

ADEA AADSAS

Associated American Dental Schools Application Service
Information for Applicants to Dental School for the

Entering Class 2010



Pathways to a Career in Dentistry

Dentistry is an exciting, challenging, and rewarding profession. Those who choose to pursue dental careers are motivated, scientifically curious, intelligent, ambitious, and socially conscious health professionals. The notion of dentists as those who merely fill teeth is outdated. Today, dentists are highly sophisticated health professionals who provide a wide range of care that contributes enormously to the quality of their patients' lives. Dentists are also instrumental in early detection of oral cancer and systemic conditions of the body that manifest themselves in the mouth, and they are in the forefront of new developments in cosmetic and aesthetic practices. The dental profession includes not only those who provide direct patient care, but those who teach, conduct research, and work in public and international health. All of these professionals are vital links in the health care delivery system, necessary to promote social and economic change as well as individual well-being.

Currently there are more than 166,000 professionally active dentists in the United States. With continuing population growth and the upcoming retirement of a large group of dentists, the need for new dentists is expected to escalate over the coming decades. Opportunities for all individuals interested in becoming dentists are growing because of the intense national need to improve access to general health and oral care and the continuously increasing demand for dental services. In response to the clear need for dentists to serve all citizens, dental schools are strengthening their efforts to recruit and retain all highly qualified students, especially women and underrepresented minorities. ADEA is at the forefront of the effort to bring more diverse qualified students to dental school and, in addition, is a national leader in efforts to increase access to oral health care and improve the health of the public.

Why Consider a Dental Career?

Not only are dentists part of a dynamic, stimulating field that offers a variety of professional opportunities, but:

- The dental profession offers a wide range of clinical practice, research, and academic opportunities
- The entire dental profession is at the head of important new research substantiating the relationship between oral health and systemic health
- Dentists are generally able to enter practice directly upon completion of four years of dental school
- The lifestyle of a private practice dentist is generally predictable and self-determined
- The average net income for dentists has doubled in the last decade and is in the highest 5% of U.S. family incomes

- Net hourly incomes for dentists now exceed those of family physicians, general internists, and pediatricians
- Dentistry is not generally subject to the effects of managed care and reductions in federal funding that have affected other health care professions
- Dentists enjoy unusual loyalty among their patients

What is ADEA AADSAS?

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) sponsors AADSAS, which is a centralized application service for individuals applying to dental schools. ADEA AADSAS simplifies the application process for both applicants and schools by allowing applicants to complete only one application form. Information is then sent in a standardized format to the dental schools requested by the applicant. ADEA AADSAS serves as an information clearinghouse only. It does not influence any school's evaluation or selection of applicants, nor does ADEA recommend applicants to dental schools.

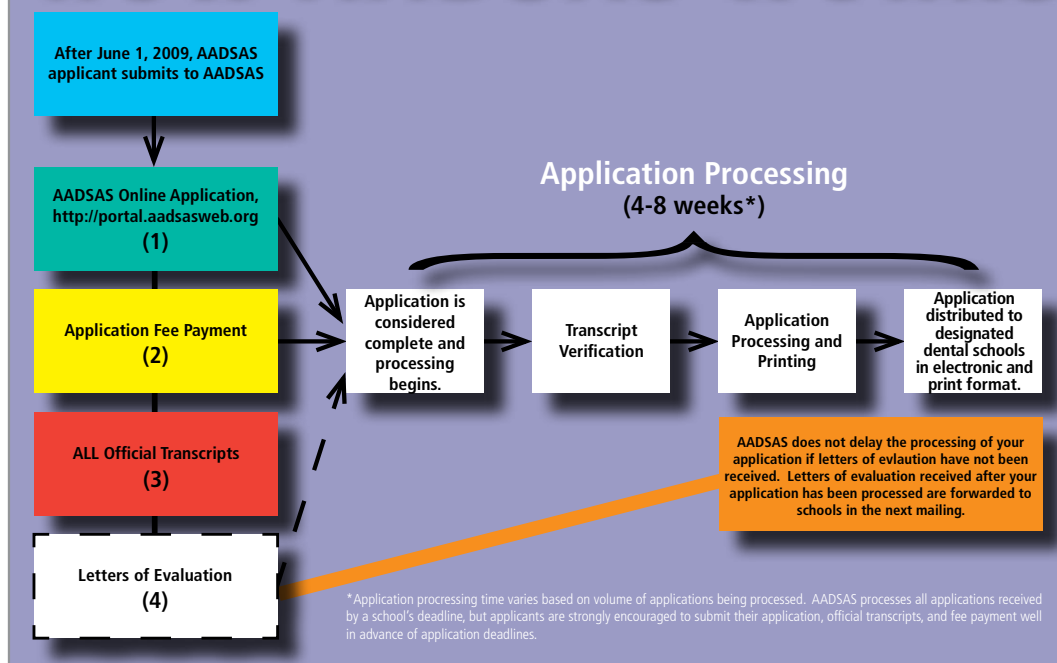
The ADEA AADSAS 2010 application becomes available online at <http://portal.aadsasweb.org> on June 1, 2009. Dental schools receive applications from ADEA AADSAS starting late June and continuing through each school's application deadline. All applications submitted to ADEA AADSAS on or before a dental school's application deadline—provided all supporting documentation is received from the applicant—are processed and sent to that school.

In addition to submitting an ADEA AADSAS application, the dental school application process entails substantial planning and time management. Be sure to plan for:

- Taking the Dental Admission Test (DAT) or Canadian Dental Aptitude Test
- Submitting supplemental materials requested by schools in a timely manner (check the Participating Dental Schools list in the ADEA AADSAS application and note that many schools charge their own application fees to cover costs associated with processing your application)
- Admissions interviews, required by most dental schools as part of the admissions process. Plan ahead for costs related to travel and professional dress.

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HOW AADSAS WORKS



ADEA AADSAS Application Processing Fees

The processing fee for the 2010 ADEA AADSAS application is \$217 for the first dental school and \$68 for each additional school. ADEA AADSAS offers a fee reduction program for applicants who demonstrate extreme financial need. Details of this program can be obtained in the AADSAS section of the ADEA website, www.adea.org.

Tips for a Successful ADEA AADSAS Application

- Apply early! Applicants increase their chances of being seriously considered for admission when they submit their ADEA AADSAS applications well in advance of application deadlines. Many dental schools begin reviewing applications and inviting applicants for interviews in August and September.
- Print a copy of your ADEA AADSAS application and keep it with your records.
- Monitor your application online. Watch for messages from ADEA AADSAS, by email or online (within your AADSAS application).
- Be sure to enter all coursework information in the ADEA AADSAS application accurately. Incorrect applications must be returned to applicants, which can result in processing delays.
- Remember that ADEA AADSAS considers your application complete and begins processing your application after receiving:
 - ✓ Your submitted AADSAS application
 - ✓ Official transcripts from every college and university you have attended (even if coursework is posted to another, more recently attended college)
 - ✓ Application payment

Questions?

ADEA Customer Service provides customer support to AADSAS. Applicants may contact Customer Service for assistance with filling out the AADSAS application or any questions related to the application process. Customer Service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time, except federal holidays. Call 617-612-2045 or email us at aadsasinfo@aadsasweb.org.

About ADEA

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is the voice of dental education. Its members include all U.S. and Canadian dental schools and many allied and postdoctoral dental education programs, corporations, faculty, and students. The mission of ADEA is to lead the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research, and the delivery of oral health care for the health of the public. ADEA's activities encompass a wide range of research, advocacy, faculty development, meetings, and communications like the esteemed Journal of Dental Education, as well as the dental school admissions services AADSAS and PASS.

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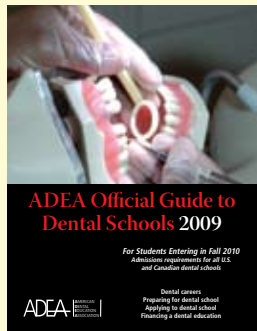
More Help from ADEA

ADEA publishes two comprehensive guidebooks for those considering a dental career or advising students about dental careers. They can be ordered online at www.adea.org.

ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools

This is the most authoritative information available about applying to and attending dental school in the United States or Canada. In the book you will find:

- An overview of the dental profession, including benefits of being a dentist and descriptions of the varied areas of specialization and practice options
- Informed insights into how the admission process works and what kinds of academic backgrounds are generally needed
- Guidelines to help pre-dental students determine which schools are the best for their educational and professional goals
- An in-depth and carefully researched examination of how to finance a dental education
- Detailed information on all U.S. and Canadian dental schools, including:
 - Characteristics of each program, including specialties and strengths
 - Admissions requirements and student selection factors
 - Application timetables, estimated expenses, and financial aid available
 - Comparison of applicants and matriculated students
 - Contact information for admissions, housing, and more



Opportunities for Minority Students in U.S. Dental Schools

This book contains information of interest to minority students considering dental school and tools to help them manage the application process. It also includes profiles of individuals who reflect the diversity and excellence of the profession and information about:

- Opportunities that dental careers hold for minorities and efforts to increase the number of underrepresented minorities enrolled in U.S. dental schools



- Preparation necessary to be accepted to dental school
- How to finance a dental education
- Programs and services to attract qualified minority students and contribute to student success
- Resources such as recruitment and outreach efforts, admission guidelines, undergraduate majors and the undergraduate schools of minorities in the first-year classes, summer and enrichment programs, and academic and student support services

ADEA also provides free online information you may find of interest.

AADSAS Answers

ADEA AADSAS staff post answers to the most frequently asked applicant questions at www.youtube.com/user/AADSASAnswers.

ADEA Video Mentors

Dental students and others post videos at www.youtube.com/adeavideomentors, providing insight into the dental school application process and what it is like to be a dental student.

More Help with Planning for Dental School Applications

Dental Admission Test (DAT)

All U.S. dental schools require applicants to take the DAT. The test consists of multiple choice questions and takes approximately five hours to administer. It includes four separate tests that cover:

- Survey of the natural sciences (biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry)
- Perceptual ability (two- and three-dimensional problem solving)
- Reading comprehension (dental and basic sciences)
- Quantitative reasoning

Most dental schools view the DAT as one of many factors in evaluating candidates for admission. As a result, schools vary in the emphasis they place on the results of different parts of the test.

DAT application and testing information, including test specifications and sample test questions, can be obtained at www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp.

Department of Testing Services
American Dental Association
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-2637
800-232-2162

Potential Canadian applicants should note that many U.S. dental schools accept applicants from Canada. Some will accept Canadian Dental Aptitude Test scores from Canadian applicants in lieu of the DAT. Check with the schools to which you are applying for their preferences.

More Ways to Learn about Dental and Health Careers

ExploreHealthCareers.org

ExploreHealthCareers.org is a free, easy-to-navigate website sponsored by ADEA with up-to-date information about health careers. More than 100 career profiles reveal what health care workers do every day, how much they earn, and what training is required. Interactive databases allow you to search thousands of scholarships, grants, and loans available for students pursuing health careers. You'll also find career planning tips and resources, profiles of health care students and professionals, and links to dozens of state and national career planning resources. You can share ExploreHealthCareers.org on your social networking sites too!

Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP)

SMDEP is a free six-week summer academic program for college freshmen and sophomores from disadvantaged backgrounds that offers intensive academic and career preparation for medical or dental school. In addition to expanding their knowledge of the basic sciences (organic chemistry, physics, and biology) and calculus or pre-calculus, participants work together to enhance their study skills and learn about financial planning. Each participant also develops a personal career plan. SMDEP is funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and coordinated jointly by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA). Find out more at www.smdep.org.

Financing a Dental Education

Regardless of your background, everyone can afford a dental education, through a combination of financial aid and wise financial management. A dental education is a sound investment that will pay off in significant lifetime income and other professional benefits. Most dental schools have financial aid officers dedicated to assisting students in receiving the best financial aid packages possible. Be sure to review dental school websites and speak with financial aid counselors when you visit dental schools.

Types of financial aid for dental students include:

- Federal and private loans
- Scholarships and grants that can be based on merit, financial need, or other qualifications
- Research fellowships and traineeships
- Commitment service scholarships, including the U.S. Armed Forces and the U.S. Public Health service

Loan repayment programs are also available for graduates who opt to practice in designated shortage areas, for individuals pursuing funded research projects, and for those who choose careers in academic dentistry.

More detailed information about financial aid options for dental students can be found at the ADEA website, www.adea.org, and in the ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools.

Dental Schools that Participate in ADEA AADSAS

Web addresses valid as of December 1, 2008

ALABAMA University of Alabama at Birmingham www.dental.uab.edu	NEBRASKA Creighton University cudental.creighton.edu
ARIZONA Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health www.atsu.edu	NEVADA University of Nevada, Las Vegas dentalschool.unlv.edu
CALIFORNIA University of California, Los Angeles uclasod.dent.ucla.edu	NEW JERSEY University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey dentalschool.umdnj.edu
COLORADO University of Colorado at Denver www.uchsc.edu/sod	NEW YORK Columbia University dental.columbia.edu
CONNECTICUT University of Connecticut sdm.uconn.edu	NORTH CAROLINA University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill www.dent.unc.edu
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Howard University www.howard.edu	OHIO Case School of Dental Medicine dental.case.edu
FLORIDA Nova Southeastern University www.nova.edu	OKLAHOMA University of Oklahoma dentistry.ouhsc.edu
ILLINOIS University of Illinois at Chicago dentistry.uic.edu	OREGON Oregon Health and Science University www.ohsu.edu/sod
INDIANA Indiana University www.iusd.iupui.edu	PENNSYLVANIA University of Pennsylvania www.dental.upenn.edu
IOWA University of Iowa www.dentistry.uiowa.edu	PUERTO RICO University of Puerto Rico www.dental.rcm.upr.edu
KENTUCKY University of Kentucky www.mc.uky.edu/dentistry	SOUTH CAROLINA Medical University of South Carolina www.musc.edu/em
MARYLAND University of Maryland www.dental.umaryland.edu	TENNESSEE Meharry Medical College www.mmc.edu
MASSACHUSETTS Boston University dentalschool.bu.edu	TEXAS Baylor College of Dentistry www.bcd.tamhsc.edu
MICHIGAN University of Michigan www.dent.umich.edu	UTAH University of Utah Health Science Center at Salt Lake City www.uth.tmc.edu
MINNESOTA University of Minnesota www.dentistry.umn.edu	VIRGINIA Virginia Commonwealth University www.dentistry.vcu.edu
MISSOURI University of Missouri-Kansas City dentistry.umkc.edu	WASHINGTON University of Washington www.dental.washington.edu
	WEST VIRGINIA West Virginia University www.hsc.wvu.edu/sod
	WISCONSIN Marquette University www.marquette.edu/dentistry
	CANADA Dalhousie University www.dentistry.dal.ca

Timeline for Applying to Dental School

Before June 1

- Create your plan for applying to dental school
- Research dental schools and the dental school application process
- Consider purchasing the ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools and Opportunities for Minority Students in U.S. Dental Schools
- Identify individuals whom you are going to ask for letters of evaluation
- Register for, prepare for, and take the DAT

Starting June 1

- ADEA AADSAS application opens
- Check schools' specific deadlines and submit your application early
- Follow AADSAS instructions to send official transcripts
- Follow AADSAS instructions to ask evaluators to submit letters of evaluation
- Monitor ADEA AADSAS application status online

Mid-November to February 1

- Use Academic Update to report courses completed since submitting your application

December 1

- Dental schools begin extending offers of admission
- Start checking ADEA AADSAS application for admission status updates

February 1

- ADEA AADSAS application closes
- Academic Update closes

ADEA AADSAS

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