Getting Started
Admission to dental school involves rigorous academic preparation and student involvement in healthcare related activities - volunteering, and community service outside the classroom. Together, each contributes to the development of the individual student and serves in providing the academic foundation, insight and perspective into what it means to practice dentistry, an understanding of the health care needs of our society, and finally toward each students professional development. Combined, these elements of predental preparation are part of a process of a holistic review of applicants. This guide should be used in conjunction with the following websites that will be a part of your future as a student and as an applicant. All Texas residents apply to dental school through the website of the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS): www.tmdsas.com. The website for the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), www.adea.org, is an excellent source of information for predental students and should become a part of your everyday resources on all things predental and dental. The ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service, (AADSAS) is a part of the ADEA website and is used for applying to out-of-state programs, if appropriate: www.adea.org (select “ADEA AADSAS Applicants” and “future students”).

Pathways to Dental School
Course work in the basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and the humanities all contribute to becoming a well-rounded applicant, and each has relevance to the practice of dentistry and to prepare for the DAT. Therefore, students should seek a broad education during their undergraduate years. Students should choose a major that reflects their personal interests, but also be guided by what will be helpful in preparing for dental school. This should include course work that provides insight into the practice of dentistry, health care and society more broadly. All applicants to dental school, however, must complete a minimum set of prerequisite courses, described below, in addition to the course work for the major they choose. There is no required major for entrance to dental school programs. All undergraduate majors at UTSA can be found in the university catalog at: www.utsa.edu/academics/ugrad-degree-programs.html

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UTSA Course Prerequisites: Program Prerequisites Must Receive C or better</th>
<th>Tracking your Grades: Program Prerequisites Must Receive C or better</th>
<th>UTSA Prerequisites: Does the course require a prerequisite? Yes* or No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1404 Biosciences I</td>
<td>BIO 1404</td>
<td>BIO 1404 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1122 Biosciences Lab</td>
<td>BIO 1122</td>
<td>BIO 1122 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1413 Biosciences II</td>
<td>BIO 1413</td>
<td>BIO 1413 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2313 Genetics</td>
<td>BIO 2313</td>
<td>BIO 2313 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 hours Upper Division (UD) Biology**</td>
<td>UD BIO</td>
<td>*<em>BIO 3713 - Yes</em>/see advanced biology electives list on back page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**UT School of Dentistry at Houston requires Microbiology (BIO 3713)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHE 1103 General Chemistry I</td>
<td>CHE 1103</td>
<td>CHE 1103 - Yes*; Chemistry placement test or CHE 1073</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHE 1112 General Chemistry I Laboratory</td>
<td>CHE 1112</td>
<td>CHE 1112 - Yes*; Concurrent registration in CHE 1120 required</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHE 1113 General Chemistry II</td>
<td>CHE 1113</td>
<td>CHE 1113 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHE 1131 General Chemistry II Laboratory</td>
<td>CHE 1131</td>
<td>CHE 1131 - Yes*; Concurrent registration in CHE 1130 required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHE 2603 Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td>CHE 2603</td>
<td>CHE 2603 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHE 2612 Organic Chemistry I Laboratory</td>
<td>CHE 2612</td>
<td>CHE 2612 - Yes*; Concurrent registration in CHE 2610 required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHE 3643 Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td>CHE 3643</td>
<td>CHE 3643 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 3513 Biochemistry</td>
<td>BIO 3513</td>
<td>BIO 3513 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHE 4303 Biochemistry</td>
<td>CHE 4303</td>
<td>CHE 4303 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 1603 Algebra-based Physics I</td>
<td>PHY 1603</td>
<td>PHY 1603 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 1611 Algebra-based Physics I Laboratory</td>
<td>PHY 1611</td>
<td>PHY 1611 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 1623 Algebra-based Physics II</td>
<td>PHY 1623</td>
<td>PHY 1623 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 1631 Algebra-based Physics II Laboratory</td>
<td>PHY 1631</td>
<td>PHY 1631 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRC 1013 Composition I</td>
<td>WRC 1013</td>
<td>WRC 1013 - No*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRC 1023 Composition II</td>
<td>WRC 1023</td>
<td>WRC 1023 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STA 1053 Basic Statistics</td>
<td>STA 1053</td>
<td>STA 1053 - Yes*; Math placement test (if required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STA 1403 Probability and Statistics for Biosciences</td>
<td>STA 1403</td>
<td>STA 1403 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 2073 Statistics for Psychology</td>
<td>PSY 2073</td>
<td>PSY 2073 - Yes*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All UTSA course requirement prerequisites can be found in the online UTSA Undergraduate Catalog. Click on “Course Descriptions” within your assigned catalog. UTSA Undergraduate online catalog at: utsa.edu/ucat/index/html

Developmental Courses
Students who are not academically prepared to go directly into required prerequisite courses may need to enroll first in developmental courses. These include mathematics or writing courses which are designed to build your collegiate academic foundation. Placement tests in math and chemistry are available through UTSA Testing Services: http://www.utsa.edu/testing/

The University Health Professions Office (UHPO)
University of Texas at San Antonio
Multidisciplinary Studies Building (MS), Room 3.02.10 (Main Campus)
www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions
(210) 458-5185
hpoffice@utsa.edu

Time Line For Applying to Dental School
For traditional undergraduate students the first three years of university studies is when the predental courses are completed. These prerequisite courses are also foundational for the DAT, which should be taken, ideally, during the spring semester of junior year, January - May. The application process through TMDSAS begins May 1st and closes October 1st. It is more favorable to apply during the first half of the application cycle, but is not always possible. During the fall of senior year competitive applicants are invited to interview at dental schools, and during the final year complete undergraduate requirements. All predental requirements should be completed prior to the DAT and the application. Performance in the premedical courses and DAT exam determines an applicants’ academic competitiveness.
Application Process
Texas Dental Schools - Texas residents must utilize the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) at: www.tmdsas.com
Out of State Dental Schools - Utilize the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) at: portal.aadsasweb.org or www.adea.org/ (Application Services AADSAS section)

DAT Information
ADA also provides full information including test format, preparation materials, registration and is the primary source of information to begin preparing for the exam. It can be found at: www.ada.org/dat.aspx

When do I take the DAT?
To be an early applicant to dental school, it is extremely important to take the test with adequate preparation. Disciplined review and preparation for the exam should begin a minimum of six months prior to testing.

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 (DDS) degree from UTHSCSA within seven years. For more information and eligibility requirements, please review the website at: http://dental.uthscsa.edu/admissions/dual_degree.php. All UTSA students interested in the program must attend one of the DEAP information sessions (held monthly) to learn more about the program and its requirements prior to scheduling an individual appointment with the DEAP program coordinator in the UHPO office. DEAP information session information can be found on the UHPO website. Please contact the UHPO for additional information and advisement.

Advanced Biology Electives Relevant to Dental Education:
The following subjects in biology have relevance to health professions education. Thus, taking courses such as those below during your pre-dental studies preparation is recommended.

- 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

Advanced Elective Courses to Consider:
Health professions education is placing a greater emphasis upon coursework in the social and behavioral sciences. Thus, an understanding of the broader contexts within which dentistry and health education is practiced on an everyday basis can be beneficial to students. This includes courses such as:

- ANT 3523 Medical Anthropology
- BIO 3333 Endocrinology
- HTH 4533 Nutrition and Health
- HTH 4503 Human Disease and Epidemiology
- HTH 2413 Introduction to Community & Public Health
- MGT 4953 Introduction to Healthcare Management

Letters of Evaluation
Letters of evaluation are an essential part of the application to most dental schools. Because selection committees depend heavily on these letters to gain insight into applicants’ personal strengths, character, and accomplishments, students should be sure to request letters of evaluation from individuals, such as professors, work supervisors, and volunteer supervisors, who know them from various perspectives and know them well. Many dental schools also highly value letters from dentists whom students have shadowed. Referees may submit either electronic letters of evaluation or paper letters of evaluation directly to TMDSAS. For further information, refer to the TMDSAS website: www.tmdsas.com

Interviews
The UHPO can offer advice as students prepare for interviews and, after interviews, would like to debrief with students about their impressions. The UTSA University Career Center facilitates interview workshops and conducts mock interviews to provide students with feedback. Not sure what to wear for your interview or don't have a suit? They also provide access to their “Career Closet” to check out a suit from their “Career Closet.” For more information about University Career Center services, please check out their website and contact them for more information. http://utsa.edu/careercenter/

Health Professions Advising
Undergraduate students receive advising upon entrance to UTSA from a placement advisor, and then from the advisor whom they are assigned once they have chosen a major. Advising for health professions is a separate process. It should be utilized early in a student’s education and throughout the application process and beyond. The services of the University Health Professions Office include careful advising for course selection and the timing of prerequisite course work, choice of appropriate majors, and guidance with preparation for the DAT and the application to dental school. UHPO also works with UTSA postbaccalaureate students, non-degree seeking students, and alumni.

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