Glossary of Terms

(2012 Application Cycle)

A

AADSAS: Associated American Dental School Applied Service is available to all students applying to 59 dental schools that participate in the application service. AADSAS simplifies the application process by providing one standardized form, relieving students of the need to complete multiple applications. Dental schools benefit by receiving uniform information on all applicants.

ADEA: American Dental Education Association is the leading national organization for dental education. Our members include all U.S. and Canadian dental schools, advanced dental education programs, hospital dental education programs, allied dental education programs, corporations, faculty, and students.

ADA: The American Dental Association world's largest and oldest national dental association. They are the oral health authority committed to both the public and dental profession.

AADSAS Application: An online application allows applicants to apply for entrance into dental school. This application can be designated for multiple dental designations. The dental school may also request other application. That information is not affiliated with AADSAS and should be forwarded directly to the school.

AADSAS Account: All information entered by the applicant is saved under the individuals name and personal log in. Applicants that apply to dental school must create an AADSAS account https://portal.aadsasweb.org/.

Academic Audit: A report provided to the dental schools that lists the applicants Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math courses, grades and Grade Point Average.

Academic Status: Represents the academic degree obtained. These statuses are undergraduate, graduate, post undergraduate and professional course of study.

Academic Update: AADSAS provides the opportunity for applicants to update coursework during the Academic Update period. Approximately 30 days prior to the Academic Update period, applicants will receive an email message from AADSAS, providing specific instructions on how to update coursework information.
**AClient**: AADSAS Client is software that allows Admissions Officers at the dental schools the ability to manage their applicant pool.

**Additional Designations**: An applicant can designate additional schools to receive their application. It is not considered an additional designation until after submission of your original AADSAS application.

**Acceptance Notification**: Applicants are notified of their acceptance to an institution by an official acceptance letter from the school or their institutions letter.

**Adobe Acrobat**: A free document exchange program created by Adobe Systems, Inc. which allows data files created on one software platform (Windows, Macintosh, UNIX, etc.) to be displayed and printed on another, without loss of text formatting.

**Admissions Officers**: Individual who reviews applicant’s application information to determine if they are qualified for acceptance at their dental school.

**AADSAS Grade**: The verified grade that corresponds with the applicant’s transcript. The AADSAS grade will be different if your transcript uses a numbering system, or some other non-traditional grading system.

**Advanced Placement**: The placement of a high-school student in a course that offers college credit if completed successfully.

**AADSAS Identification Number**: An identification number that is assigned to applicants once the applicant creates an account on the online AADSAS application.

**Applicants**: An individual who applies to dental school.

**Applicant Information Brochure**: An ADEA AADSAS brochure that provides information pertaining to the application process and requirements. The brochure also highlights the application process with a flowchart, list all participating dental schools, list valuable resources to potential applicants and much more.

**Application Fee**: Payment that applicants will forward to AADSAS to process their AADSAS dental school application.

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**B**

**BCP (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)**: An acronym of Biology, Chemistry and Physics courses. These courses are used in the computation of an applicant’s science GPA.

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**C**
Calendar of Events: AADSAS provides a calendar of activities for the application cycle. Please visit ADEA website www.adea.org.

Certiphi®: is a full suite of applicant screening services tailored to the unique needs in the industry. From expert researchers to industry-specific searches, we provide a more focused and thorough view of an applicant’s past.

Checklist: AADSAS Checklist provides a list of items to forward to AADSAS or the dental schools.

Create an ADEA Account: To initiate an account, the applicant must open an account in the AADSAS Application. This is the start of the application process. To begin creating an account go to http://www.adea.org/dental_education_pathways/aadsas/Pages/AADSASApplicants.aspx.

Complete Mailed: An applicant who has e-submitted their application, sent in payment, mailed all transcripts to AADSAS Verification Department and have been verified, generated into a mailing and the application has been mailed to the designated dental schools.

Courses in Progress: Courses that an applicant is in process of completing for the current term.

Courses in Planned: Courses the applicant planned to take in the future.

Course Title: The name of the course listed on the official transcript.

Complete-Not Mailed: Application that has been received and verified due to receipt of payment and all transcripts. Application is scheduled to be processed in the next available mailing.

Credits: Official certification or recognition that a student has successfully completed or attempted a course of study.

Criminal Background Check: is the process of looking up and compiling criminal records, commercial records and financial records (in certain instances such as employment screening) of an individual. ADEA AADSAS utilizes Certiphi® to administer all checks www.certiphi.com.

Current Address: The address where an applicant currently resides and where all mail correspondence will be forwarded from AADSAS and the admissions officers.

Customer Service Representatives (CSR’s): Individuals available to assist applicants with responding to inquiries. Representatives are available Monday through Friday, 9:00a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time), except federal holidays. Email: aadsasinfo@aadsasweb.org
Deadline Date: The final date AADSAS would accept the completed online application. Each dental school has a specific deadline date in which AADSAS must have received your completed application. Be sure you are aware of the deadline dates for the schools you choose to apply.

Demographic: Refers to selected population characteristics as used in government or marketing. Commonly-used demographics include race, age, income, disabilities, educational attainment, home ownership, employment status, and even location.

Dental Admission Test (DAT): A dental examination that measures a student’s aptitude and academic performance. Students will complete or take the test prior to applying to dental schools or during their application process. This test is given by the ADA (American Dental Association).

Dental School: An institution dedicated to the education in the field of dentistry.

Dental School Admissions Officers Portal: A web portal provided to the dental schools from ADEA AADSAS that provides detailed information pertaining to applicants that are applying to dental school.

Dentistry Experience: Any work experience completed within the field of dentistry.

Delivered: Refers to an applicant who has submitted their application to AADSAS after completion.

DENTPIN®: (DENTal Personal Identifier Number) is a unique personal identifier for applicants and students involved with the U.S. dental education system and standardized testing programs.

Disadvantaged Applicant: ADEA AADSAS asks applicants to describe any background experiences that may have put you at an educational, social, or economic disadvantage as you prepare to apply to dental schools.

Distance Learning: Courses that are not administered in an actual class room environment.
e-LOE: An electronic letter composed by an evaluator, then uploaded to the Evaluators Portal and electronically included in the applicants application. The subject of this letter can range from your academic performance to your desire to become a dentist.

E-Submit: An applicant must electronically submit their application to ADEA AADSAS after completion. An applicant that has completed the dental school application, paid, and e-submit will allow AADSAS to begin processing.

Email: A system for sending messages from one individual to another via telecommunication links between computers or terminals.

Entering Class Cycle: The class cycle in which the applicant will be accepted, if matriculated.

Essay: A written description or summary in which an applicant explains why an applicant is pursuing an education in dentistry.

Evaluator: A person whom the applicant elects to write a letter of evaluation on their behalf. This person can be either a professional or personal reference.

Exempt course: A course taken where no credits are given.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): The form that the applicant completes to apply for financial assistance from the federal government.

Fee Assistance Program (FAP): Is created for dental school applicants who demonstrate an extreme need for financial assistance. Eligibility for FAP is determined by reviewing the financial resources of both the applicant and the applicant's family. All FAP applicants are required to meet minimum qualifications before applying. This program is not affiliated with any government, colleges or universities, scholarship, grant or fellowship programs. This is an independent program offered by ADEA.

GoDental: Is the official web resource for up-to-date and cutting edge information for the dental education pipeline. The site provides an interactive experience for social networking, creating community, and encouraging dialogue.

Graduate course: A student who holds the bachelor’s or the first professional degree and has decided to take additional courses.
GPA (Grade Point Average): A computation of cumulative credit hours and separate grade point averages for all science courses, all biology, chemistry, and physics courses, non-science course work, and total course work.

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H

Health Professions Advisor: A person can assist in a broad range of issues about dental education and dental schools. They are also able to inform you about the academic preparation necessary to be accepted into a dental school.

Honors course: A course taken as part of an undergraduate honors program, not a course for which you may have received academic honors.

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I

International Institution: An Institution located outside U.S border and is accredited by a regional institution accrediting agency and use English as the primary language of instruction and documentation.

In-Progress: Applicant who has e-submitted the application, sent payment and begun to send their transcripts to the verification department.

J

Journal of Dental Education: The Journal of Dental Education (JDE) is a distinguished monthly journal published by the American Dental Education Association. It is particularly influential as the premier publication for academic dentistry, covering topics ranging from the impact on oral health research of recent findings in such areas as genetics and the brain, to innovative testing methodologies, to curriculum reform, to systematic reviews of clinical trials regarding oral, dental, and craniofacial diseases and disorders.

K

Kaplan: An educational preparation company. It offers test preparation for standardized aptitude tests such as the SAT and advice regarding college admissions.

L

Letter of Evaluation: A letter composed by an evaluator on behalf of an applicant. The subject of this letter can range from your academic performance to your desire to become a dentist.

Letter of Evaluation Portal: Evaluator's are able to log in an evaluation portal and upload letters on behalf of applicants.
**Letter of Evaluation Matching Form:** A form that is used to accompany an applicant’s letter of evaluation. The form serves as identification to the documents to locate the file.

**M**

**Mailing:** A grouping of AADSAS applications that has been processed and mailed directly to the dental schools to which an applicant has designated.

**N**

**Newsletter:** AADSAS sends out annual updates to admissions officers and health profession advisors.

**Non-Science GPA:** A cumulative GPA of all courses that resulted in a grade that is not classified as a science course.

**Official Guide to Dental Schools:** An ADEA publication that provides detailed information about AADSAS participating dental schools. The cost for an official guide is available on ADEA website [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org).

**Opportunities for Minority Students in United States Dental Schools (OMSUSDS):** An ADEA publication designed to help meet the information needs of both minorities considering dentistry as a career and others who have an interest in a responsibility for minority student career development and recruitment. The cost for the OMSUSDS is available on ADEA website [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org).

**Overseas Institution:** An Institution located outside U.S border and is accredited by a regional institution accrediting agency and use English as the primary language of instruction and documentation.

**Official Transcript:** A sealed transcript from your institution. An official transcript must be stamped with the OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT seal.

**Official Transcript Matching Form:** AADSAS requires that all official transcripts are accompanied with a matching form. This form ensures that all transcripts are documented and verified for the correct person(s).

**On Hold:** Applicants who have chosen to draw their application from AADSAS. Applicants placed on hold are due to incompleteness of your application.
**P**

**Password:** A private code in which a student sets in order to activate and access the AADSAS application.

**Permanent Address:** Address information in where an individual can designate mail to be forwarded if in the event he/she has no current address. Sometimes individuals can use a permanent address as alternate address. In common cases, an individual will use a parent or relative’s address as a permanent address.

**Personal Statement:** An opportunity for students to explain why they desire to pursue dental education. Essays should reflect what motivated, academically prepared the student to pursue a career in dentistry. The essay should be articulate, socially conscious, and knowledgeable about the profession.

**Princeton:** An educational preparation company. It offers test preparation for standardized aptitude tests such as the SAT and advice regarding college admissions.

**R**

**Re-applicant:** Any ADEA AADSAS applicant who had a completed and mailed application from the previous ADEA AADSAS cycle who will be reapplying in the current application cycle.

**Re-applicant Code:** The unique code provided to a re-applicant which must be entered when attempting to carry over any information from your prior year’s application.

**Repeated course:** Any course taken more than once at any institution.

**Research Experience:** Any research completed in the field of dentistry. This research could have been in a scholastic setting or with a dentist.

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**S**

**Science GPA:** A cumulative grade of all science courses listed on your official transcripts.

**Special Classification:** Courses considered having a special classification, if they are any of the following: Not Applicable, Repeated Course, Incomplete, Distance Learning/Online Course, Honors, Study Abroad, Advance Placement/CLEP, International Baccalaureate, and Credit by Institutional/Department Exam.

**Subject:** The name of the course that best describes the courses content.

**Supplemental Application:** This is commonly known as the secondary application that is governed by the individual dental schools. The student will complete this application once the dental schools have contacted the applicant.
**Status**: The position of an individual in relation to their application.

**Study Abroad**: A program under the sponsorship of a U.S. or Canadian institution and the international coursework appears on the U.S./Canadian transcript as regular itemized credit, only list the U.S. or Canadian institution on your AADSAS application.

**Supplemental Materials**: Additional documentation requested from the designated dental school. This information should be sent directly to the school. All additional information requested from the school directly is not affiliated with your AADSAS application.

**T**

**Term**: The time or period through which a session may lasts. (I.e. Fall, Spring, Summer I, Summer II, Winter or Interim).

**Term Type**: Fall, Spring, Summer I, Summer II, Winter, or Interim term.

**U**

**Username**: A private code chosen by the user to activate and access their AADSAS application account (to be used in combination with their password).

**Undelivered**: Once the applicant completes an application and e-submit, the application may have errors and the application has been undelivered so that applicant can make revisions.

**V**

**Verification**: A review process in which the Transcript Processing Department determines the accuracy of the information provided on the self reported coursework section of the application.

**Visa Status**: An official code, comprising letters and numbers, assigned to non-U.S. citizens legally residing within the U.S.

**W**

**Withdrawn Courses**: A course an applicant chose and decided not to complete course.

**Work Experience**: Any job related experience that was either paid or volunteered.

**Website**: The ADEA website is available to everyone that is interested in dentistry. The website houses all-important AADSAS, PASS, CAADPID, and Godental. This site provides detailed information about AADSAS, ADEA AADSAS Application, Calendar of Events, Glossary of Terms, funding information and announcements.