and Microanatomy
- Human Physiology with lab (highly recommend for DAT preparation)
 - BIOL 353 – Advanced Human Physiology
 - OR NEURO 425 and 426 – Medical Physiology
- General Genetics
 - BIOL 301 – General Genetics
 - MBIOS 301 – General Genetics
- Cells
 - BIOL 352 – Cells
 - OR MBIOS 401 – Cell Biology

Chemistry

- General Chemistry with lab (highly recommend for DAT preparation)
 - CHEM 105 – Principles of Chemistry I
 - CHEM 106 – Principles of Chemistry II



- Organic Chemistry with lab (highly recommend for DAT preparation)
 - CHEM 345 – Organic Chemistry I
 - CHEM 348 – Organic Chemistry II

Math

- Statistics (highly recommend for DAT preparation)
 - STAT 212 – Introduction to Statistical Methods
 - OR PSYCH 311 - Statistics in Psychology
- Calculus
 - MATH 140 – Calculus for Life Scientists
 - OR MATH 171 – Calculus I

Molecular Biosciences

- Biochemistry (highly recommend for DAT preparation)
 - MBIOS 303 – Introduction to Biochemistry
- General Microbiology (highly recommend for DAT preparation)
 - MBIOS 305 – General Microbiology
 - MBIOS 304 – Microbiology Lab

Physics

- Introductory Physics with lab
 - PHYS 101 (and 111) – General Physics I Lecture (and Lab)
 - PHYS 102 (and 112) - General Physics I Lecture (and Lab)

Social Science and Humanities

- Introductory Psychology
 - PSYCH 105 - Introductory Psychology
- Introductory Sociology
 - SOC 101 - Introduction to Sociology
- Fine Arts
 - Drawing, Sculpture or Ceramics

English

- Introductory Writing (select one)
 - ENGL 101 – College Composition
 - ENGL 298 – Writing and Research (Honor's students only)
- Advanced Writing (select one)



- ENGL 402 – Technical and Professional Writing
- ENGL 301 – Writing and Rhetorical Conventions
 - Not all programs require a second English course and others may use a writing intensive course to meet this requirement



Other Common Program Requirements

In addition to the prerequisite courses listed on the prior page, dental programs usually require additional requirements for applying to their programs. It is important to check the institution's website for specifics on their dental program requirements and to ensure you meet or exceed these requirements.

- Completion of a bachelor's degree. GPA requirements vary by school
- Four or more letters of recommendation/reference (2 letters from science professors and 2 letters from dentists)
- Observational hours with a licensed dentist
- DAT exam (Dental Admission Test)
- Work or volunteer experience within the dental field
- Additional non-dental volunteering or work experiences
- Any relevant licenses or certificates
- Personal Statement (general essay) and program specific questions, essays, or documents
- If you are an international student, you may need to submit TOEFL scores for English proficiency. Additional requirements may also be needed, please contact the graduate school admissions counselor/advisor.

If you have any questions about the prerequisite courses or program requirements for Dental program, please contact the Pre-Dental Specialist Advisor at [the Health Professions Student Center](#). You can make an appointment with an advisor by clicking on the "Make an Appointment" link in the left side menu and scrolling down to the Advisor's image and using the "Book an Appointment" link.