Applying to Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) Degree Programs

Application Information

UTSA does not offer advanced degrees in dentistry. However, students are able to take pre-requisite coursework while completing any major at UTSA. Students are encouraged to take coursework in the basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities to prepare for their dental education. Students should choose a major of their interest and purposefully take coursework in preparation for dental school and their career in dentistry.

A common timeline for students attending medical school is shown below:

Apply

UTSA

Dental
School

FR   SO  JR  Y1  Y2 Y3 Y4

This timeline is subject to change based on student competitiveness and readiness to apply.

Students will use various application services when applying to the DDS or DMD programs. Below are the websites and timelines for each application service:

Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) serves all three in-state dental schools
- Website: www.tmdsas.com
- Application cycle: May 1–Oct 1 for entry in the following year

ADEA’s Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) serves dental programs outside of Texas throughout the United States and Canada
- Website: https://portal.aadsasweb.org/
- Application cycle: June 2–February 2 (can vary by school)

Students are encouraged to research institutions of their interest via these websites to determine differing academic requirements.

The application process also requires students to complete a personal statement on their desire to pursue dentistry, seek recommendation letters from qualified dental professionals and professors, and complete an interview, if invited. Additionally, the UHPO completes committee letters for students pursuing dentistry. More information about the committee letter process is available in the UHPO.

Texas Dental School Pre-requisites

- BIO 1404: Biosciences I (new format, includes lab)
- BIO 1414: Biosciences II (new format, includes lab)
- BIO 2313: Genetics
- 3 Hours of Upper Division Biology
- CHE 1103 & CHE 1121: General Chemistry I & Lab
- CHE 1113 & CHE 1131: General Chemistry II & Lab
- CHE 2603 & CHE 2612: Organic Chemistry I & Lab
- CHE 3643: Organic Chemistry II
- BIO 3513 OR CHE 4303: Biochemistry
- PHY 1603 & PHY 1611: Algebra-based Physics I & Lab
- PHY 1623 & PHY 1631: Algebra-based Physics II & Lab
- WRC 1013: Freshman Composition I
- WRC 1023: Freshman Composition II
- STA 1053 OR STA 1403 OR PSY 2073: Statistics

Students are encouraged to take additional coursework to better understand science concepts, social science and public health. Here is a list of some optional Biology electives related to dentistry:

- BIO 3013: Introduction to Clinical Medicine
- BIO 3123: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
- BIO 3413: Advanced Physiology
- BIO 3433: Neurobiology
- BIO 3623: Organic Chemistry I & Lab
- BIO 4303: Biochemistry
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Other courses related to the health care field, which could benefit a pre-dental student include:

- ANT 3523: Medical Anthropology
- MGT 4953: Introduction to Health Care Management
- MHU 2013: Introduction to Medical Humanities
- HTH 4503: Human Disease and Epidemiology
- HTH 2413 or SOC 1043: Introduction to Public Health
- SOC 3213: Medical Sociology
- SPN 2513: Spanish for Health Careers
- PSY 4253: Psychology and Health

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**Health Professions Advising**

Newly-admitted UTSA students are assigned an advisor (called a primary advisor) based on their major. For students pursuing dental pre-requisites, this advisor will be assigned in one of UTSA’s Advising Centers but students will also meet with Health Professions Advisors to determine coursework and requirements related to dentistry.

Students are encouraged to meet with a Health Professions Advisor throughout their tenure at UTSA.

When to meet with a Health Professions Advisor:
- Orientation
- At least once per academic year to discuss coursework, holistic admissions, DAT preparation, academic standing
- In the semester prior to application

What to expect from a Health Professions meeting:
- Major and Course selection
- Discussion of GPA competitiveness
- Testing and Application timeline
- Health Professions Pathways
- Holistic applicant assessment

**Special Program: Dental Early Acceptance Program (DEAP)**

DEAP is a joint 3+4 program between the University of Texas at San Antonio and the UT Health San Antonio (UTHSA) Dental School. Students receive a BS in Biology and DDS at the end of 7 years. Below is general information about DEAP eligibility and program requirements:

- Students must begin their freshman year at UTSA during the fall semester immediately following high school and complete the DEAP application in the Spring semester of the freshman year. Transfer students cannot apply to DEAP.
- Students must complete at least 12 hours in their first freshman Fall semester at UTSA. Students cannot have earned more than 30 hours at the time of application. AP and Dual Credit will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- If accepted, Students must maintain 3.4 Overall and Math/Science GPAs and attain a 19 on the DAT to matriculate to UTHSA.
- Students are considered for DEAP on various factor: academic history, understanding of the dental profession, leadership and involvement, financial need and a personal statement, among others.

More information about DEAP can be found by visiting the UHPO or on the UT Health San Antonio website at: http://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/dental/programs/deap-program.

**ShADOWING/VOLUNTEERING/ON-CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT**

Admission to dental schools is becoming increasingly holistic. As such, students are strongly encouraged to participate in dental-related activities, community service and on-campus leadership experiences. Experience in these areas contributes to a students understanding of and commitment to the profession of dentistry and facilitates personal development prior to the application process.

Ways to get involved:
- UHPO keeps a list of volunteer opportunities in the San Antonio area in our office and on our website, located here: http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.html.
- UTSA student organizations participate in service and dentistry-related activities. Information about getting involved on-campus can be found on RowdyLink: https://utsa.collegiatelink.net/.
- Students are encouraged to volunteer or shadow dentists in various settings to gain an understanding of the profession.
- Pre-dental students are encouraged to apply for leadership roles in their community and/or on-campus to develop necessary communication and teamwork skills.
- Attend UTSA’s Health Professions Day, held each February, to meet with representatives from various medical schools.

**Dental Admission Test (DAT)**

The DAT is one of the measures required by dental programs to determine a student’s academic ability in relation to dental education.

Some general information about the DAT:

- Students are scored in six sections: Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Reasoning
- Each section has a score range of 0-30.
- The length of the DAT exam is 4 hours and 30 minutes and is taken via computer.
- The DAT is offered throughout the year, primarily during the dental school application cycle.

More information about the DAT exam can be found on the American Dental Association website (www.ada.org)