

Health Professions Academic Preparation

DENTISTRY

The purpose of an undergraduate education is to provide students with the opportunity to grow personally and intellectually; allowing them the time and resources to discover a breadth of new ideas and topics as well as to build and to explore their own interests and passions in depth. Therefore, students should seek a broad education during their undergraduate years. There is no required major for entrance to dental school. **The following courses represent the minimum course requirements for entrance to a Texas dental school.** Students are encouraged to incorporate these requirements into their semester by semester plans for completion of their baccalaureate degree. It is further recommended that students learn directly from dental schools about their most current, available admissions information.

Required Areas of Study	UTSA Course	Grade/Sem	Prerequisites/ Corequisites
Must receive C or better			
English Composition (6 hrs lecture)	WRC 1013		
	WRC 1023		WRC 1013
Statistics (3 hrs lecture)	STA 1053 or higher		Satisfactory performance on placement exam
General Chemistry (6 hrs lecture; 2 hrs lab) <i>NOTE: Since the chemistry labs are worth two credit hours each at UTSA, taking just one general chemistry lab here will fulfill the two credit hour general chemistry lab requirement for Texas medical schools. However, because UTSA requires CHE 1132 as a prerequisite for Organic Chemistry and CHE 1122 as a prerequisite for CHE 1132, students will be advised to take both general chemistry labs.</i>	¹ CHE 1103 or ² CHE 1143		¹ Passing grade on Chemistry Placement Exam or C or better in CHE 1073 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in MAT 1073; ² Grade of "B" or higher in MAT 1073 and CHE 1073 or score of 60% or higher on chemistry placement exam
	CHE 1122 Lab and CHE 1120 Lab Lecture		Completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 1103 or CHE 1143
	¹ CHE 1113 or ² CHE 1153		¹ CHE 1103; ² "C" or better in CHE 1143 or "B" or better in CHE 1103 and instructor consent
	CHE 1132 Lab and CHE 1130 Lab Lecture		CHE 1122 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 1113 or CHE 1153
<i>Continued on Reverse</i>			

Organic Chemistry (6 hrs lecture; 2 hrs lab) <i>NOTES: Since the chemistry labs are worth two credit hours each at UTSA, taking just one organic chemistry lab here will technically fulfill the two credit hour organic chemistry lab requirement for Texas dental schools.</i> <i>CHE 2603 was formerly CHE 2604; CHE 3643 was formerly CHE 2623; CHE 3652 was formerly CHE 2632; CHE 3650 was formerly CHE 2630.</i>	CHE 2603	CHE 1113 or CHE 1153 and 1132
	CHE 2612 Lab and CHE 2610 Lab Lecture	Completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 2603
	CHE 3643	CHE 2603 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 2612
	CHE 3652 Lab and CHE 3650 Lab Lecture	CHE 2603 and CHE 2612
Physics (6 hrs lecture; 2 hrs lab)	PHY 1603	MAT 1023 (not recommended for pre-dental students), MAT 1073 or higher
	PHY 1611 Lab	Completion of or concurrent enrollment in PHY 1603
	PHY 1623	PHY 1603
	PHY 1631 Lab	PHY 1611 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in PHY 1623
Biology (12 hrs lecture; 2 hrs lab)	BIO 1404	MAT 1023 (not recommended for pre-dental students), MAT 1073 or higher; CHE 1073 or higher also <i>recommended by UHPO</i>
	BIO 1122 Lab	Completion of or concurrent enrollment in BIO 1404
	BIO 1413	BIO 1404
	BIO 2313 Genetics	BIO 1413 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 1103 and MAT 1193 or STA 1053 (STA 1403 for Biology majors)
	Any upper division BIO course	Varies by course
Biochemistry (3 hrs lecture)	¹ BIO 3513 or ² CHE 4303	¹ CHE 2603 and 2612; ² CHE 3643

Please note that the previously listed UTSA courses and prerequisites are for students following the 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog. Students following another undergraduate catalog should consult an advisor with any questions about course numbering.

Foundation Courses: For students who are not prepared to go directly into the required courses, it will be necessary to enroll first in foundation courses such as basic chemistry and an appropriate mathematics course. It may also be necessary to take the mathematics and chemistry placement tests to determine proficiency. For additional information, please consult an advisor early in your studies.

Advanced Biology Electives Relevant to Dental Education: The following list of upper division biology courses encompasses subject areas that will likely be encountered in the dental school curriculum. Although the list is not exhaustive, early exposure to these and other courses at the undergraduate level can provide beneficial preparation for success in dental school.

BIO 3013 Introduction to Clinical Medicine
BIO 3163 Histology & Cytology
BIO 3433 Neurobiology
BIO 3663 Human Embryology
BIO 3813 Cellular Biology
BIO 4143 Developmental Biology
BIO 4743 Immunology

BIO 3123 Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
BIO 3413 Advanced Physiology
BIO 3623 Neuropsychopharmacology
BIO 3713 Microbiology
BIO 3913 Molecular Biology
BIO 4453 Endocrinology

Additional Elective Courses to Consider: Like many health professions, dental education is placing a greater emphasis upon course work in the social and behavioral sciences. Thus, an understanding of the broader contexts within which dentistry is practiced on an everyday basis can be beneficial to students. Below are some courses outside of basic science areas that may be of interest to pre-health professions students.

- ANT 3523 Medical Anthropology
- COU 3103 Helping Skills
- HIS 3453 History of Medicine in America
- HTH 4503 Human Disease and Epidemiology
- HTH 4533 Nutrition and Health
- MGT 4953 Introduction to Healthcare Management
- PSY 4253 Psychology and Health
- SOC 3213 Medical Sociology
- SPN 2513 Spanish for Health Careers

Timeline: Students who enter their undergraduate studies with the intention of beginning dental school just after graduation should plan to complete the pre-dental curriculum by the end of their junior year and apply to medical school shortly thereafter. Such a schedule would permit a student to complete his or her baccalaureate degree requirements over the course of the following year prior to matriculation to dental school. It is not unusual, however, that a student will decide later in their academic career to pursue dentistry. Arriving at the decision later does not necessarily place a student at a disadvantage. It will, however, require a student to postpone the application to dental school until pre-dental course requirements are fulfilled. The dental school application cycle, from application to matriculation, takes approximately fourteen months, so advanced planning is essential.

Application Process: To apply to Texas dental schools, students who are Texas residents must apply through the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS). Detailed information on the application process can be found at their website: www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas. The application typically becomes available May 1 and closes on October 1. Students are strongly encouraged, however, to apply earlier on during the application process rather than waiting until the final deadline. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that TMDSAS receives all transcripts, fees, and other required documentation. Dental schools typically interview candidates between August and January. The dental schools begin extending offers of acceptance on December 1. Offers of acceptance will continue to be made until classes are filled. Matriculation is in August.

To apply to out-of-state dental schools, students should utilize the Associated American Dental School Application Service (AADSAS). Detailed information about the AADSAS application can be found on the website of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA): <https://portal.aadsasweb.org/>.

To better serve future students, we will be establishing a longitudinal database through which we can keep track of our applicants and where they have matriculated. To facilitate this, we request that students approve advisor access to their application status through TMSAS and AADSAS.

DAT: The Dental Admission Test (DAT) is a computer-based exam that is administered on an almost continuous basis. Although, depending on the schools to which they are applying, students may have until December 1st of the application year to take the DAT for the score to be considered during the current application cycle, *they are strongly encouraged to take the DAT well in advance of December 1st for their scores to be considered early on during the application cycle.* To be an early applicant to dental school, it is recommended to take the DAT in May or earlier. An examinee must wait at least 90 days to be eligible to apply to retake the exam, if necessary.

The DAT is comprised of four sections: Survey of Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension, and Quantitative Reasoning. It is recommended that students plan to complete the majority of the dental school prerequisites prior to taking the DAT. Scores for the DAT range from 1 to 30 and are based on the number of correct answers; therefore, examinees are not penalized for guessing. The standard score of 17 typically signifies average performance on a national basis, though students are encouraged to find the average scores for matriculating classes at various schools to gain an idea of what may be considered a competitive score. Complete DAT information, including test registration and detailed information on the content for each section, is available online (<http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx>).

Letters of Evaluation: Because selection committees depend heavily on letters of evaluation to gain insight into applicants' personal strengths, weaknesses, and accomplishments, students should be sure to request letters from individuals, such as professors, work supervisors, and volunteer supervisors, who know them well. Letters from family members or other individuals whom students know only on a personal level are inappropriate. Approximately three to five letters can be useful. The UHPO can both collect and send letters of evaluation on a student's behalf. To authorize the UHPO to do this, a student must first meet with a UHPO advisor during a Pre-Committee Assessment appointment and sign a release form. The release form also indicates if a student will waive their right of access to the letters. We recommend students to do so. Students using this service should provide all referees with copies of their release form and notify referees that letters must be signed, printed on professional letterhead, and sent directly to the UHPO via campus or postal mail.

UTSA Health Professions Committee Letter of Evaluation: The committee letter of evaluation is a form of support and advocacy which is meant to capture aspects of a student's life, personality, and background that are not found in other parts of their application. It will be written by a UHPO advisor, reviewed by other health professions committee members, and submitted to dental schools along with other letters of evaluation by the UHPO. To request a committee letter of evaluation, a student must first meet with a UHPO advisor during a Pre-Committee Assessment appointment to discuss his or her premedical preparation and to learn about all requirements for the committee process. Committee interviews, one of the requirements of the committee process, are only offered between mid-March and September 1 each year.

Community Service/Volunteering/Shadowing: An integral part of preparation for dental school entails involvement in community service projects and volunteer work in hospital or clinical settings. These activities serve to familiarize prospective health care providers with the realities of everyday clinical practice as well as to underscore the role of dentistry in relation to broader community level concerns and issues. A list of volunteer opportunities is available on the UHPO website (<http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/>), and we will continue to update additional possibilities. We do not, however, have a list available for shadowing experiences. Students must exercise personal initiative and develop relationships that would allow them to have this direct contact with a dentist in everyday clinical practice.

Personal Statement: The UHPO staff will read and provide feedback to students regarding their personal statements given sufficient time, preferably two weeks prior to when comments are needed. We also recommend that students visit The Writing Center at www.utsa.edu/twc for further review.

Interviews: The UHPO can offer some advice as students prepare for interviews and, after interviews, would like to debrief with students about their impressions. The University Career Center also facilitates interview workshops and conducts mock interviews to provide students with feedback. For more information about their services contact them at the Main Campus [UC 2.02.04 or (210) 458-4589] or Downtown Campus [BV 1.304 or (210) 458-2910].

Additional Resources: The UHPO keeps and maintains resources that are available to students in our office and on our website. These include books, journals, handouts, and other resources. In addition, students should consult the websites of individual dental schools, the American Dental Education Association (www.adea.org), and the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas).

3+4 Dental Early Admission Program (DEAP): DEAP is a joint program between The University of Texas at San Antonio and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) Dental School. Although it may not be a good fit for all students, this program offers those with an interest in dentistry the opportunity to receive early conditional acceptance to the UTHSCSA Dental School and to earn both a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from UTSA and a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from UTHSCSA within seven years. Among other requirements, a student must have earned at least 12 semester hours of college credit at UTSA and no more than 30 semester credit hours all together to be eligible to apply to the program. A.P. and dual credit hours will be counted toward the 30 credit hour maximum to apply on an individual basis. DEAP Information Sessions are held monthly. All students interested in the program must attend one of these information sessions to learn more about the program and its requirements prior to scheduling an individual appointment with an advisor to discuss applying to DEAP further. For information on when the DEAP Information Sessions will be offered each month, please see the UHPO website, call us, or visit our office.

Health Professions Advising: The UHPO provides advising and support to students interested in pursuing careers in the health professions, including dentistry. This consists of academic preparation assistance as well as information about health careers, application procedures, and entrance exams for undergraduates, post-baccalaureate students, non-degree seeking students, and alumni. Students are encouraged to seek advice and consult with the UHPO advising staff early in their college career. For more information about our appointment and walk-in schedules and our other services, please contact us:

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