

2025–2026

ADEA OFFICIAL GUIDE TO

# DENTAL SCHOOLS

For Students Entering Fall 2026 or Fall 2027



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**ISBN 978-0-9887106-5-8**

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School-specific information and some data were supplied by the dental schools in the summer and fall of 2023. During the same time period, some school-specific data were sourced from ADEA AADSAS® (ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service) and the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service. However, ADEA reminds readers to check with individual dental schools for their most up-to-date information, policies and practices.

## CONTRIBUTOR

Paul Garrard



## Dear Future Dental Professional,

I'm excited to introduce the *2025-26 ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools!*

Oral health is an exciting and gratifying field, and interest in dental school remains steady and strong. Schools continue to innovate, offering more virtual learning opportunities and adapting to a changing world. Whether you're considering a career in clinical practice, research, public health or education, working in oral health is a meaningful way to make a difference in people's lives. As part of integrated health care teams, dental professionals play a key role in improving overall health and well-being.

The ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools is here to help applicants, their families and health professions advisors navigate the journey into dentistry. Choosing this path is a big decision, and this guide provides essential information about the profession, the application process, financial planning and what to expect in dental school.

This year's edition features data tables, worksheets and checklists alongside the comprehensive content on skills, traits, financial information, professional fulfillment and representation in the dental workplace and other resources for success to help with the pursuit of dentistry. Plus, you'll find helpful information detailing the changes to the Dental Admission Test (DAT) scoring and reporting system.

As an Association that represents more than 80 dental schools across the U.S. and Canada, along with more than 15,000 individual members, we hope this guide helps you take the next step toward an exciting and fulfilling career in the oral health professions. Welcome to the community!

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen P. West".

Karen P. West, D.M.D., M.P.H.  
President and CEO  
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### ORDERS:

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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Applying to dental school is an exciting and intense process, filled with anticipation. Right now you may be wondering: Which school is right for me? How will I know? When should I apply? This guide will help you answer these questions and more. Many of the chapters include worksheets to help you gather information, set priorities and brainstorm ideas for your application. You'll also find URLs for websites where you can access additional information and resources to assist you as you go.

## AS YOU READ:

- ☐ Skim the chapter headings to get insight on what is in the chapter.
- ☐ Identify where you are in the process to find the most relevant information for you.
- ☐ Use the worksheets to help you work through the application process, reapplying, personal statement, etc.
- ☐ Review the data tables to get insight on applicants' GPAs, Dental Admission Test (DAT) scores and acceptance rates.

## Five Steps to Applying To Dental School





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*Introduction to the attributes that make dentistry an attractive career and that can help you decide if dentistry is right for you.*

### **Ch. 2. A Dynamic Profession ..... 9**

*Explores the many pathways you can take during your career as a dental professional. You'll learn about general dentistry and the various advanced dental education programs, dentistry's role in promoting overall health and the surprisingly diverse range of settings in which dentists practice.*

### **Ch. 3. The Dental School Experience ..... 15**

*Provides an overview of what you can expect to find in dental school: the topics you'll study, the skills you'll learn, and the technological and curricular advances that are shaping dental education today.*

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## Happiness and the Pursuit of Dentistry

This section presents an overview of the dental profession, including the many career options available to dentists. Chapters in this section describe the experience you can expect to have in dental school, the subjects you are likely to study, the importance of a diverse student body for enriching learning and education and how dental schools are working to make all students feel welcome on campus.

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# YOUR DENTAL CAREER



Photo credit: University of Louisville School of Dentistry

## YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:

- ☐ What Dentistry Can Do For You
- ☐ What You Can Do For Dentistry

When you hear the word dentist, what comes to mind? The family or pediatric dentist you visited as a child? The oral surgeon who extracted your wisdom teeth? The orthodontist who created your beautiful smile? Maybe a relative whose dental practice has always inspired you?

Whatever comes to mind when you think about dentistry, the image probably includes a vision of yourself a few years down the road. You'll learn more in Chapter 2 about the diverse pathways you might take to professional fulfillment in dentistry.

## What Dentistry Can Do for You

**"As an educator, the most rewarding part of my job is playing a role in students' growth during their dental education and witnessing their successes. As a practitioner, I mostly appreciate patient gratification, restoring smiles and saving teeth."**



**LEA HACHEM**

D.D.S., M.S., Diplomate, American Board of Periodontology, Associate Professor and Predoctoral Program Director, Department of Periodontics, UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry

There's a reason the dental profession has consistently ranked at or near the top of the *U.S. News & World Report* 100 Best Jobs list. Dental careers offer professional autonomy, flexible work hours and financial security. Dentists can also stay engaged with their work by following advances in science and technology and by exercising creativity in their practice. Many dentists enjoy both the challenge and independence of running a small business and the status that comes with being a recognized leader in the community. Best of all, dentists can sleep well at night, knowing they make a real difference in the lives of their patients and in the communities they serve.

This section discusses some of the leading reasons people choose dental careers.

### PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION

Caring for others is a reason to pursue any health career and dentistry is no exception. Eliminating pain, restoring smiles, diagnosing early-stage cancer and preventing unnecessary loss of natural teeth—these activities may be routine for dentists, but they can be transformative for persons needing care. Knowing that your clinical care positively affects people's lives is one of the best reasons to pursue a dental career.

### INDEPENDENCE

Dental school graduates can begin practicing as soon as they receive their professional licenses. Many choose to become sole practitioners who own their own businesses—providing them an unusual degree of freedom in shaping their practice environments.

### EARNING POTENTIAL

Incomes vary by location and type of practice, but all dentists can expect to earn a solid income. According to the 2021 Survey of Dental Practice published by the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute, in 2020, the average net income for an independent practitioner who owned all or part of the practice was \$170,160 for general dentists and \$323,780 for dental specialists. The survey also reported that, in 2020, dentists who worked for others also earned high salaries and were well-positioned to pay off their student loans.

### FLEXIBILITY

Dentists are rarely on call and can often control when and where they practice. Combined, those factors are a big plus if you're looking for a challenging career with an appealing work/life balance.

### DIVERSE CAREER OPTIONS

In Chapter 2, you will learn that dentists practice in a wide range of advanced education disciplines and practice settings. In addition, they can pursue careers in research, teaching and public policy at any stage of their careers.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

With a flexible work schedule and an annual income well above the national norm, many dentists derive additional satisfaction from providing reduced-cost or free care to those who lack access to affordable dental care.

**"One of the things I love most about my job is that every day is different. Some days I'm mostly a dentist, and I feel like I have the best job in the world because I get to take care of little kids. Some days I'm mostly a teacher, and I feel like I have the best job in the world because I get to work with students and residents in the classroom and clinic. Some days are about other things, and some days are completely unexpected. It's always an adventure!"**










**ERIN L. GROSS**

D.D.S., Ph.D., M.S., Assistant Professor and Clinical Director of Pediatric Dentistry, The Ohio State University College of Dentistry

\*Originally appeared in the ADEA "Five Questions With..." web series



## What Makes a Good Dentist?\*

TOP SKILLS for a Successful Dentist:	TOP TRAITS for a Successful Dentist:
 <b>1. Interpersonal Skills:</b> Communicating and interacting well with other people.	 <b>1. Integrity:</b> Strong moral compass.
 <b>2. Emotional Intelligence:</b> Ability to identify and manage their own emotions, as well as the feelings of others. <sup>1</sup>	 <b>2. Compassionate:</b> The feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering.
 <b>Problem Solving:</b> Finding solutions to problems. <sup>1</sup>	 <b>3. Honesty:</b> Fairness and straightforwardness of conduct.
 <b>3. Decision Making:</b> Using knowledge and experience to make important decisions.	<b>4. Confidence:</b> Feeling sure of yourself and your abilities.
<b>4. Leadership:</b> Motivating and directing others.	<b>5. Ambitious:</b> A strong desire to achieve success by meeting goals. <sup>2</sup>
<b>5. Strategic Thinking:</b> Analyzing opportunities from a broad perspective and understanding.	<b>Creativity:</b> Using imagination to make or invent something. <sup>2</sup>
<b>6. Innovation:</b> Growth by developing new or improving existing ideas.	
<b>7. Efficiency:</b> Using time and energy in a positive way.	

\* Answers in table are taken from a survey of dental school administrators, conducted by the ADEA Office of Educational Pathways.

<sup>1</sup> Equal number of respondents ranked "Emotional Intelligence" and "Problem Solving" as top skill of a successful dentist.

<sup>2</sup> Equal number of respondents ranked "Creativity" and "Ambitious" as a top trait of a successful dentist.

## What You Can Do for Dentistry

Equally important, today's dentists must be guided by a passion for life-long learning, so they can succeed in a rapidly changing care-delivery environment. While the knowledge and technical skills that allow someone to extract a tooth or treat decay are still central to a dental education, today's dental students prepare to do much, much more.

Information is expanding with unprecedented speed. Considering the many advances in technology, research and clinical practice, in today's environment, dentists must be willing and able to:

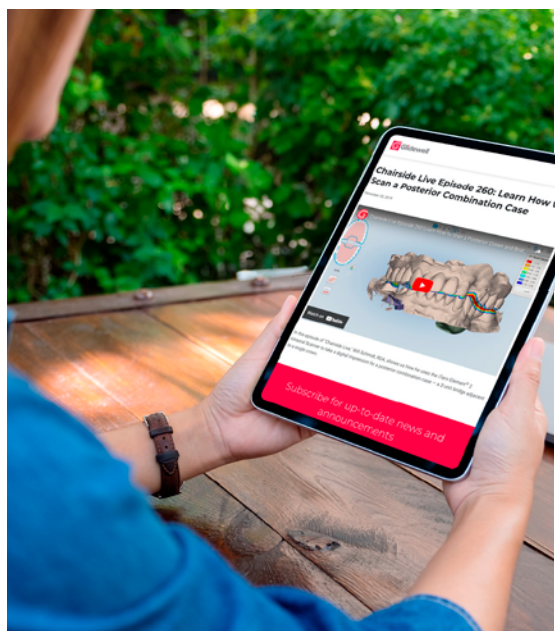
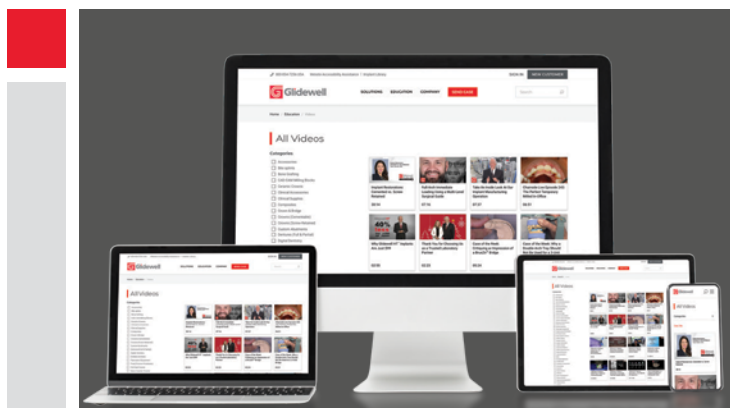
- Acquire new knowledge.
- Evaluate evidence to support new approaches to treatment.
- Understand and respond to public health challenges.

- Adjust to a changing health system that has begun evaluating the performance of all health professionals.
- Adapt to new technologies that affect every aspect of the profession—from treating dental conditions, to manufacturing artificial teeth, to tracking population health or conducting research.

The arrival of so many exciting changes in dentistry poses new challenges that were unimaginable a few decades ago. So, if you're still wondering what you can do for dentistry, the answer is: A lot! As long as you enter dental school with curiosity, compassion and a commitment to professional values and hard work, you'll be able to contribute to this dynamic profession and its evolution in the decades ahead.

# GET PRACTICAL CLINICAL EDUCATION TO HELP YOU EXCEL IN SCHOOL AND BEYOND

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866-791-9539



## CHAPTER 2

# A DYNAMIC PROFESSION



Photo credit: University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry

### YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:

- ☐ The Oral Cavity: Just the Beginning
- ☐ Professional Fulfillment: Many Pathways to Consider
- ☐ Twelve Practice Opportunities in Addition to General Dentistry

Dentistry is an enormously rewarding career that offers an exciting range of professional opportunities. As a dentist, you'll promote oral health, ride the cutting edge of scientific research and provide services that enhance lives. In this chapter, you'll discover what it means to be a dental professional and learn more about the many directions a career in dentistry might take you.

## The Oral Cavity: Just the Beginning

Dentistry is a rapidly changing profession, full of new challenges and opportunities for dental professionals. Dentists continue to prevent and treat problems, such as tooth decay and periodontal (gum-related) disease, and they work to address malocclusion (misaligned bite) and face and mouth irregularities before these cause additional problems. But the growing understanding of the connection between dental health and overall health is also redefining how we think about dentistry.

While caring for teeth remains central to the profession, today's dentists also contribute to maintaining their patients' overall well-being. Proper dental care not only produces healthy teeth and gums; it also prevents the development or progression of some serious health problems that affect the rest of the body. Left untreated, dental conditions can result in pain, improper chewing or digestion, dry mouth, abnormal speech and altered facial appearance. Poor oral health and unsightly teeth can impact a person's self-esteem, which leads to avoidance of relationships and less competitiveness for jobs. Improved oral health can change that.

Recent studies also reveal a link between dental disease and critical health conditions, such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Dentists educate their patients about these connections. They also save lives because they are often the first to recognize the signs of these systemic diseases.

Additionally, scientific advances coupled with technological innovations have greatly expanded and enhanced the services dentists have traditionally provided. Today's dentists use digital radiography to improve diagnosis and treatment planning. They employ newly engineered materials and cutting-edge techniques to fabricate replacement teeth and anchor them in the jaw. Today's dentists apply nonsurgical means to treat early-stage disease. Dentists may employ teledentistry to enhance in person visits and follow-up care.

And that's just what's possible today. In a multitude of areas, dentists are leading the charge in creating innovations that can improve health in ways we've never before imagined. There's no question that this dynamic profession has an exciting future.

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## Professional Fulfillment: Many Pathways to Consider

As a dentist, you can explore an exciting array of career opportunities and choose the one best suited to your goals, personality and lifestyle. These include:

### ACADEMIC DENTISTRY

A career in academia offers an intellectually stimulating environment and an opportunity to shape the future of dentistry and the future practitioner. As a dental educator, you will combine teaching with clinical practice, engage in research, publish your findings in academic journals, explore new technologies, become an administrator or all of the above. You can begin this profession right out of dental school or you can first pursue practice or research. Many practicing dentists enjoy sharing their expertise as part-time clinical educators. The opportunity to teach and mentor/influence students sets the stage for tomorrow's dentists.

### DENTAL RESEARCH

As a researcher, you will improve care through scientific discovery. Research opportunities run the gamut, from the exploration of the microscopic organisms that inhabit the mouth to the study of interventions—such as water fluoridation—that improve dental health at the population level. Researchers also play key roles in the development of new dental materials and the creation of techniques that can revolutionize dental practice. Many researchers work in federal facilities, such as the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of the National Institutes of Health. Others work in the private sector or as university faculty. All dental schools provide opportunities for students to engage in research. Such early exposure will help you determine if this career path is right for you.



### MILITARY DENTISTRY

The benefits of a U.S. military dental career are many. You can serve in general practice or as a specialist, on full-time active duty or part-time in the reserve. You'll enjoy a ready-made client base, opportunities for continuing education and generous benefits—including opportunities for substantial assistance financing dental school. Most of all, you'll have the chance to serve your country while also pursuing your professional passion. Non-U.S. citizens may have similar opportunities in their home countries.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

You may also sign on for a position with the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. As an officer in the corps, you will provide dental care services to communities with great dental need and disadvantaged communities. While improving oral health for those who most need it, you'll also enjoy leadership opportunities and a desirable work/life balance. As is the case for the U.S. military, this employer offers generous assistance in paying your student loans. If you are not a U.S. citizen, contact your home country's government to learn if similar opportunities are available to you.

Some people have a desire to provide care to those with great need and will work in areas such as the Indian Health Service, Federally Qualified Health Centers or other state or locally operated dental clinics.

### PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY

As a public policy expert, you can reach beyond the care of individuals and use your knowledge to promote dental health on the community, state, regional or national level. Policy jobs might take you to universities or government agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. You might also work for an association like the American Dental Education Association or the American Dental Association. A career in dental policy might even lead you to work with elected officials on developing health-related legislation.

### GLOBAL HEALTH

A career in global health is an excellent choice for those already focused on serving the broader world

community. In this career, you'll provide dental care to individuals in developing countries where access to care is rare or nonexistent. Employers who might hire dentists in this capacity include the World Health Organization and other global public health organizations. For more information, see the International Federation of Dental Educators and Associations at [www.ifdea.org](http://www.ifdea.org) and the World Dental Federation at [www.fdiworldental.org](http://www.fdiworldental.org).

### SELF-EMPLOYED PRIVATE PRACTICE

This option continues to be the most popular choice for new dentists. As a solo practitioner or as a partner in a group practice, you will have the opportunity to practice dentistry with a high degree of independence while also exercising your entrepreneurial muscles. In private practice, you will have the flexibility to structure your professional life according to your individual needs.

### INTEGRATED PRIMARY CARE PRACTICE

In this innovative arrangement, you will provide dental care to persons needing care in concert with other primary care health professionals. You and your colleagues will share information and consult in a sustained manner to accurately diagnose emergent diseases and underlying illnesses. As part of an integrated practice, you will play an important role in raising awareness of the relationship between poor oral health and chronic conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes. Another component of integrated practice is working in a hospital or health care system in the provision of interprofessional practice.

### MULTISPECIALTY DENTAL CLINIC

Multispecialty clinics offer opportunities to regularly collaborate with a variety of dental specialists. In this stimulating work environment, you will be part of a multidisciplinary team of professionals who provide dental care under the umbrella of a single practice.

### SALARIED EMPLOYMENT

Employed dentists make up a growing portion of the total dental workforce. According to the *ADEA Survey of Dental School Seniors, 2022 Graduating Class*, almost

a third of the 2022 overall respondents who planned to go into private practice immediately upon graduation intended to join a Dental Service Organization (30%). This option eliminates or reduces the time dentists deal with accounting, marketing, legal obligations, human resource management and the other responsibilities

associated with running a small business. Salaried employment also offers regular work hours and the chance to practice dentistry in a range of settings. These might include a corporation that provides onsite dental care, a managed health care organization or a community health center.

## Twelve Practice Opportunities in Addition to General Dentistry

After graduating from dental school, you can seek licensure and begin practicing or pursue advanced dental education in one of several advanced dental education programs.

### General Dentistry

If you choose a career in general dentistry, you'll be in good company. In recent years, almost 80% of dentists have chosen this career path. As a general dentist, you will be able to use your preventive, diagnostic, surgical and rehabilitative skills to restore damaged or missing tooth structures as soon as you receive your license to practice. You will also treat diseases of the bone and the soft tissues in the mouth and work with your patients to prevent dental diseases.

A General Practice Residency or an Advanced Education in General Dentistry program can expand even further your career options and practice scope as a general dentist. These programs typically run an average of 12 to 13 months in length.

### Advanced Dental Education Programs

If you pursue advanced dental education after receiving your doctoral degree, you will also have the option of pursuing one of 12 recognized clinical advanced dental education programs.



#### DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

In this profession, you'll develop policies and programs that can improve health at the community, state or national levels. This dental career requires advanced education. You can choose from programs offering a certificate, master's (M.P.H.) or doctoral

(Dr.P.H.) degree. The length of these programs varies depending upon the educational route you choose. At some dental schools, you may be able to pursue a dual degree by combining an M.P.H. with a dental doctoral degree while you are still in school.



#### ENDODONTICS

Endodontists work to retain a person's natural teeth. As an endodontist, you will perform procedures, such as root canals and other root surgeries; therapies to preserve nerves, blood vessels and connective tissue; and procedures to repair tooth injuries or perforations (holes) that occur in teeth.



#### ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY

In this career, you will study the causes, processes and effects of diseases that originate in the mouth or jaw. You will diagnose cases using clinical, radiographic, microscopic, biochemical and other tests and perform biopsies in consultation with other dentists and physicians. Although you will not directly treat persons needing care, you will assist clinicians in providing dental care.



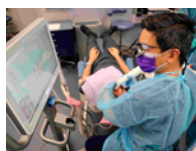
#### ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL RADIOLOGY

As a radiologist in this growing area, you will diagnose and treat orofacial diseases and conditions. To take and interpret conventional and digital images, you will need advanced education in radiation physics, biology, safety and hygiene. You will learn to use such imaging technologies as computed tomography scans and magnetic resonance imaging.



### ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Study in this challenging area will prepare you to diagnose and surgically treat a wide range of conditions. These include cleft lip and palate; facial injuries; head, neck and oral cancers; and dental implants. Oral surgeons can also perform cosmetic procedures. Some education programs offer certificates while others involve residency programs and award M.D. degrees.



### ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS

This area focuses on treating and preventing problems caused by missing teeth and other dental abnormalities. If you pursue this discipline, applying braces is just one of the ways you will work to establish normal function and appearance for your patients.



### PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

As a pediatric dentist, you will treat children and educate families about the importance of good oral hygiene to prevent tooth decay. You will also treat adults with special needs.



### PERIODONTICS

Periodontists diagnose and treat diseases of the gums, oral mucous membranes and other tissues, as well as the underlying bones that support the teeth. Periodontists also place and repair dental implants. This discipline is critically important because periodontal disease is the most common cause of tooth loss among adults.

## Advanced Dental Education Programs, 2023–24

Program	Number of Programs	Avg. Length in Months	First-year Enrollees
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	94	13.3	765
Dental Anesthesiology	8	35.6	27
Dental Public Health	14	14.4	35
Endodontics	56	25.4	223
General Practice Residency	169	12.1	1027
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	15	35.6	15
Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	9	28.7	20
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	99	53.3	271
Clinical Fellowship in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	10	16.9	9
Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics	68	31.3	417
Clinical Fellowship in Orthodontics	7	12	9
Oral Medicine	6	27.7	16
Orofacial Pain	12	24	31
Pediatric Dentistry	85	24	497
Periodontics	57	35	196
Prosthodontics	48	35.2	156
Maxillofacial Prosthetics	8	12	16
Combined Prosthodontics/Maxillofacial Prosthetics	1	48	N/A
Combined Orthodontics/Periodontics	1	N/A	N/A



### PROSTHODONTICS

As a prosthodontist, you will help individuals achieve better oral functioning and health by replacing missing natural teeth with appliances, such as dentures, bridges and implants. You will also specialize in treating temporomandibular joint disorder (TMJ or TMD) and other conditions that cause problems with the joint and muscles that control jaw movement.



### DENTAL ANESTHESIOLOGY

Dental anesthesiologists focus on pain management, anxiety and overall patient health during dental, oral, maxillofacial and adjunctive surgical or diagnostic procedures. The specialty is dedicated to promoting patient safety as well as access to care for all dental patients, including young children and patients with special health care needs.



### ORAL MEDICINE

Oral medicine specialists are responsible for the oral health care of medically complex patients and for the diagnosis and management of medically related diseases, disorders and conditions affecting the oral and maxillofacial region.



### OROFACIAL PAIN

This is a specialty of dentistry that encompasses the diagnosis, management and treatment of pain disorders of the jaw, mouth, face, head and neck. The specialty is dedicated to the evidence-based understanding of the underlying pathophysiology, etiology, prevention and treatment of these disorders and improving access to interdisciplinary patient care.



## CHAPTER 3

# THE DENTAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

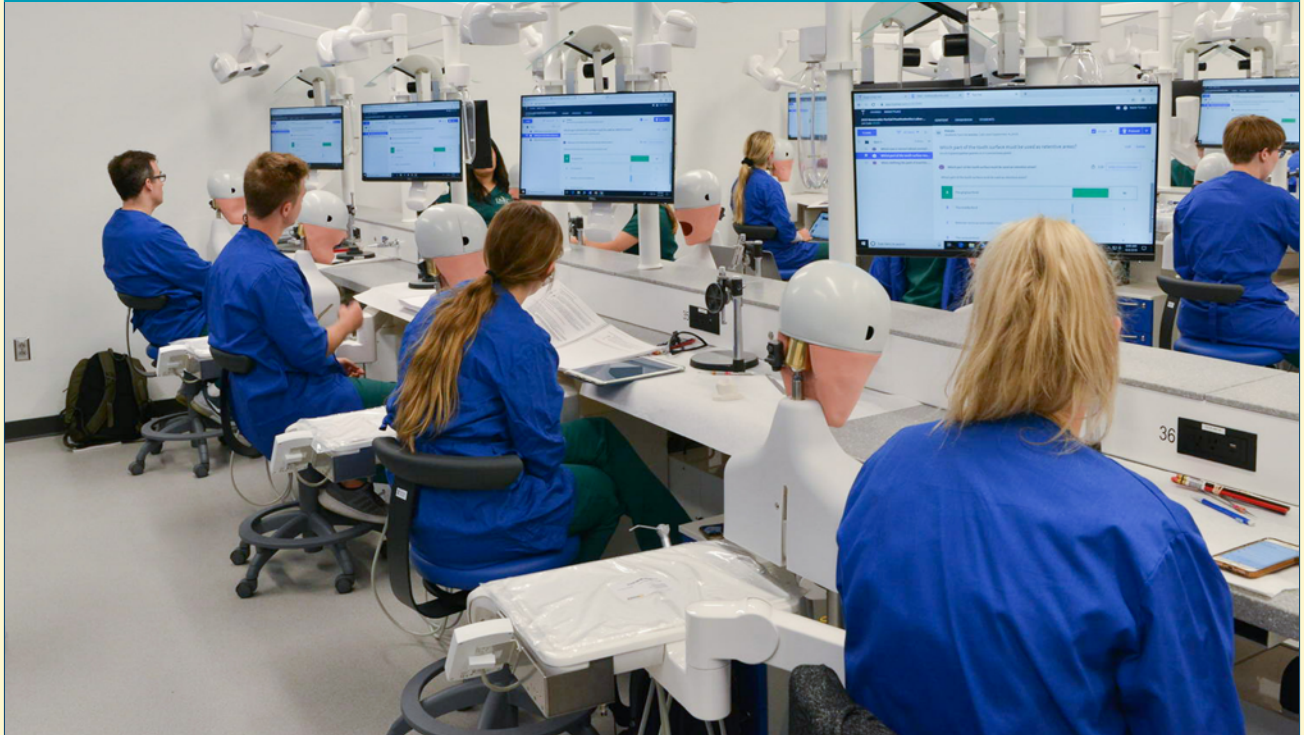


Photo credit: University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry

### THIS CHAPTER DESCRIBES:

- ☐ What You Will Learn
- ☐ How You Will Learn
- ☐ How to Start Preparing Now

Each dental school has its own unique personality, but all dental schools will give you the knowledge and skills you need to practice dentistry. In this chapter, we'll outline the curricular content you'll find at any dental school and give you a taste of the various ways schools deliver that content to students.

This information, together with the guidance in Chapter 8, will prepare you to ask the kinds of questions that can help you figure out which dental school is right for you.

## What You Will Learn

### BASIC SCIENCES AND PATHOLOGY

At most schools, students begin by strengthening their grounding in the basic life sciences. Building on the foundational biological knowledge acquired in college, students develop a more in-depth understanding of the structure and function of the body and the diseases that affect it. Chemistry-based courses prepare future dental students to learn about drug classifications and their mechanisms of action. And physical sciences will be translated into the mechanics of treatments, like surgical extractions. A thorough understanding of these topics is an essential part of your preparation to become a health professional who will practice dentistry.

Classes typically include:

- Anatomy (structure of the human body),
- Physiology (functions of the human body),
- Histology (microscopic examination of tissues and organs),
- Microbiology (microscopic organisms, such as bacteria and viruses),
- Pathology (the disease process) and
- Pharmacology (action of drugs on living organisms and tissues).

### CLINICAL SCIENCES

Dental students also study the oral cavity in great detail through courses such as:

- Oral anatomy (structure of the mouth),
- Oral pathology (diseases of the mouth) and
- Oral histology (anatomy of the tissues found in the mouth).

### MANUAL DEXTERITY

In order to perform dental procedures, a dentist must be able to work with precision on an extremely small scale. Dental students spend time developing the eye-hand coordination needed to grasp and manipulate small objects and make precise movements.

### CLINICAL SKILLS

Dental students also learn the use of universal precautions (UP) to maintain the health of their patients and themselves. In addition, proper assemblage and cleaning of work areas, along with the appropriate placement of coverings on treatment equipment and the care providers, is taught. Lastly, the use and care of diagnostic equipment and record keeping are explored in these courses.

### DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT PLANNING

Recognizing the signs of illnesses and planning appropriate treatments that restore health make up the heart of dental practice. Typically, there will be several different options to treat each patient. Dental students learn to choose the best possible options to care for their patients, and learn to work with the patients' wants, needs and abilities to maintain the work they will render. Dental students learn to be keen observers and careful listeners, to think critically and to use the best available scientific evidence when determining how to treat persons needing care.

### RESTORING DISEASED AND DAMAGED TEETH AND GUMS

To prepare for practice, dental students learn surgical skills and study the materials used to reconstruct teeth. They also learn about the use of prescription drugs, other medical interventions and lifestyle changes that can restore individuals' dental health and function and they learn about collaborating with dental specialists (see Chapter 2). Dental school also prepares students to recognize conditions that impact their patients' overall health and to make referrals to appropriate health providers or social services when needed.

### PREVENTING DENTAL DISEASE

The vast majority of oral diseases are preventable. Dental students learn strategies for educating their patients about good oral hygiene and the oral health consequences of such behaviors as smoking. Schools also educate prospective dentists about public health interventions, such as community water fluoridation,

that can protect the health of entire populations. Dental students also participate in service learning and volunteering as a way to contribute to the health of communities in need of care.

### SKILLS NEEDED FOR PRACTICE

These include business and professional skills, such as communicating effectively with patients and coworkers, managing a dental team, using an electronic health record, working collaboratively with other health professionals and understanding the ethics that should guide professional practice. Some schools also teach

students about public insurance programs and best practices for using social media.

### ADDITIONAL PATHWAYS

Many schools offer specific educational opportunities that reflect the school's mission. These include optional curricular tracks that students may follow to prepare themselves for careers in global oral health, basic science research, academic dentistry or caring for communities with dental need.

For more details on the curriculum of a specific school, see the school's profile in the [ADEA Dental School Explorer](#) or visit the school's website.

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## How You Will Learn

Educational systems are always evolving to meet the needs of learners and the changing practice world that awaits them. By and large, today's classrooms reflect the technological advances that have reshaped education across the professions. You'll find:

### EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

Traditional lectures may be enhanced with interactive tools, such as:

- Smart boards for interactive visuals;
- Survey clickers that allow instructors to assess students' understanding of course materials in real time;
- Lecture capture, which lets students review lectures at their leisure while pausing and rewinding as often as needed; and

- Simulation training through virtual technologies that permit students to practice skills and receive feedback before interacting directly with persons needing care.

### INTEGRATED CURRICULA

While many dental schools still devote most of the first two years of study to the basic sciences, many now integrate these foundational courses with courses related to clinical practice and behavioral sciences. Students may even have the opportunity to assist in the dental clinic, engage in preventive activities or educate individuals about dental health as early as the first year in dental school.

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## How To Start Preparing Now

### CASE-BASED AND PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

Most dental courses now incorporate case analysis to help students understand how new knowledge applies in the real world. During case-based or problem-based learning, students typically analyze patient cases in teams to acquire knowledge and develop clinical reasoning skills.

### CAMPUS CLINIC

Most schools provide the bulk of their clinical training within the dental school. Often students are assigned to teams that function as group practices that provide comprehensive care to a consistent group of individuals. These clinics are typically outfitted with integrated electronic medical records that bring information straight to the appropriate workstation.

Some clinics also feature operating microscopes, the latest imaging devices and cutting-edge technologies such as three-dimensional printing.

### COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION

In the last decade, more and more clinical education has migrated to the community. This form of service learning, sometimes called externships, gives students a chance to experience a wide range of work environments and populations. At schools that emphasize community-based education, students may spend 10 or more weeks during their fourth year in community practice settings. Most schools also offer opportunities for students to engage in short service trips abroad.

### INTERPROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Consensus has grown around the idea that health professionals must collaborate to deliver the best quality care. As a result, schools have instituted new ways for students in various health professions programs and schools to learn together. These opportunities include joint classes in subjects such as anatomy or ethics;

engagement in interprofessional simulated clinical practice with actors or sophisticated mannequins; and partnerships that place students from different professions in community settings where they work as a team to treat individuals with complex conditions.

### ASSESSMENT

While most dental schools assess students using traditional grading schemes, a growing number of schools now employ pass/no-pass systems of assessment. Schools using pass/no-pass have various methods to ensure class ranking is still available for students who apply to specialties programs. Regardless of the grading system in use, dental students are held to a high standard and must demonstrate competence (the ability to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired) before advancing at each stage in their educations.



# BELONGING AND SUCCESS



Photo credit: University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry

## YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:

- ☐ Why Representation in the Dental Workforce Matters
- ☐ Expanding Access to Dental School
- ☐ Making Everyone Feel Welcome

Dental schools are eager to ensure that individuals from a broad spectrum of backgrounds and life experiences have the opportunity to go to dental school and feel welcome in the profession. This chapter will help you understand the rationale behind expanding perspectives in the profession and the efforts dental schools are making to recruit and retain a wide range of students.

## Why Representation in the Dental Workforce Matters

What is representation? We often think of representation as the presence of individuals from a variety of races or ethnic backgrounds. That is partly correct, but a well-rounded dental workforce also includes individuals with a wide range of experiences, interests and points of view. These perspectives may be shaped by self-identity, age, disability, socioeconomic status, geographic location and by racial or ethnic background. This chapter uses the term “representation” to describe the breadth of individual and human experience.

A dental workforce that lacks a broad range of perspectives can develop gaps in cultural awareness that contribute to health care disparities. Dental schools aim to better serve those most in need of care by creating a generation of dentists that reflect the varied backgrounds and lived experiences of the population.

Three areas that are noted to improve public health:

### ACCESS

Health professionals from historically underrepresented backgrounds and socio-economically disadvantaged communities are more likely to serve medically underserved populations.

### INTERPERSONAL CARE

Patients often experience improved interpersonal care when treated by health care providers who share similar lived experiences or cultural backgrounds.

### COMPREHENSION AND FOLLOW-UP

People who speak languages other than English are more likely to understand medical information and keep follow-up appointments when their health care provider speaks their primary language.

While dental schools prioritize a welcoming environment, some demographic groups, including people from low-income backgrounds, remain underrepresented in the profession. A group is considered underrepresented when the proportion of that group in the profession is significantly lower than its proportion in the general population. Historically, certain communities have faced barriers to entering the field of dentistry, including Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander people. In 2023, 19% of dental school applicants came from these groups.

That said, expanding representation in the dental workforce is not solely about increasing access to providers for patients with shared backgrounds. It also involves ensuring that all dentists are equipped to effectively meet the needs and expectations of individuals from a broad range of lived experiences, including those whose culture and values differ from their own.

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## Expanding Access to Dental School

Dental schools aim to broaden access to dental education and reduce disparities in dental care. To achieve these goals, institutions are actively recruiting and admitting applicants who, together, will form vibrant and well-rounded student bodies. Pathway programs strive to expand the pool of applicants from historically underrepresented backgrounds. Meanwhile, recent changes to admissions practices help schools identify a wide range of candidates with promising futures in dentistry.

### Pathway Programs

These dental workforce programs support institutional efforts to expand access to the health professions by offering individuals educational enrichment opportunities and additional pathways toward a career in dentistry.

## SUMMER HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAM (SHPEP)

SHPEP is a free summer preparatory program designed to enhance the academic and career experience of students from backgrounds that have been historically underrepresented in the health professions. SHPEP formerly known as the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP)—has been preparing students to enter dental or medical school for over 35 years and has program sites across the United States. College students—whether rising sophomores or juniors from colleges, universities or community colleges—who are interested in medical, dental and other health careers are eligible to attend. The program is sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with ADEA and the Association of American Medical Colleges serving as the National Program Office. To obtain additional information, visit their website at [shpep.org](https://shpep.org)

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**“Another valuable aspect of the [SHPEP] program was the mentorship we received from experienced dental professionals. In all these activities, we were with medical and dental students who were willing to share their knowledge and answer our questions. This was especially helpful when it came to preparing for dental school and navigating the application process.”**



**EMYLI PERALTA**  
Class of 2025, University of Pittsburgh  
School of Dental Medicine\*

## SCHOOL-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

Many schools offer their own summer programs or other preparatory opportunities designed to enhance the educational or career experience of students historically underrepresented in the health professions. Please contact dental schools that you are interested in to inquire about what specific programs they offer.

## POSTBACCALAUREATE (POSTBAC) PROGRAMS

Postbac programs provide an alternative route for students who, for a variety of reasons, may not be ready to apply to dental school immediately after college. See Chapter 7 to explore whether a postbac program could be the right option for you.

## Holistic Review

This method of evaluating applicants, sometimes referred to as “whole-file review,” involves schools looking beyond GPAs and standardized test scores. To gain a more balanced view of the applicant’s potential, admissions officers consider each candidate’s life experiences, background and personal characteristics. See Chapter 5, “The Review Process,” for a description of growing admissions practice.

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\*Originally appeared in the ADEA GoDental May 2023 newsletter

## Making Everyone Feel Welcome

Efforts to expand representation in dental education by recruiting and admitting students from a wide range of backgrounds are important steps in strengthening the dental workforce. However, once students are admitted, they need to feel connected to the campus community and the profession to succeed.

**HURE students represented 17% among first-time, first-year enrollees of dental students in 2023, an increase from 13% in 2013.\***

\*First appeared in ADEA Trends in Dental Education, 2023–24

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) lists a well-rounded and representative student body as an essential element of effective dental education.

CODA's *Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs* emphasize the importance of different perspectives in classrooms, allowing students to learn from interactions with peers who think differently from them. At their best, exchanges with classmates from different backgrounds help students to re-examine their own beliefs and gain insight into the views and values of others.

Most dental schools are actively working to create a sense of belonging where all students feel respected and supported. These efforts may be reflected in program design, instructional strategies or in clubs, activities and student organizations that foster a sense of belonging and positive campus experience for all students.

### DACA Students

DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, is a federal policy introduced in 2012 that provides certain individuals who arrived in the United States as children with temporary protection from deportation and the opportunity to obtain a renewable two-year work permit. This policy has allowed many students who meet the eligibility criteria to pursue higher education, including applying to some U.S. dental schools.

While students with DACA status may encounter additional challenges in their dental education journey, various resources and support systems are available to assist them.

### PREHEALTH DREAMERS

This is a network and information-sharing community for prehealth students with undocumented status, representing various career interests. More information is available at [phdreamers.org](https://phdreamers.org).

### CALIFORNIA

California offers in-state tuition, financial aid and institutional funding for students who qualify under state residency policies, including those with deferred status under DACA.

### FORD FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

These fellowship programs provide financial support to students with DACA status who are admitted using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).

### OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Financial aid opportunities may also be available through state educational institutions or private funding sources.



## SUPPORT SYSTEMS

No matter where you attend dental school, you can be confident that your chosen school wants you to succeed. Most schools provide a multitude of resources to help keep students engaged and on track. Ask about tutoring, mentoring, career counseling and health and mental health services. Many schools provide a range of services and supports for various student populations, including international students, English-language learners, students with disabilities and students who are parents, among others. These may include clubs or events that celebrate different perspectives and provide opportunities for students from historically marginalized backgrounds in oral health to connect with one another and engage in campus life.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Several national organizations exist to support specific demographic groups within dentistry, and many of these have student memberships or chapters. These organizations include:

- **American Association of Women Dentists**

A national nonprofit dedicated to advancing, connecting and enriching the lives of women dentists. To obtain additional information, visit their website at [aawd.org](http://aawd.org)

- **Hispanic Dental Association**

A national nonprofit dedicated to eliminating oral health disparities in the Hispanic community through service, education, advocacy and leadership. To obtain additional information, visit their website at [hdassoc.org](http://hdassoc.org)

- **Society of American Indian Dentists**

A national nonprofit dedicated both to promoting the oral health of American Indians and Alaska Natives and to advocating for dental professionals from these communities. To obtain additional information, visit their website at [thesaidonline.org](http://thesaidonline.org)

- **Student National Dental Association**

This 50-year-old association aims to promote, aid and support the academic and social environment of students from historically marginalized backgrounds in dental education. To obtain additional information, visit their website at [sndaonline.net](http://sndaonline.net)

Other organizations that support students in their goal of becoming a dentist include:

- **American Student Dental Association**

This student-run organization protects and advances the rights, interests and welfare of dental students through services, information, education, representation and advocacy. To obtain additional information, visit their website at [asdanet.org](http://asdanet.org)

- **ADEA Council of Students, Residents and Fellows (ADEA COSRF)**

ADEA COSRF is a student-run council within ADEA that serves as the national voice and advocate for all students, residents and fellows in the dental education community by addressing the issues that shape the present and future of dental education. To obtain additional information, visit their website at [adea.org](http://adea.org)

## You Can Do It! How to Prepare and Apply

This section will help you navigate the process of applying to dental school. It provides guidance on what you can do to lay an educational foundation for dental school, whether you're in high school or college, or you've graduated from college. Information is presented to help you work your way, step by step, through the process of applying to dental school. We also provide guidance for prospective dental students who are changing careers, taking a gap year, or re-applying.

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# LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR DENTAL SCHOOL



## YOU'LL FIND TIPS FOR:

- ☐ High School Students
- ☐ College Students
- ☐ College Graduates Interested in Postbaccalaureate Studies
- ☐ The Review Process

Before you begin the application process, it's best to lay a solid foundation. Having a strong background will improve your chances for success, regardless of your stage of life.

To help you become a strong candidate, a section on the review process also describes what dental schools look for in applicants.

## High School: The Well-rounded Student

It's never too early to explore dentistry and lay a foundation for your dental career. A great way for high school students to deepen their understanding of dental medicine is to observe a local dentist. Ask if you can shadow your personal dentist for a few days, or apply for a part-time job or volunteer position that will allow you to observe as a dentist performs procedures and interacts with persons needing care. These experiences will help you gauge your comfort with the profession, allow you to ask questions and help you decide if dentistry is the right path for you.

Academic preparation is also important. Courses in chemistry, biology and algebra provide a solid foundation in math and science that will benefit you in college as well as in dental school. If you find you enjoy these subjects, consider taking advanced placement classes for a greater challenge.

The humanities and social sciences are also important. Classes in these areas will expose you to new ideas

while teaching you how to think critically and communicate effectively. No matter what courses you take, developing strong study skills and learning to be a good student who works well with others will prepare you for dental school.

Rounding out your academic program with diverse extracurricular activities will also shape you as an applicant and reward you as a dental student. Participating in sports or a musical group can enhance your eye-hand coordination, time-management skills and ability to work as part of a team. Community service is a great way to demonstrate your willingness to help others and your ability to collaborate with peers. Volunteering will also give you experiences and insights to help guide your career decisions.

All of these experiences will help you become an adult who can make positive contributions to dentistry and the world at large.

## Creating Your Own Pathway

While some students begin college committed to dentistry, others explore different interests before settling on a career. Regardless of when you decide to pursue dental school, these tips can help you plan your coursework, enhance your college experience and strengthen your appeal as an applicant.

## High School: So, you decided to explore a career in oral health – now what?

### 1. EXPLORE:

- **Shadow:** Ask your dentist if you can shadow them for a preview of the day-to-day operations of a dental professional to see if it's the right fit for you.

### 2. PREPARE:

- **Academics:** Take the appropriate courses (Biology/Chemistry/Algebra) to build a solid foundation for applying to college.
- **Skills Building:** Develop good habits early—Study skills/Communication/time management.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** The things you do outside the classroom are also important – consider how sports or music supports your hand/eye coordination and how volunteering shows your willingness to help others.
- **Apply to College:** To pursue a dental career you must complete a four-year degree – Consider a major that includes STEM prerequisites, the SAT/ACT and look for a program that supports your personal and professional goals.

### 3. ENGAGE:

- Talk to your family and friends about the dental professions and see if they can connect you with a current dental student or practitioner.
- Reach out to current seniors at your school to talk to them about the college application process.





WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL . . .			
First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year
<input type="checkbox"/> Explore careers with friends and family <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to advisor - academic planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure academic pathway includes STEM courses available <input type="checkbox"/> College Prep consideration <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer / shadow	<input type="checkbox"/> Talk to advisors and peers about college and careers <input type="checkbox"/> Explore colleges / majors available <input type="checkbox"/> SAT Prep/SAT/ACT	<input type="checkbox"/> Applying to college <input type="checkbox"/> FAFSA / funding college

## College: Dentistry your top career choice? Here are tips for enhancing your college experience and exploring career options.

### 4. BUILDING A PLAN

#### Academics:

- Meet with your college advisor for help selecting a major that supports your dental career aspirations.
- Consider taking a variety of courses to expose yourself to different perspectives and extracurricular activities that will help you improve your fine motor skills such as painting or intramurals.
- Be sure to know the academic requirements needed to apply. Dental schools typically require General/ inorganic chemistry, Biology, and Physics. Many schools also require English.
- Dental Admission Test (DAT): Build sufficient time into your junior or senior year to study for and complete the DAT.
- Research dental schools and determine where to apply. Consider many factors, including your career goals, personal interests, geographical setting and family circumstances in your research. Use the ADEA Official Guide, the online ADEA Dental School Explorer and dental school websites to begin preparing a list of dental schools that match your interests and needs.

#### Participate:

- Build relationships with professors and actively participate in classes.
- Join clubs and organizations to grow professionally and gain leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Continue to shadow and volunteer to demonstrate your desire to help others and learn more about the profession.
- Talk to current dental students and follow them on social media to learn more about the student experience and programs.



WHILE IN COLLEGE . . .			
First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year
<input type="checkbox"/> Academic planning with advisor - Pre-health / pre-reqs <input type="checkbox"/> Explore clubs/organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer / shadow	<input type="checkbox"/> Talk to current dental students about the application process <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize major / academic plan <input type="checkbox"/> Attend the GoDental Virtual Fair (GDVF) to learn more about the application and schools	<input type="checkbox"/> DAT prep and completion <input type="checkbox"/> Research Dental Schools and attend the GoDental Recruitment Event / GDVF <input type="checkbox"/> Obtain Letters of recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize list of schools to apply <input type="checkbox"/> Apply to Dental School (summer after junior year)	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview at schools <input type="checkbox"/> Check offers and consider all options including re-applying in the next cycle. <input type="checkbox"/> Complete outstanding academics and graduate

## After College: The Postbaccalaureate Path

Although applying to dental school by your junior year in college is the most common pathway, what if you aren't ready? There are still pathways forward, even if you begin your journey after college.

Students who want to improve their grades or standardized test scores, nonscience majors who lack prerequisite coursework and individuals who choose dentistry as a second career may want to consider

a postbaccalaureate (or postbac) program. Not everyone needs to attend one of these structured preparatory programs, but many students find that they ease the transition from undergraduate to professional education. Postbac programs also give students who want to reapply to dental school a way to enhance their applications. Find out more about postbaccalaureate programs in Chapter 7.

Search for programs tailored to your needs by visiting [adea.org](https://www.adea.org) and [ExploreHealthCareers.org](https://www.explorehealthcareers.org).

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## The Review Process: How Dental Schools Evaluate Applicants

There's no question that gaining admission to dental school is competitive, but increasingly, schools consider factors beyond academics when evaluating candidates—not only to ensure a rich mix of students in their entering classes but also to admit students who demonstrate the most potential to succeed as dental professionals.

The strongest candidates bring a clear understanding of why dentistry is their chosen career and evidence to show they can become trusted health professionals and a history of service activities.

### Holistic Review

Almost all dental school admission committees report that they evaluate candidates using a process known as “holistic” or “whole file” review. Admissions officers use holistic review to assess many aspects of an application. This includes an extensive review of a candidate's life experiences, how they have overcome obstacles and personal characteristics.

Frequently, dental schools seek candidates who demonstrate leadership, the ability to persist in the face of adversity and compassion as evidenced by

a proven commitment to community service. Schools typically also seek candidates whose values align with their missions. This broader, more balanced view of applicants offers insight into their potential to become caring, ethical professionals.

Factors considered in the holistic admissions process include:

- **Experiences:** educational, employment, volunteer, research and dentistry-related (such as shadowing).
- **Attributes:** skills and abilities, personal and professional characteristics, challenges overcome and demographics.
- **Metrics:** grades and DAT scores.

As you prepare for dental school, keep in mind that the admissions process remains extremely competitive—even with holistic review. Therefore, candidates are encouraged to work to maintain a balance between academics and related experiences. Since metrics continue to be a vital factor in admissions decisions; you should work to achieve the strongest GPA and DAT scores you can.

# TOOLS FOR NAVIGATING THE APPLICATION PROCESS



Photo credit: University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry

## YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:

- ☐ The Application Timeline
- ☐ The ADEA AADSAS® (ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service) Application
- ☐ Writing Your Personal Statement
- ☐ Understanding the Dental Admission Test (DAT)
- ☐ The Canadian Dental Aptitude Test
- ☐ Preparing for Your Interview
- ☐ Preparing for Dental School Once You've Been Accepted

When you begin the application process, you may feel as though you have a tough climb ahead. Keep in mind that to reach any goal—even the summit of Mount Everest—you must take one step at a time. This chapter will provide you with the tools you need to take those steps and navigate the road ahead.

# The Application Timeline

BEFORE APPLICATION SUBMISSION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your health professions advisor.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Research dental schools.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Begin selecting your preferred schools.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Create a budget for the application process. See the ADEA GoDental® website for details. <a href="http://adea.org/godental">adea.org/godental</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Take part in predental activities.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Set an application submission timeline.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider attending the ADEA GoDental Recruitment Event.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Collect college and university transcripts.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Request letters of evaluation and confirm the individuals who will be submitting them on your behalf.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Register and prepare for the DAT.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Draft your personal statement.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Take the DAT.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Participate in ADEA GoDental Virtual Fairs.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Create a list of honors and awards with names of presenting organizations and issue dates.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Create a list of shadowing and volunteer experiences with dates, locations, hours and supervisor names.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Take advantage of the ADEA AADSAS preparation time, which begins in mid-May.</li></ul>
SUBMIT ADEA AADSAS APPLICATION			
AFTER SUBMISSION	AFTER RECEIVING A OFFER		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Submit supplementary applications required by your selected schools.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Check in with your health professions advisor.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Review your budget.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Retake the DAT, if needed.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Check ADEA AADSAS for the Academic Update time frame.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Determine if you have appropriate clothing for in-person interviews.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Practice your interview skills.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Make sure your transcripts and letters of evaluation have been received.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Participate in dental school interviews.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Receive notifications of admissions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Select school and send deposit.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Consent to a background check.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Apply for federal financial aid, if applicable.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> If you are a college senior or currently enrolled in classes, finish all courses and prepare to graduate!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Ask your chosen school about connecting with future classmates.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Stay updated on requests for documents from your dental school.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare to relocate.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Attend orientation and other events for new dental students.</li></ul>

Note: This timeline is based on submitting an ADEA AADSAS® application on the first submission date in June.

Applying to dental school is a process best completed over the course of a year or longer. If you plan to enter dental school immediately after graduating from college, begin following this timeline no later than the start of your junior year. In the years leading up to this moment, meet consistently with a health professions advisor, complete prerequisite coursework, engage in shadowing experiences, research dentistry as a career

and use the guidance in Chapter 5 to cultivate the other skills and attributes that will make you a desirable dental school candidate.

Some students choose a dental career later in life or require more preparation before applying. If you fit into one of these categories, Chapter 7 offers additional guidance so you can adapt this timeline to your needs.



## The ADEA AADSAS Application

ADEA AADSAS is a centralized application service that enables applicants to submit one standardized online application to any participating dental school. All U.S. dental schools and five Canadian dental schools participate in ADEA AADSAS (more Canadian dental schools will be joining in the coming years). For a complete list visit ADEA GoDental® at [adea.org/godental](http://adea.org/godental).

ADEA AADSAS, which serves as an information clearinghouse only, collects information and forwards it to schools. It does not influence an applicant's evaluation or selection, nor does ADEA recommend applicants to dental schools or vice versa.

## Getting Ready to Apply

### MEET WITH YOUR HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISOR

Your advisor can assist with many aspects of the application process, including advising you on how to both gather letters of evaluation and stick to your application timeline.

### RESEARCH EACH SCHOOL'S REQUIREMENTS

To find out about required supplemental materials and any additional fees, do your research before the ADEA AADSAS application officially opens in early June.

### GET ORGANIZED

Create a folder to keep all of your application materials in one place. A spreadsheet or dedicated calendar will also help you track your progress. Hold on to all your records in case you need them for future applications.

### REQUEST LETTERS OF EVALUATION

Decide whom to ask for letters of evaluation and seek the evaluators' commitment. Make sure it is someone who knows you well and can write a fair and objective assessment of you.

If you remember one thing about applying to dental school, remember this: **APPLY EARLY.** Submitting your application in June, July or August will maximize your chances of being considered for an interview.

### EVALUATE YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES

Ensure that your profiles are either private or very professional. Schools may view them and factor them into admissions decisions.

### SET ASIDE MONEY

Application and exam fees, as well as interview, travel, lodging and clothing expenses, all add to the cost of applying to dental school. Researching and planning for these expenses can help you decide where you want to submit applications.

### PREPARE AND REGISTER FOR THE DAT

See the "Understanding the DAT" section of this chapter for details.

## Application Overview

ADEA AADSAS requires students to submit the following information:

### DENTPIN®

This is your Dental Personal Identifier Number that you obtain from the American Dental Association. You will use this number throughout the application process when registering both for the DAT and for other standardized tests related to dental education and licensure.

### ACADEMIC INFORMATION

You will need to supply a list of all college-level courses you have completed, as well as a list of the courses you plan to take prior to enrolling in dental school.

## DAT SCORES

These will be reported directly to ADEA AADSAS. You must select at least one dental school in your DAT application for the scores to be reported.

*“With the right plan, resources and effort, you can be prepared to do well on the DAT. You might even surprise yourself. Also, be aware there is no one-size-fits-all solution regarding DAT preparation. Everyone has different circumstances and learns in a unique way.”*



KYLE GROBERG  
Class of 2024, Midwestern University  
College of Dental Medicine-Arizona\*

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

This includes your address, demographic information, citizenship and military status. You will also be asked to disclose any legal or disciplinary actions and to provide information about your parents' or guardians' occupations and levels of education. This family data will help admissions officers understand your socioeconomic status.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The application will ask you to discuss your interests and accomplishments, including extracurricular activities and hobbies, community service activities and academic achievements, as well as work, research and dental experience.

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Write an engaging essay showing who you are and why you are interested in dentistry. Be sure to check out the worksheet in this chapter designed to help you prepare your statement.

## DENTAL SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

Finalize your list of prospective schools before you complete the application. You may add schools to a submitted application, but you may not delete schools. ADEA AADSAS does not accept requests to refund related fees.

\*Originally appeared in the ADEA GoDental January 2020 newsletter



Texas residents who wish to apply to in-state dental schools must use the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) at [www.tmdsas.com](http://www.tmdsas.com).

Both the TMDSAS application and TMDSAS submission timeline are similar to those used by ADEA AADSAS.

Texas residents must use ADEA AADSAS to apply to out-of-state schools. Out-of-state residents applying to Texas schools may apply through ADEA AADSAS.

## OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Upon request, registrars will deliver your transcripts directly to the application service. Read the ADEA AADSAS instructions to ensure you understand the process. Be sure to request all needed transcripts well before the application deadlines. **Your application will not be processed until all of your official undergraduate transcripts have been received.**

## LETTERS OF EVALUATION

Undergraduate institutions vary in how they prepare letters of evaluation. Meet with your health professions advisor to learn about the process at your institution. A number of advisors prepare a committee letter based on input from faculty instructors (including science professors and/or instructors), research mentors, dentists and others. ADEA AADSAS allows applicants to submit four letters of evaluation, including one from a dentist you have worked with or shadowed. Be sure to give evaluators plenty of time to complete your evaluations.

## Completing and Submitting the ADEA AADSAS Application: Some Pointers

### APPLY EARLY!

Why is applying early so important? Because many schools have a rolling admissions cycle, they will begin to interview applicants as early as September—well *before* their application deadlines. You can take advantage of the ADEA AADSAS application preparation time, which begins in mid-May. During this time, you can request letters of evaluation and work on your personal statement. Applications can be submitted to ADEA AADSAS starting in early June.

You can submit the ADEA AADSAS application *before* your evaluators finish writing their letters.

### FOLLOW DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY

Read through all of the application instructions before beginning. An accurate application will ensure a good first impression.

### PRINT THE ADEA AADSAS TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM

We strongly encourage you to complete this form for each college and university you have attended. The Transcript Request Form should be attached to the official transcript and mailed by the registrar or submitted electronically through approved services to ADEA AADSAS.

### APPLY TO SEVERAL SCHOOLS

Once you've completed the application, put it to use by applying to more than one school. Doing so will increase your chances of acceptance. Our research indicates that students apply to 10 dental schools on average. As you write your application, keep in mind that several schools will review it. Be sure to focus your personal statement on why you are well suited to a career in dentistry, not on why you are a good candidate for a particular school.

## Application Processing

### TIMING

Your application can take four to six weeks to process. Before your file can be distributed to schools, ADEA AADSAS must receive:

- The complete application,
- Fee and
- Official transcripts of all the undergraduate schools attended.

### LETTERS OF EVALUATION

Letters that arrive after submission of the ADEA AADSAS application will not slow it down, but they might delay the review of your file by admissions committees. Some schools will put your application on hold until they receive all letters.

### YOUR GPA

ADEA AADSAS will calculate your GPA to help dental schools evaluate applicants using uniform and consistent criteria. The service uses a formula described in the [ADEA AADSAS instructions](#). The way your current school accounts for grades in repeated courses or the way it converts letter grades to numerical values may differ.

Your ADEA AADSAS GPAs may differ from the ones that appear on your college or university transcripts.

### FOLLOW-UP IS KEY

Be sure to:

- Check the status of your application regularly. Use the status menu on the home page of the application to view which transcripts, letters of evaluation and payments have and have not been received.
- Recheck the supplementary materials required by your designated dental schools to ensure everything has been sent.

## Supplemental Applications

Some dental schools require you to send a supplemental application directly to the school. These applications often ask for more detail about your work history and other life experiences, and they usually

require an additional fee. Some schools may ask for payment when you submit your ADEA AADSAS application; others may have their admissions office contact you to request payment. Keep a record each time you send a fee to avoid duplicate payments.

## Writing Your Personal Statement

The ADEA AADSAS personal statement gives you the opportunity to tell schools who you are and why you want to pursue a dental career. This essay is not a creative writing assignment; rather, it's an opportunity for you to tell your unique story in an engaging manner. Include anecdotes as long as the end result is a clear, concise, professional account that expresses your passion for dentistry and makes you stand out as an applicant. The essay can be up to 4,500 characters long (including spaces and punctuation).

**"Here's where most applicants go wrong, [in their personal statements] in my inexpert opinion. In general, the objective is to explain why you're interested in dentistry, but don't lean too hard into the actual dentistry part of the career. The schools don't expect you to be—and quite frankly, don't want you to be—a dental robot, so show your variety and personality!"**



KRISTEN HORSTMANN  
D.D.S., Class of 2022, University of California,  
Los Angeles, School of Dentistry\*

## Crafting Your Essay

### BRAINSTORM YOUR ESSAY

Complete the worksheet on page 39 to help you focus your thoughts and develop your ideas.

### BE POSITIVE, IMAGINATIVE AND PERSONAL

Tell your story in a way that is memorable and enjoyable to read.

### BE GENUINE

Express who you are without using a gimmicky style or format. Avoid jargon, clichés or phrases that you would not use in daily conversation.

### AVOID SUMMARIZING YOUR RÉSUMÉ

Try to build on the answers you provided in your application rather than repeating the same information.

### SEEK CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Ask your health professions advisor or other people you trust to read through your personal statement for advice on content and readability. Many colleges have writing tutors who are also happy to help.

### PREPARE SEVERAL DRAFTS

Multiple drafts will help you refine your ideas and polish your prose. Give yourself ample time for writing and revising so that you can feel proud of the result.

## Understanding the Dental Admission Test (DAT)

The DAT is a computer-based, standardized, multiple-choice test required by all dental schools in the United States. The U.S. DAT is conducted in English by the American Dental Association (ADA). The test measures overall academic ability, comprehension of scientific material and perceptual ability. The test takes about four and a half hours to

complete and is given year-round at specified testing centers throughout the country.

Starting March 1, 2025, ADA implemented a new scoring and reporting system for the DAT. (See sidebar "Changes to the DAT Scoring and Reporting System" on page 36 where changes are discussed in more detail.)

\*Originally appeared in the ADEA GoDental April 2021 newsletter





## The Canadian Dental Aptitude Test

The Canadian Dental Aptitude Test (also called DAT)—designed to help students assess their aptitude for a dental career and to assist dental schools in selecting first-year students—is conducted by the Canadian Dental Association. Although some Canadian dental schools accept the U.S. DAT, most ask for the Canadian DAT. You can find the requirements of individual schools in the [ADEA Dental School Explorer](#).

Similarly to the U.S. DAT, the Canadian DAT is a computer based exam that is offered year-round at Prometric Test Centers. Contact the Dental Aptitude Test Program of the Canadian Dental Association for more information. Canadian students should also note that some U.S. dental schools accept the Canadian DAT. Consult the school profiles in the [ADEA Dental School Explorer](#) and school websites for individual policies. For more information on the Canadian DAT, visit [cda-adc.ca](http://cda-adc.ca).

## Sections of the U.S. DAT

### SURVEY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Includes biology, inorganic chemistry and organic chemistry.

In 2026, test takers can expect changes to the organic chemistry section. These changes include:

- A simplification of topic area names (Mechanisms: Energetics and Structures, and Individual Reactions of the Major Functional Groups and Combinations of Reactions to Synthesize Compounds become Chemical Synthesis);
- Small changes to percentage of questions allocated; and
- The sections Aromatics and Bonding, Stereochemistry and Nomenclature will be consolidated into Structural Evaluation.

### PERCEPTUAL ABILITY TEST

Assesses two- and three-dimensional problem solving.

### READING COMPREHENSION

Measures the ability to read, understand and analyze basic scientific information.

### QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Includes questions about data analysis, quantitative comparison, probability and statistics.

## Registering for the U.S. DAT

While you may register for the DAT before you have taken all prerequisite classes in biology and in general and organic chemistry, you should not take the test until you have successfully completed these courses. Most applicants complete two or more years of college before taking the exam. It's a good idea to take the DAT at least one year prior to entering dental school, for example, at the end of spring semester of your junior year of college if you hope to matriculate into dental school right after graduation.

When choosing a test date, give yourself two to three months to study. Remember that you must wait 60 days between testing attempts, with a maximum of four such attempts permitted during any 12-month period.

Choosing a test date well in advance of application deadlines will allow time for a retake if you are dissatisfied with your scores. When budgeting time for a retake, remember to factor in the 60-day waiting period between tests. Note that some schools will not accept scores earned too far in the past. Check the requirements at each of your target schools before scheduling a time to take the DAT.

To register, follow the instructions on the ADA DAT website: [ada.org/dat](http://ada.org/dat).

## Preparing for the DAT

The DAT Guide provides details about content for each part of the test. For more information, visit [ada.org/dat](https://ada.org/dat) and click on the links to DAT Guide and to Test Preparation Material. Start by examining the content and structure of the exam to determine how confident you feel about each section. You can find a web-based DAT Practice Test under Test Preparation. Taking a practice exam will help you assess your study needs so you can devise a realistic preparation schedule.

### GIVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME

You may want to develop a study schedule that allows you about two to three months to prepare and plan to study a minimum of three hours a day/six days a week.

### RESEARCH DAT PREP COURSES AND MATERIALS

Do a little digging to find out which ones are reputable and fit into your budget. In addition to the prep courses and materials contained on the DAT website and in the DAT Guide, view the ADEA GoDental video, [Tips on Preparing for the DAT](#). Canadian DAT prep materials are available from the Canadian Dental Association at [cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/](https://cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/).

To reduce stress, consider taking one day each week to refuel and refocus.

### TAKE PRACTICE TESTS!

Try to incorporate practice questions at the end of each study session. In the last two weeks of preparation, take practice tests and review the sections you find difficult. Practice is particularly important for the Perceptual Ability Test.

Take care of yourself. Eat well, get adequate rest and remain physically active during this period. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle will help you reduce stress so you can perform at your highest level. In the words of one student, "It's just a test. You can beat it!"

## Changes to the DAT Scoring and Reporting System

Starting March 1, 2025, ADA implemented a new scoring and reporting system for the DAT. The score range shifted from a two-digit range of 1–30, to a three-digit range of 200–600, with scores broken down into 10-point increments (e.g., 200, 210, 220...). According to ADA, this change, which was several years in the making, will result in greater precision and accuracy in estimating test takers' strengths in certain test areas. It will also allow for a finer distinction between dental school candidates with less test takers clustered around given scores.

A Concordance Table and Percentile Table is available on [ada.org/dat](https://ada.org/dat) for applicants who wish to compare the three-digit scores to two-digit scores.

Also under the new system, the testing service, Prometric, which administers the DAT, will no longer be able to provide unofficial scores for test takers on site. Test results will take up to four weeks for test takers to receive—a wait time that ADA notes is comparable to similar standardized tests like LSAT and MCAT.

Though the score range changed, ADA says there were no changes to the questions themselves, test section areas (Survey of Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability Test, Reading Comprehension and Quantitative Reasoning), test administration or the amount of time test takers are currently given per test sector to complete the DAT.

To learn more information about the scoring and reporting changes, consult our FAQ at [ADEA GoDental](#).

## Preparing for Your Interview

After many months of working hard to prepare your application and study for the DAT, you receive a letter inviting you to interview at one of your chosen schools. That moment is a milestone in the application process, and one worthy of celebration. You can feel assured that the admissions committee is impressed with your efforts and is looking forward to getting to know you in person.

Nevertheless, it's natural to feel nervous. As with the application and DAT, the best way to combat your anxiety is to prepare. Take time to understand the purpose and process of the interview and to anticipate what questions may be asked.

## Reasons for the Interview

Admissions committees use interviews to more fully assess your interest in dentistry and to gain insight into your strengths and background. The committee will also observe your interpersonal and communication skills to see how you might conduct yourself as a dental professional. Interviewers often pose ethics questions relating to dentistry to assess your awareness of the complexities involved in being a health care provider, and sometimes, interviewers will ask you to compose an essay as part of the interview.

During your interviews, you'll also have the opportunity to ask questions to determine whether each school is a good fit for you.

## The Interviewers

At most dental schools, your interviewers will be faculty members who have chosen to participate in the admissions process. Most schools also invite current dental students or alumni to participate by answering your questions about the school or by providing input for admissions decisions. Occasionally, other school representatives—such as staff from admissions and student affairs—will participate in interviews.

## The Interview Structure

Interviews occur in several formats, from in-person to video. To best prepare, contact each school to find out how the interview will be structured.

### “OPEN FILE” INTERVIEW

In this type of interview, an evaluator will have read through your ADEA AADSAS and supplemental applications before meeting you. You can expect the conversation to explore your application in greater depth. Some schools exclude your transcripts and DAT scores from your file to discourage the interviewer from focusing on these metrics.

## Interview Checklist

- ❑ **Review the ADEA AADSAS Virtual Dental Schools Dos and Don'ts** at [adea.org/GoDental/Interviews](https://adea.org/GoDental/Interviews).
- ❑ **Review your budget.** Make sure you have money put aside for interview travel expenses.
- ❑ **Dress in business attire.** Be sure to consider clothing costs when planning your budget.
- ❑ **Review your applications.** Be prepared to discuss your background and experience so you can answer questions fluidly and with confidence.
- ❑ **Practice key messages.** No matter what format the interview takes, be prepared to explain your interest in dentistry in a clear, concise and genuine manner. Avoid memorizing a script, but be ready to articulate your interest in each school. Review school websites and other publications to remind yourself about curricula, advanced dental education programs, professors and other characteristics that influenced your decision to apply.
- ❑ **Prepare thoughtful questions.** Ask questions about the school to showcase your knowledge of the institution and to help you determine if the program is a suitable fit for your needs.
- ❑ **Know your strengths and weaknesses.** Be as honest and humble as you can be when describing challenges and gifts related to your intellect, character or practical skills, such as manual dexterity. Plan for how you will neutralize any concerns an admissions committee might have about your candidacy.
- ❑ **Conduct a mock interview.** Practice often to increase your confidence. You can rehearse answering interview questions with a friend, a career advisor or alone in front of a mirror. Find out if your school has access to any webcam-based programs, such as Perfect Interview™, designed to help students assess their interviewing skills.

### **“CLOSED FILE” INTERVIEW**

In this type of interview, the evaluator will not have seen your file and will likely use the interview to explore your experiences and interests.

### **“OPEN/CLOSED FILE” INTERVIEW**

On occasion, an interviewer may have access to your file but will choose not to view it before your meeting. Although that is considered an “open file” interview, the conversation will proceed as if it were “closed file.”

### **“TRADITIONAL” INTERVIEW**

Also called the “one-on-one” interview. These interviews take place between one evaluator and one candidate. This type of interview is generally 30 minutes long.

### **“PANEL” INTERVIEW**

In this scenario, a panel of two or three evaluators questions one candidate. The session can last from 30 minutes to one hour. These interviews often mix “open file” and “closed file” formats, with one interviewer having seen your file while others have not.

### **“MULTIPLE MINI-INTERVIEWS”**

In this increasingly popular format, candidates rotate between stations of evaluators every 7–10 minutes and are asked a different question at each station. Evaluators may also ask individual candidates follow-up questions.

The worksheet on page 39 can help you prepare for your interviews.

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## **Preparing for Dental School Once You’ve Been Accepted**

Congratulations! You are among a select group of people who have been accepted into dental school. Very soon, you’ll be able to relax, but first:

### **ACCEPT AN OFFER AND SEND YOUR DEPOSIT**

Check the deadline provided on your acceptance letter so you’re sure to reply on time.

### **BE PREPARED FOR A BACKGROUND CHECK**

Many schools include background checks as part of their admissions process. If your school is among them, you will receive an email from Certiphi Screening asking for your information and consent. A fee is often involved and varies from school to school.

### **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK**

Dental schools will expect you to maintain your grades, so be sure to do well in your remaining classes.

### **MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOUSING**

If your school doesn’t offer housing, you may need to research affordable and convenient accommodations.

### **CONNECT WITH FUTURE CLASSMATES**

Use social networking sites, and check with your new school for other ways to connect with future classmates.

### **ARRANGE TO MOVE**

It’s best to relocate at least two weeks prior to the start of classes to allow time to acclimate and get to know other students.

## WORKSHEET

### Brainstorming Your Personal Statement

These questions are intended to generate ideas, nothing more. There is no single formula you should follow when composing your essay, and it doesn't have to contain answers to all of the questions below. This part of the application is your opportunity to distinguish yourself from other candidates and give admissions officers a glimpse of who you are. Focus on what matters to you.

1. How did you identify dentistry as a career choice? What did you do to learn about the profession?
2. How have you explored your interest in dentistry? How did observing and/or working in a dental office enhance your knowledge and understanding of the profession?
3. How do you envision using your dental degree?
4. What special talents or leadership skills do you possess that might be valuable while practicing dentistry?
5. What volunteer activities have you engaged in that demonstrate your commitment to helping others? What insights did you gain about yourself and working with others?
6. Did you work while in school? How did working affect your education?
7. Have you had to overcome hardships or obstacles? Did any of these experiences motivate you to pursue a dental career?
8. Have you had any previous exposure to dentistry, such as participating in research or internships?

## WORKSHEET

### Preparing for Your Interview

1. Tell me about yourself. (Consider discussing your background, your strengths and other attributes that might not stand out on your application.)
2. Why do you want to be a dentist?
3. What do you consider your strengths? What would you like to improve on in the future?
4. What research, volunteer or leadership experiences have you had?
5. Where do you see yourself in five or 10 years?
6. Why have you chosen to apply to this dental school?
7. Tell us about the most influential person (people) in your life?
8. Discuss a situation in which you've had to make an ethical decision. How did you handle it?
9. How do you think you might interact with an individual who has a serious, and perhaps contagious, disease?
10. Discuss your experiences shadowing or observing in a dental environment. What have you liked or disliked most?



## A Comprehensive Suite of Modules & Features Tailored for Dental Education



### Feature Highlights



#### **Student Evaluation:**

Faculty-led student progress tracking, assessment, and competency evaluation.



#### **Electronic Health Records:**

Robust and secure system for record-keeping with scheduling, charting, reporting, and more.



#### **Operations Management:**

Streamlined inventory, lab tracking, dispensary, and reporting.



#### **Insurance Management:**

Efficient handling of claims, statements, eligibility checks, and auto-remittance.



#### **Patient Experience:**

Enhance engagement with online access for updating and viewing personal information, appointments, and forms.



#### **Interoperability & Integrations:**

Efficient workflows with medical-dental integration, APIs, and 3rd-party apps.

[www.axiumacademic.com](http://www.axiumacademic.com)

## CHAPTER 7

# SAME DESTINATION, DIFFERENT PATHWAYS



### YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:

- ☐ Canadian and International Applicants to U.S. Dental Schools
- ☐ Postbaccalaureate Program Participants
- ☐ Career Changers
- ☐ Gap-year Students and Re-applicants
- ☐ International Dental Graduates

Regardless of where you come from or how long you've been out of school, it's possible to achieve your dream of attending a dental school. That said, you will need to take steps in addition to those outlined in Chapters 5 and 6 to complete your application.

Remember, no matter which road you take to reach your goal, dental schools welcome applicants who have a passion for dentistry and can contribute their unique insights, skills and experiences to the profession.

## Canadian and International Applicants to U.S. Dental Schools

Even if you are not a U.S. native and you do not have permanent residency in the United States, you can apply to most U.S. dental schools. The application process will require extra steps, but with research and preparation, you can still successfully navigate your way.

### First Steps

#### RESEARCH APPROPRIATE SCHOOLS

Make sure you only consider schools that accept international students. For more information, consult the [ADEA Dental School Explorer](#).

#### CHECK TOEFL® REQUIREMENTS

International students must demonstrate English-language proficiency and may need to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam. You may need to practice or improve your English skills to prepare for this test and for the Reading Comprehension section of the Dental Admission Test (DAT). To register and learn more about the test, visit the TOEFL website at [ets.org/toefl](https://ets.org/toefl).

#### REGISTER FOR AND TAKE THE U.S. DAT

The exam is offered in Canada and in Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia and all 50 U.S. states.

#### THE APPLICATION

Follow the steps outlined in Chapter 6 for completing the ADEA AADSAS® (ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service) application.

#### HAVE YOUR TRANSCRIPTS EVALUATED

If you have completed coursework outside of the United States and Canada, have World Education Services (WES) or Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) evaluate your transcripts and forward them to ADEA AADSAS. Refer to the ADEA AADSAS application instructions to learn how transcript evaluations will be handled for your dental school application.

### Legal Requirements

The information in this section does not constitute legal advice. Individual circumstances vary and requirements may change from time to time. You should fully explore these matters with a legal expert or by using additional resources, such as those highlighted in the boxes below and on the next page.

In order to study in the United States, all international students must obtain documents showing they meet certain criteria. These documents vary depending on a student's country of origin and source of educational funding, whether a student is already in the United States and whether a student is seeking asylum or another status in addition to that of student. A full discussion of the legal requirements that pertain in these circumstances is beyond the scope of this publication.

### Obtaining a Student Visa

This U.S. government website will walk you through the steps for obtaining a student visa: [travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html).

In general, international students must follow these steps:

- Receive a Form I-20 from the school they plan to attend. To acquire the form, students must receive an offer of admission, accept the offer and submit proof that they have the financial means to cover the cost of attendance (tuition, fees and living expenses) for the first year of the program.

#### FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION, CONSULT:

- ☐ The U.S. State Department website: [travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html)
- ☐ The international student office at the dental school you wish to attend.
- ☐ The U.S. embassy in your home country.

- Use the school-issued Form I-20 to register with the Student and Exchange Visitor Information Service (SEVIS), the international student tracking system; pay the SEVIS fee and receive a SEVIS number.

Use the school-issued Form I-20, which will have a Class F-1 notation, to apply for and obtain an F-1 (nonimmigrant) visa for your passport. This visa will enable the student to enter the United States. Some international students need different or additional documentation.

## Financial Aid

It can be difficult for international students to obtain financial aid in the United States and Canada, but there are exceptions. Here are some options to explore.

### VISIT EDUPASS™

This website ([edupass.org](https://edupass.org)) has information on scholarships and loans for international students. It outlines how to apply for aid and lists organizations that can help with the process.

### CONSULT YOUR DENTAL SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

Speak to the school you plan to attend to learn about financial assistance for international students. Ask if your school designates scholarship funds for international students based on merit or academic interest.

### INQUIRE WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT

If you have already relocated, check with your embassy. The cultural department or education minister's office may offer financial assistance.

### EXPLORE CANADIAN PROGRAMS

Canadian citizens, permanent residents and protected persons (those applying for refugee status or citizenship) may also be eligible for loans or grants through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). Canadian as well as some U.S. dental schools are on the OSAP list of approved schools. Learn more at [ontario.ca/page/how-apply-osap](https://ontario.ca/page/how-apply-osap).

*Be sure to refer also to Chapter 9 for tips about budgeting, responsible borrowing and long-term financial wellness.*

### CONSIDER A PRIVATE LOAN

Check with a private lender to find out specific requirements for a loan. In some instances, having a creditworthy U.S. citizen or permanent resident as a cosigner may enable you to secure a loan.

## Postbaccalaureate Program Participants

As previously mentioned in Chapter 5, not all college students apply to dental school during the junior year of their undergraduate programs. Some decide to attend postbaccalaureate programs prior to applying to dental school. Although these programs vary in length, cost and type of certificate or degree offered, all are designed to help students fulfill prerequisite courses and improve their academic records.

After identifying programs that match your objectives, research them to find out about program length, degree offered, tuition and available resources. In looking

at admissions requirements, it is also important to determine if they will accept your DAT scores in place of a GRE/GMAT, if required. Some schools will, however, this is not a time to take the DAT if you have not already done so. Discuss your findings with your health professions advisor and direct additional questions to staff or faculty at the programs you are considering.

The following questions can help you determine which programs best fit your needs:

Do I need a formal program to get the courses I need and the support in applying? If so, should I pursue a certificate program or one that awards a master's degree?	Certificate programs are appropriate if you haven't majored in science and need to fulfill prerequisites. These programs can prepare you for dental school's rigorous curriculum. Master of Science programs are a good choice if you majored in a science but want to improve your grades and augment your knowledge with more advanced courses.
Do I need a formal program to get the courses I need and the support in applying? If so, should I pursue a certificate program or one that awards a master's degree?	Programs typically range in length from one to two years. Tuition also varies from \$20,000 to more than \$40,000. Financial aid is rarely available for these programs. Although some tuition-free programs exist to aid disadvantaged students, most students must fund post-bac studies themselves. Carefully consider cost in your decision to determine which programs offer the greatest benefit for the best price.
Will the program provide an advisor who can help me with the application process and career guidance?	It's worth doing your research to find out which programs provide advisors. A knowledgeable advisor can be extremely valuable. He or she can help you make the right academic choices, support you as you navigate the application process, assist with letters of evaluation and offer career guidance.
What are the class sizes?	Knowing whether a postbac program features large lectures or smaller classes may help you choose a program that both corresponds to your learning style and helps you develop relationships with your professors. You may want to call on them for evaluation letters as you prepare to apply to dental school.
Will the program help me meet the requirements of the dental schools I've selected?	Most programs will enrich your dental school application. Before applying to any program, however, do research to be sure it meets the requirements of the dental schools that interest you. Keep in mind that a number of dental schools now require biochemistry. You may also discover that some schools prefer applicants who have taken classes in calculus, psychology and writing. Ensuring that a postbac program offer the prerequisites you need will save time and money down the road.



Your individual application timeline will depend on the length of the postbac program you attend. Your advisor can help you plan a schedule for submitting the ADEA AADSAS® (ADEA Associated American

Dental Schools Application Service) application and the supplemental materials requested by individual dental schools. See Chapters 5 and 6 of this guide for additional information about the application process.

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## Career Changers

Perhaps you pursued another career before deciding to switch to dentistry. Although the prospect of changing careers may seem daunting, it can be accomplished with focus and perseverance. Many career changers have become successful dental school candidates by following the steps that follow. Refer to the application timeline in Chapter 6 to help you plan the timing of your application.

### UNDERSTAND THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY

Shadow a dentist to help you learn about dentistry and confirm your decision to change careers. Most schools require that applicants shadow a dentist—in most cases, for several weeks—before applying. Shadowing also helps you demonstrate your commitment to entering the profession.

### SEEK ADVICE

Talk with a health professions advisor at your alma mater or with dental school admissions officers before starting the application process. These individuals can provide you with valuable insights into what schools expect from career changers.

### CHECK REQUIREMENTS

Refer to the [ADEA Dental School Explorer](#) and check the websites of the schools that interest you to identify the prerequisites you must take before applying.

Be prepared to retake some courses, as those taken in the past may no longer be valid for admission and the prerequisite content needs to be fresh as you prepare for the DAT and future dental courses.

### CONSIDER ENROLLING IN A POSTBACCALAUREATE (POSTBAC) PROGRAM

These programs allow you to fulfill prerequisites or retake courses to refresh your knowledge or improve your grades.

### DECIDE HOW TO EXPLAIN YOUR CAREER CHANGE

Make sure you can clearly describe your decision in a personal statement and in dental school interviews. Use the worksheets in Chapter 6 to get started.

### REQUEST EVALUATION LETTERS

Determine which letters your chosen schools require. If you have been away from school for a while, consider the following sources for letters, but be sure they meet the requirements for your chosen schools:

- Professors teaching any prerequisite classes you recently took or are currently taking,
- Former professors with whom you are still connected,
- Past or current employers who can provide details about your work ethic and professional behavior and
- A dentist you have shadowed.

## Gap-year Students and Re-applicants

The practice of taking time off between high school and college or between college and dental school is usually called a gap year, but this pause in your education may last longer. While some students choose to put their education on hold, others are forced to take a break when, despite their best efforts, they are not admitted to a dental school. In either case, if you still have a passion for dentistry, you are encouraged to reapply.

Whether you are a gap-year student or a re-applicant, remember these three keys to a successful dental school application:

- Use the time away from school to pursue activities that will enhance your candidacy.
- Stay on top of the application process as if you were still in school.
- Apply as early as you can in the application cycle.

In addition to reviewing the timeline in Chapter 6, consider following these tips that are designed to help keep you on track.

### MEET WITH A HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISOR

If you have yet to graduate, use this time to discuss plans for your gap year and obtain suggestions for how you might strengthen your application. Maintain contact after graduation. Your advisor can guide you during your time away and help you progress through the application process.

If you are a re-applicant, make sure you meet with your health professions advisor to discuss your previous application and how you can strengthen your candidacy.

**“Upon my college graduation with a bit more experience under my belt, I developed a general plan for my gap year based on the areas of dentistry I intended to explore most. I hoped to gain clinical experience, be that in a hospital or through dental assisting. I wanted to build my shadowing exposure by obtaining an internship with a dentist or by observing a few dental specialties.”**



**ELIZABETH WRIGHT**  
D.D.S., Class of 2023, University of the Pacific,  
Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry\*

\*Originally appeared in the ADEA GoDental October 2019 newsletter

### Pointers for Re-applicants

Refer to [adea.org/godental](https://adea.org/godental) and search “Re-applicant Questions” for answers about how to resubmit the ADEA AADSAS application.

Complete the “Brainstorming Your Re-application” worksheet in this chapter to help evaluate your readiness to reapply.

### MANAGE LETTERS OF EVALUATION

Whether you are a gap-year student or a re-applicant, check with your institution’s prehealth advising office to find out how the school handles letters of evaluation. Some schools collect the letters and hold them until you are ready to apply. Others require you to inform your professors that you’ll need a letter during the gap year. Online services such as Interfolio will hold individual letters for later use. You may also want to obtain new letters from sources who can speak about your recent growth or accomplishments.

### LEARN FROM ANY UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

Contact admissions officers at schools where you weren’t accepted to ask how you can make your new application more competitive.

### CHECK IN WITH THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

Before you graduate from college, ask your financial aid officer about the repayment process for any outstanding undergraduate student loans. This is a good time to organize your finances and determine how you will pay for dental school.

### CONSIDER A POST-BACCALAUREATE (POSTBAC) PROGRAM

These programs allow you to fulfill prerequisite courses or improve your academic record. To learn more, see Chapter 5.

### CONSIDER A SCIENCE-BASED MASTER'S PROGRAM

These programs allow you to improve your academic record and strengthen your biomedical science background.

### STAY ENGAGED WITH DENTISTRY

Consider some of these ideas:

- Take a course to fill gaps in your preparation and keep your mind sharp.
- Shadow dentists in different settings.  
(See the ADEA GoDental website for guidance.)
- Attend professional conferences.
- Volunteer in a dental clinic.

- Perform research at a hospital or dental school as either a volunteer or a paid employee.

### PARTICIPATE IN OTHER ENRICHING ACTIVITIES

Consider travel, learning a new language and community service. These pursuits can demonstrate your openness to diverse perspectives and your inclination to help others.

### STAY ON SCHEDULE

If you took the DAT in a prior year, some schools—but not all—will accept your scores. Check individual school profiles to learn which DAT score dates will be accepted for consideration. If you need or want to retake the DAT, make sure you set up a realistic study schedule.

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## International Dental Graduates

If you are a foreign-educated dentist, you can become licensed to practice in the United States by obtaining a D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree through an advanced standing program. These programs will enable you to complete your degree in two to three years.

To be eligible to sit for a dental licensure exam, most states require that your dental degree come from a program accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The [ADEA Dental School Explorer](#) can help you identify which dental schools offer accredited advanced standing programs.

### ADEA CAAPID

The ADEA CAAPID® (ADEA Centralized Application for Advanced Placement for International Dentists) service allows you to apply to multiple advanced standing programs through a single standardized application.

Although ADEA CAAPID simplifies the application process, not all advanced standing programs participate in this service. Refer to ADEA CAAPID Applicants at [adea.org](https://www.aadea.org) for information about the application and participation in advanced standing programs.

## WORKSHEET

### Brainstorming Your Re-application

1. Why am I reapplying now and not later?
2. What will be different on my new application?
3. How can I articulate why I decided to reapply to dental school?
4. Can I explain how I determined that I am ready to reapply now?
5. Have I mastered the study and time management skills needed for dental school?
6. The last time I applied, were my GPA and DAT scores within range of those students accepted at my designated schools?
7. Do I need to improve my DAT score? If so, how can I prepare to be more successful?
8. Did I submit my ADEA AADSAS application before the end of September? Did I include all components of the application: DAT scores, letters of evaluation, transcripts, supplemental application and fee?
9. Do I need new letters of evaluation? If so, whom should I ask for new letters of evaluation?
10. Have I completed all prerequisite and related science courses with a grade of B or higher?
11. How can I refresh the experiences section of my previous application?
12. Should I revise my personal statement or start from scratch?
13. How did I perform in my interview? If needed, what can I do to improve my performance in interviews?
14. Are the schools where I first applied still the right fit for me?

## CHAPTER 8

# FINDING THE BEST FIT: CHOOSING A DENTAL SCHOOL



Photo credit: University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry

### YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:

- ☐ Questions to Help Determine If School Mission Matches Your Objective

Deciding where to apply to dental school is a very personal decision. You may want to begin by doing some soul searching. Thinking carefully about what excites you about a career in dentistry can help to clarify your priorities as you research prospective programs.



There are multiple factors to consider when deciding to which dental schools to apply. After evaluating all the factors, you will need to decide which are the most important to you. This will help in your decision-making process.

## Key Considerations

### LOCATION

Consider whether a school's location has the cultural environment and recreational opportunities that will make you comfortable calling it home for four years. It's also important to consider the climate and how you might function in a place where the weather differs from what you are used to. Some students will also want to think about whether a location will allow them to fulfill ongoing family responsibilities.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Money matters go beyond each dental school's tuition and fees. Consider the cost of living in the area surrounding your target schools and the cost of transportation to visit family. If you are looking at state schools, inquire if the school offers in-state tuition after the first year. Ask about the availability of scholarships, grants or loans.

**"I feel that one of the biggest challenges facing dental education today is the rising cost of attendance. It can put added pressure on students as they try navigating through school, especially in cities with higher costs of living."**



**JANIKA JAMES**  
Class of 2025,  
Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry\*

### INCOMING CLASS SIZE

Dental school class sizes range from a couple dozen to about 300 students. Whether you relish an intimate learning environment where you will get to know all of your classmates or you thrive in a large network of peers, class size may be a factor in your school selection.

\*Originally appeared in the ADEA "Five Questions With..." web series



## Are You Canadian?

If you are a Canadian considering applying to a U.S. dental school or a U.S. citizen considering studying dentistry in Canada, this section also contains information to inform your choice about where to apply. Chapter 7 features additional pointers for international students from any country who want to study dentistry in the United States.

### FACULTY/STUDENT RATIO

If you prefer the opportunities for interaction afforded by small classes, look for schools with a lower faculty/student ratio. These schools may be more likely to implement learning models that emphasize discussion and collaboration over lectures in large classes.

### GRADUATE STATISTICS

Learning about the career trajectories of recent graduates can help you see how closely their paths align with your aspirations. If you are considering advanced education in dentistry, it might be especially useful to ask how many graduates are accepted into advanced dental education programs. It is also very helpful to know if the school offers advanced dental education or specialty programs. If it does, there may be opportunities to interact with these programs as a dental student.

**Don't be discouraged if you can't find the information you want online. A quick phone call to an admissions office will usually do the trick to get you some answers.**

### Mission of the School

While all schools will prepare you to provide excellent care and to understand the ethics of the profession, mission statements will reveal the values and priorities that determine the educational focus of an institution. Understanding the different experiences and exposures a school might offer can help you narrow down your search. If a school’s mission doesn’t mesh with your professional aspirations, chances are that school might not be the right fit.

According to the 2023 ADEA Survey of Dental School Seniors, the top three reasons for choosing a dental school were virtually tied:\*

- 1. Less expensive than other schools (e.g., due to in-state tuition, financial aid, etc.)
- 2. Proximity to family/friends
- 3. Academic reputation

\*Originally appeared in the ADEA Trends in Dental Education, 2023–24

### Questions to Help Determine If School Mission Matches Your Objective

These questions can help you determine how well a school’s mission matches your objectives:

Does the school offer opportunities for volunteer service and community-based education?	If you are committed to using your professional expertise to help underserved populations, you will want to make sure community-based service learning is a central component of your target school’s curriculum.
Does the school provide a range of opportunities for clinical or scientific research?	If you are considering pursuing a career in academic dentistry or dental research, schools with a strong emphasis on research will allow you to see if research or academics is the right career path for you.
Does the school offer opportunities for advanced dental education?	If you have your sights set on a career in one of the 12 recognized advanced dental education programs detailed in Chapter 2, you may be looking for schools with those types of programs. That’s fine, but keep in mind that you should not limit your opportunities by focusing on one type of program alone.
Does the school allow students to pursue a dual degree?	Programs that accommodate dual degrees are a great option if you want to combine other interests, such as public health with dentistry. Examples of degrees often combined with dentistry include the doctorate (Ph.D.), master’s of business administration (M.B.A.), master’s in public health (M.P.H.), master’s in education (M.Ed.) and master’s degrees in the sciences (M.S.).
Does the school emphasize case- and problem-based learning?	See Chapter 3 to learn more about this approach to instruction. Unlike listening to lectures, this teaching method requires that you actively participate in case analysis and work in teams with other students to acquire knowledge. Ask yourself whether regular immersion in this educational approach fits your learning style.

## Other Considerations

You will want to select a school that provides the working, learning and social environment in which you feel most comfortable. To familiarize yourself with a school's culture, you can speak with alumni or current students about their experiences. Admissions officers may be able to connect you with individuals interested in speaking with prospective students, and a campus tour can open conversations with students and staff while allowing you to view a school's facilities. These factors can also help you gauge the climate on campus:

### CLASS DEMOGRAPHICS

Learn about campus demographics at specific schools by visiting school websites or through the online ADEA Dental School Explorer.

### SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Key student supports include a health center, academic counseling, psychological counseling, mentoring programs, structured study groups and professional career development programs. If you require any assistance with learning, be sure to find out what systems a school has in place to accommodate your needs.

### SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Obtain information about school supported activities. Inquire about interest groups and clubs, such as ADEA Chapters and American Student Dental Association.

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

You'll want to find a school that not only meets your academic needs but also provides social outlets. Take into consideration activities you enjoy doing to relieve stress, such as participating in sports, pursuing outdoor activities, playing music, attending theater or enjoying the arts. It is also important to inquire about interest groups and clubs.

## Considerations for Canadian Students Applying to U.S. Schools

### U.S. VS. CANADIAN ACCEPTANCE RATES

Statistically speaking, you have a better chance of being accepted to a U.S. dental school. One in 2.5 students are accepted into U.S. schools compared with one in seven admitted to Canadian schools.

### VISA REQUIREMENTS

Canadian students do not need an F-1 visa to enter the United States, but they must meet other requirements. Refer to Chapter 7 for additional information.

### FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

See Chapter 9 for information regarding financial obligations.

## Considerations for U.S. Students Applying to Canadian Schools

As you prepare your list of potential schools, keep in mind that only a few Canadian schools admit international predoctoral students. See Chapter 10 for more information on what students should anticipate when applying to Canadian dental schools. Consult the [ADEA Dental School Explorer](#) and see individual school websites to learn more about Canadian admission policies.

## WORKSHEET

### Brainstorming Your School Selections

To help you finalize your list of target schools, start by identifying your priorities. If you have strong family ties or pressing family obligations, location and cost may be key. If you learn best with smaller class sizes, campus climate and demographics may top your list. If intellectual curiosity has driven you to pursue a dental career, you may place considerable value on the research standing of a school's home university. Only you can determine what matters most to you.

Make a list of your priorities; then ask yourself the following questions about each school that interests you.

#### MY PRIORITIES

1. Will the school's educational focus help me reach my career goals if I want to:
  - *Open a private practice?*
  - *Engage in scientific research?*
  - *Pursue a career in public health?*
  - *Become a dental educator?*
  - *Have a range of career options?*
  - *Pursue advanced dental education?*
2. How can the school help me minimize the need for student loans? Does it offer scholarships? Grants? In-state tuition?
3. When will clinical experiences begin?
4. Is the school on the semester or quarter system, and how long are the breaks between semesters and quarters?
5. What percentage of the school's graduates who apply to advanced dental education programs are admitted?
6. What kinds of research opportunities does the school offer dental students?
7. In terms of time (i.e., four weeks, a semester), how much of my clinical experience occurs in a community or hospital setting or outside of dental school?
8. Are externships available?
9. What services will the school provide to assist me academically, physically and emotionally?
10. What clubs or extracurricular activities do the school and the community offer?

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# YOU CAN DO THIS: FINANCING YOUR DENTAL EDUCATION



## YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:

- ☐ Ten Questions Every Incoming Dental Student Should Ask

While it's easy to focus your efforts on simply getting into dental school, knowing early on how you plan to pay for dental school and the potential long-term implications of doing so, should help you focus on your studies and contribute to your overall financial wellness. The more confident you are in your ability to fund your dental education in its entirety and to repay any student loans you have to borrow, the more successful you are likely to be.

In this chapter, you will see constant references to working with your financial aid office, as they are the number one contact for you regarding ways to pay for dental school. Note that some dental schools have a designated person in the dental school to help with financial aid, while financial aid at other dental schools may be handled by a main campus aid office. Regardless, find out who your financial contact is—this is a priority.

We've set up this chapter with a look at 10 questions every incoming dental school student should ask about paying for dental school. We encourage you to visit the Financing Dental Education section of ADEA GoDental at [adea.org/GoDental](https://adea.org/GoDental) where you can find more information.

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## Q1: What is the total cost of attendance for my first year of dental school, as well as the entire length of the program?

The cost of attendance (COA, also called your student financial aid budget) is an estimate of the total amount of money it should cost most students at a specific institution to attend one year of school. The COA:

- Includes tuition and fees, plus an allowance for books and supplies, room and board, transportation, medical insurance, dental instrument rentals and purchases, and personal expenses.
- Does not include consumer debts, such as credit card and car payments. (You are strongly encouraged to pay these off before you start dental school.) It should be available on the dental school's website or from the financial aid office.
- Changes each year, based on changes in tuition, fees, and the length of enrollment each year (called your budget duration, anywhere from 9 to 12 months).

- Represents the maximum amount of financial aid a student may receive from all sources combined in any given year.

You may be tempted to only focus on paying for your first year of dental school, but remember you apply for financial aid each year, which is one reason it is so important to establish a relationship with your financial aid office, because it is ongoing. In this regard, we encourage you to consider how you will pay for your entire dental school education, and not just the first year. Working closely with your financial aid office, you can gain confidence in your ability to secure funding each year of your program, not just year one.

---

## Q2: How can I control my expenses for dental school?

There are parts of your COA that you cannot control, such as tuition and fees. These are generally called direct costs, because you get a bill for them from the school as referenced on your student account. However, there are some expenses over which you should have some control, such as room and board, transportation, and personal expenses. The first step to controlling your expenses is to figure out this number each year, which is easy to do, simply:

- Take your annual budget from the dental school financial aid office and pull out those expenses referenced above that you have some control over (room and board, etc.).

- Divide that number by the number of months in your COA for that year (your budget duration, which should be available online or from your financial aid office), and that should be your monthly living allowance.

Once you know your monthly living allowance, try and stay at or below that amount each year, by focusing on those items in your COA over which you have some control.

### Q3: What kinds of financial aid are available to help me pay for dental school, and how is my eligibility for financial aid determined?

In general, there are two categories of funding for dental students: scholarships and grants (called gift aid) and student loans.

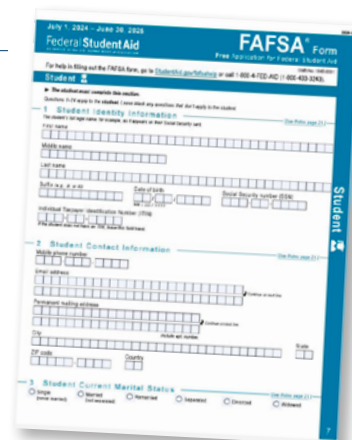
Scholarships and grants are often limited for graduate and professional students, including dental school students, but you should always seek these funds out first when applying for financial aid, because every dollar of gift aid you receive means a dollar you do not have to borrow. Your dental school financial aid office is your best source of information for all types of financial aid, including gift aid. Scholarships and grants from your school:

- Do not have to be repaid.
- May be awarded based on financial need, merit, or a combination of these.
- May be available for international students (check with the financial aid office).

- Your school may require financial information on your family when determining eligibility for any need-based scholarships or grants. See your financial aid office for details.
- Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) may be available. See your financial aid office.

In addition, you may want to consider a scholarship that is tied to a service commitment, such as the Armed Forces or National Health Service Corps. Your dental school financial aid office can provide information for you on these programs, and you can also find information on these programs online.

Whether or not you receive any gift aid from your school, you may still need to borrow, and student loans are the most popular way for dental students to pay for their dental education.



### Q4: What kind of loans are available to pay for dental school and how do I choose the best ones?

In general, there are three categories of student loans:

- Federal Direct Loans (federal government is your lender)
  - o Direct unsubsidized\*
  - o Direct PLUS (Grad PLUS)
- Campus-based (the dental school is your lender)
  - o Health Professions Student Loans (HPSL)
  - o Loans for Disadvantaged Students (LDS)
- Private Loans
  - o These loans come directly from a private bank or other lending institution.

\* Subsidized loans are not available for graduate and professional students

While it is ultimately your decision which loan program you apply for, federal loans have by far the most flexibility in terms of repayment, postponement, and forgiveness options. These tend to make up the bulk of most dental school students' loan portfolios. In addition, since these federal loans are based on cost and not financial need, you can borrow up to the full COA with these two loans each year. A word of caution, just because you can borrow the full COA doesn't mean you have to if you really don't need that much money.

Your FAO at the dental school will have information on campus-based loans and whether or not they are available at your dental school. Terms and conditions of campus-based loans tend to be favorable, if they are available.

A general rule of thumb is to consider borrowing federal loans while in dental school to preserve your repayment and postponement options, especially if you are considering a postdoc program. After you graduate, consider refinancing with a private lender if you can get a significantly lower rate and you are not interested in using an income plan to repay your loans or forgiveness options.

Some students are attracted to private loans because of what may be lower interest rates, especially if they can get a creditworthy cosigner on the loan.

However, we strongly advise you to speak with your dental school FAO before taking out private loans in lieu of or in addition to federal student loans. A general rule of thumb is to consider borrowing federal loans while in dental school to preserve your repayment and postponement options, especially if you are considering a postdoc program. After you graduate, consider refinancing with a private lender if you can get a significantly lower rate and you are not interested in using an income plan to repay your loans or forgiveness options.

The Loan Comparison Chart in the Financing Options section of Money Matters at [adea.org/GoDental](http://adea.org/GoDental) for much more detail on these loan programs.

## Q5: How can I be sure I am not borrowing more than I really need?

Once you determine you will need to borrow for dental school, there are at least two approaches to borrowing to consider:

- **First, borrow under your COA.** Then after several months in dental school, assess your monthly budget and if you need more money, you can borrow more at that time. You can always borrow up to the full COA; you don't have to do it right away.
  - The advantage to this approach is that interest starts to accrue (build up) when you receive your loan, so this way, you are delaying the start
- **Second, borrow up to your full COA to start.** Then after several months in dental school, if find you don't need all the money you borrowed, work with your financial aid office to return some funds or cancel or reduce a future disbursement.
  - When you return funds within 120 days of the disbursement, you don't pay any fees of interest on the amount returned.

## Q6: How much debt can I expect to have when I leave dental school?

The current average debt for dental school graduates who have to borrow is around \$300,000, which includes any debt prior to dental school. The good news is that close to 20% of dental school graduates report having no student loan debt. However, the not-so-good news is that around 40% graduate with student loan debt in excess of \$300,000.

Dental school graduates have a terrific reputation for timely and responsible repayment, and there are many ways to effectively manage and repay your loans, as discussed in Question 8.

## Q7: I will be an international dental student. Will I be able to find financial aid and are there grants, scholarships, and student loans specifically for international students?

International students coming to the United States to attend dental school should always check with the dental school financial aid office regarding financial aid options. While you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident in order to qualify for federal student aid, there may be other opportunities for you to pay for your dental school education.

### LOANS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

You may be eligible for a private loan for dental school, but expect your lender to require a creditworthy cosigner who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident for approval. Be sure you know all the terms and conditions of the loan, including interest rate, repayment terms, and any postponement provisions. The latter could be especially important if you pursue advanced dental education (postdoc) after dental school. It is also extremely important to find out your chances of subsequent funding each year you are in dental school, not just year one. This is one reason it is extremely important to keep strong credit while you are in dental school, as these are credit-based loans.

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Your dental school may designate funds for international students so check with your school's financial aid office regarding availability, especially your

chances for more aid in subsequent years. The cultural department of education minister's office at your embassy may be able to offer assistance.

### FINANCIAL AID FOR CANADIAN STUDENTS AT CANADIAN DENTAL SCHOOLS

You will need to work closely with the designated office at your Canadian dental school regarding financial aid options. The options may include:

- Gift aid in the form of grants or scholarships (often called bursaries),
- Canadian federal student loans,
- Canadian provincial or territorial loans and
- Support from the Ontario Student Assistance Program.

The Canada Student Loans program, available to Canadian citizens and permanent residents, provides financial assistance in the form of grants and loans to postsecondary students who demonstrate financial need. The program website, which offers detailed instructions on applying for and paying back the loans, includes links to the following resources such as the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC), which administers both Canada Student Loans and some provincial loans.

## Q8: How are dental school graduates handling their debt once they graduate? Are there lots of ways to repay?

As mentioned, dental school graduates have a terrific reputation for timely and responsible repayment of their student loans, and there are a number of repayment strategies they use to manage their student loans:

- Aggressive repayment – overpaying whenever possible on their loan with the highest interest rate
- Cautious – minimum payments to help with cash flow

- Public Service Loan Forgiveness – working full time in the non-profit sector for ten years after which time their debt is forgiven tax free
- Service commitment programs – Exchanging direct financial support for a service commitment

Of these, based on information from the most recent ADEA Senior Surveys, the most popular initial strategy is to be aggressive in repayment.



Whether or not you want to be aggressive in repayment when your loans come due (for federal loans, six months after you graduate), you should always be able to find a repayment plan you can comfortably afford on your federal loans, regardless of your debt level. This is because there are repayment plans based not just on the amount you have borrowed, but also repayment plans based on your income and not your debt level. You can find more information on these repayment plans, plus repayment examples at [adea.org/GoDental](http://adea.org/GoDental) under Financing Dental Education.

There are two additional repayment strategies to briefly mention, with a reminder that you have plenty of time to learn more about these programs before you graduate and your loans come due:

- **Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)** – PSLF is designed to encourage borrowers of any degree program (including dental and dental hygiene students) to work in the non-profit sector for at least 10 years, with the promise to forgive any remaining

debt at that time. There are three requirements you must meet in order to qualify for PSLF:

You must pay:

- For 10 years with an eligible repayment plan (an income plan),
- On federal direct loans and
- While working full time (30 hours) per week for a non-profit employer.

You can get more information on PSLF at [StudentAid.gov/publicservice](http://StudentAid.gov/publicservice).

- **Refinancing with Private Lenders** – One popular strategy for dental school graduates is to refinance their student loans with a private lender to secure a lower interest rate. This is an especially popular option for dental school graduates who do not need to repay their loans based on their income nor want to pursue PSLF. Historically, there have been a number of reputable lenders who offer refinancing loans to dental students.

## Q9: If I do have to borrow, are there some things I absolutely need to know?

In a word, yes, because the first step toward responsible borrowing, and ultimately responsible repayment, is to understand what you have borrowed and which programs you may be eligible for to help repay your student loans. Understanding student loan terms, phrases, references, and programs will help you borrow responsibly and repay responsibly. Being familiar with your student loan portfolio has never been more important than it is now. Although not comprehensive, this list provides definitions and explanations you should know:

### LENDER

- This is who actually lends you the money and who you owe in repayment.
- Your lender for federal loans like direct unsubsidized and direct PLUS (Grad PLUS) is the federal government.
- Your lender for campus-based loans is your dental school.

- Your lender for private loans is a private entity such as a bank or other lending institution.

### LOAN SERVICER

- Third party your lender contracts with to work with you in repayment and to help you track your loans.
- You should have one loan servicer for all your federal loans, including any loans from college and/or post-bac programs, which negates for many the need to consolidate loans after graduation.
- It is extremely important that you always know who your loan servicer is, since they are the ones who will work with you in repayment.

### MASTER PROMISSORY NOTE (MPN)

- This is the legal document you sign for your federal loans where you promise to repay the loan under their terms and conditions.

### INTEREST RATES

- This is what your lender charges you to use their money, expressed as a percentage.
- The higher the rate, the more expensive the loan.
- Interest rates on federal loans are fixed but change each July 1 on new loans.
- Direct PLUS rate is always 1% higher than direct unsub.
- Interest rates on campus-based loans are usually fixed.
- Interest rates on private loans can be fixed or variable.

### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

- This is the document that details the terms and conditions, including provisions about repayment, of your student loan.
- You may receive multiple disclosure statements from your loan servicer when you borrow – one when your loan is approved, one when it is disbursed, and one when you enter repayment.
- It is extremely important that you keep copies of your disclosure statements.

---

## Q10: Where can I go for help and what should I be doing now to prepare for starting dental school in strong financial shape?

While paying for dental school is ultimately your responsibility, you have access to lots of help, and there are some things to do now to help you get ready to start dental school in the best financial shape possible:

- Make contact early on with your financial aid office to be sure you do not miss any deadlines for grants and scholarships, and don't forget, you don't have to wait to be accepted to apply for financial aid. The idea is to have your financial aid application complete, so that as soon as the dental school aid office finds out you are accepted, they can notify you what kind of financial aid you qualify for.
- Be sure you are in good standing on any loans you borrowed prior to dental school. Federal loans from college and/or a post-bac program should be put into deferment while you are in dental school, but confirm this with your loan servicer. Your school can help.
- Pay off any consumer debts you have before you start dental school, since these costs cannot be added to your COA.

- Start using the AAMC/ADEA Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator Fact Sheet when you start dental school. DLOC is free for seven years and is specifically designed for dental school students and graduates, available at [adea.org](https://adea.org).
- Be cautious where you get information about financial aid and student loans, especially with social media, use only trusted resources such as:
  - o Your dental school's financial aid office
  - o Financing Dental Education at [adea.org/GoDental](https://adea.org/GoDental)
  - o Financial Resources for Students at [adea.org](https://adea.org)
  - o AAMC/ADEA Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator and Calculator Fact Sheet at [adea.org](https://adea.org)

We hope these questions, and their answers, will help you better prepare to pay for your dental school education and thus put you in the best position possible to be successful in dental school. Don't forget to visit [adea.org/GoDental](https://adea.org/GoDental) for additional information and updates.

## CANADA

This chapter explores what students should expect when applying to dental schools in Canada.

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# A DENTAL DEGREE THAT CROSSES BORDERS: STUDENTS APPLYING TO CANADIAN DENTAL SCHOOLS



Photo credit: Marquette University School of Dentistry

## YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT:

- ☐ Things to Consider Before Applying to a Canadian Dental School
- ☐ Navigating the Application
- ☐ Next Steps After Acceptance

In Chapter 7, we explored how Canadian and international students can navigate the application and admission process at dental schools in the United States. In this chapter, we will change course and explore in more detail what U.S. and other students should expect when applying to dental schools in Canada—a worthwhile and viable option for those seeking a dental education. Though the process is, by and large, almost identical to the process in the United States, U.S. students will need to know the nuances of the Canadian dental school application and acceptance process. This chapter will share both the similarities and differences they will encounter.

## Things to Consider Before Applying to a Canadian Dental School

There are 75 dental schools in the United States and 10 dental schools in Canada. For U.S. and other students who want to pursue a dental education, expanding their options and applying to a dental school nestled among our neighbors to the north might be worth a consideration.

### An Equivalent Education

Not only is the application process at many dental schools in Canada nearly identical to dental schools in the United States, but also—unlike dental degrees from other countries—a dental degree in Canada is accepted by the American Dental Association. This is due to a mutual accreditation agreement between the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) in the United States and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). This means a Doctor of Dental Medicine or a Doctor of Dental Surgery in Canada is the equivalent to a D.M.D. or a D.D.S. in the United States. In fact, some Canadian dental students choose to take the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) in preparation for taking licensure exams in the U.S. so they can practice in the United States.

Similarly, the curriculum at many Canadian dental schools is not very different from the U.S. dental programs. Students are presented with the

fundamentals of dentistry along with the basic sciences at the start of their dental program, and receive additional instruction on preclinical skill development, patient and practice management and clinical experiences throughout the four-year curriculum. Opportunities are provided to gain additional clinical experiences through community service learning during the third and fourth year. An overall arching component of the dental curriculum is comprehensive patient care.

### A Competitive Application Process

But, as previously noted in the Official Guide, some Canadian dental schools do not accept applications from non-Canadian students. (Review school websites or consult the [ADEA Dental School Explorer](#) to determine which schools accept non-Canadian applicants.) Also, due to smaller class sizes, the admissions process to Canadian dental schools can be extremely competitive. And finally, as mentioned in Chapter 7, few Canadian dental schools accept many out-of-province students.

Those U.S. students who wish to apply to dental schools in Canada should weigh the pros and cons and do their research in order to put their best foot forward during the application, interview and (hopefully) acceptance process.

---

## Navigating the Application

Five Canadian dental schools participate in ADEA AADSAS® (ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service). Like dental schools in the United States, each dental school in Canada may have its own or supplemental application. Check the [ADEA Dental School Explorer](#) to see which schools participate in ADEA AADSAS and to find a respective dental school's prerequisite course and shadowing requirements. It is also important to find out which schools have an English Language Proficiency requirement and those whose curriculum is in French only.

### The DAT in the Canada vs. United States

All dental schools require applicants to take a standardized multiple-choice exam as part of the application and admission process. Generally referred to as the DAT, this exam is called the Dental *Admission* Test in the United States and the Dental *Aptitude* Test in Canada. **Some Canadian dental schools accept the U.S. DAT, some do not.** (Consult the [ADEA Dental School Explorer](#) to determine which DAT is required at respective schools.)



## Same Acronym, Different Tests

Formally a paper-based test administered twice a year, the Canadian DAT as of March 2022 is now entirely computer-based and is available year-round at 16 test centers across Canada. (Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other world events, it is always important to check the related testing websites for the most up-to-date information on changes to testing, administration, locations, etc.) Also, the DATs in both countries include different components, testing slightly different skills and knowledge areas. Finally, the testing time allotted for both the U.S. and Canadian DATs and their respective sections vary.

In the United States, the DAT consists of a Survey of Natural Sciences, a Perceptual Ability Test, a Reading Comprehension Test and a Quantitative Reasoning Test. In Canada, there is both an English and French DAT. The English DAT consists of a Survey of Natural Sciences, a Perceptual Ability Test, a Reading Comprehension Test and a Manual Dexterity Test. (There is no Reading Comprehension Test in the French DAT in Canada.)

Submission of DAT scores is an admission requirement of most of the 10 Canadian dental schools, though not all the schools require results from the Manual Dexterity Test, which includes a carved cylinder of soap used to assess psychomotor skills. Canadian DAT scores

are accepted by most U.S. dental schools, but because the U.S. DAT does not include a Manual Dexterity component, results of the U.S. DAT cannot be used for admission to Canadian dental schools. For exceptional circumstances, contact the dental school regarding their possible acceptance of U.S. DAT scores. Applicants should also contact Canadian schools directly to find out whether the Manual Dexterity Test is required.

## Getting to Know the Candidates

After submitting their applications, including their personal essays, applicants may be asked to do an interview to give the dental schools a better impression of them as potential candidates for admission. This process is also identical to the interview process in the United States.

Many Canadian dental schools follow the multiple mini interview (MMI) format, but more schools in Canada are also requiring applicants to take the CASPer (Computer-based Assessment for Sampling Personal Characteristics) online test to develop a greater understanding of applicants' nonacademic attributes and to help assess applicants' fit for the profession. This screening test assesses non-cognitive skills and interpersonal characteristics, evaluating applicants' communication and "soft skills", such as empathy, ethics, problem-solving skills and resilience.

## Similarities and Differences Between the DAT in Canada and the United States

	Dental Aptitude Test (Canada)		Dental Admission Test (United States)
<b>Time frame to take the test</b>	Year-round		Year-round
<b>Format</b>	Computer-based		Computer-based
<b>Components</b>	English Test (Canada)	French Test (Canada)	Test (United States)
	Perceptual Ability (90 questions)	Perceptual Ability (90 questions)	Perceptual Ability (90 questions)
	Reading Comprehension (50 questions)	N/A	Reading Comprehension (50 questions)
	Survey of the Natural Sciences (40 Biology and 30 General Chemistry questions)	Survey of the Natural Sciences (40 Biology and 30 General Chemistry questions)	Survey of the Natural Sciences (40 Biology, 30 General Chemistry and 30 Organic Chemistry questions)
	N/A	N/A	Quantitative Reasoning (40 questions)
	Manual Dexterity Test (school dependent)	Manual Dexterity Test (school dependent)	N/A

## Next Steps After Acceptance

Once a U.S. student receives a letter of acceptance to a dental school in Canada, the applicant may be required to undergo a criminal background check known as a Vulnerable Sector Screening, an enhanced record check intended for those who come into contact with vulnerable populations through their employment and volunteer work.

## Study Permits

Upon acceptance, U.S. students will also be required to apply for a study permit with the Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). To be approved for a study permit, students have to:

- Have enough funds to support themselves,
- Have a medical certificate from an approved doctor from the Canadian panel of physicians (if they plan to study in Canada for longer than six months),
- Have the intent to come to Canada for the sole purpose of studying,
- Inform the IRCC that they intend to leave after studies are completed and
- Provide Police Clearance, also known as a police certificate, to show that they are law-abiding with no criminal record.

Note: Students should check with the Canadian travel website to determine the status of any COVID-19 protocols.

## Access and Inclusion at Canadian Dental Schools

Data regarding the ethnic and racial makeup of dental schools in Canada is not easy to come by. Many universities do not collect this information or only collect data in the broader categories of “international students” or “visible minorities”, a term which encompasses many different racial and ethnic groups who are non-White—with the exception of indigenous groups.

### SPECIAL ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Because many universities have developed initiatives to address access and inclusion and increase differing perspectives on campuses, some Canadian dental schools reserve a portion of their available class seats for international applicants.

Also, because Canada has a policy of Reconciliation that calls for the Canadian government to redress the harms inflicted upon indigenous groups and create a more equitable and inclusive society, many universities have an Aboriginal Admission Policy for those who self-identify as First-Nation, Aboriginal or one of the indigenous tribal groups and who can provide proof of ancestry. This policy at some universities means that some spots are reserved for those who fall in these tribal categories. At other universities, this policy allows the institutions to consider applicants for admission if they have satisfied the general admission and degree-specific requirements, but do not meet the program’s degree’s competitive GPA average requirements. The school is allowed, in those cases, to consider the applicant’s history, cultural knowledge, work experience, educational goals and other achievements in determining their admissibility.



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# The Four-Year DMD Degree

## Year One

Curriculum will be hosted in PNWU’s brand-new Delta Dental Equity Hall, which contains a dental simulation lab, wet support lab, dry/digital support lab, and virtual reality lab. Students will learn the latest in dental technology from day one.

## Years Two-Four

Students train at one of three community-based clinics in Yakima, Kennewick, or Tacoma, providing care to underserved patients. PNWU clinical faculty members oversee training at each community location.

## Admission Requirements

Minimum of three years at a regionally accredited college or university. Prerequisite courses: chemistry, biochemistry, physics, biology or zoology, microbiology, human anatomy and physiology, and English. Dental Admissions Test (DAT) is not required.

## Other Requirements

- Demonstrated interest and commitment to providing care to those in rural and/or medically underserved communities.
- At least 50 hours of shadowing in general dental and specialist practices.
- Four letters of recommendation from undergraduate faculty, community service coordinators, and/or work supervisors.

## Accreditation

The PNWU School of Dental Medicine has received initial accreditation status from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). CODA is located at: Commission on Dental Accreditation, 211 E Chicago Ave, Suite 1900, Chicago, IL 60611, 312.440.4653.





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Tables

Consult this section for comparative data that can help you make informed decisions about where to apply. The tables include statistics on dental school applicants; first-time, first-year enrollees; admissions requirements; and other topics.

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**Table 1 | U.S. Dental Admissions Information for First-time, First-year Enrollees—Class Entering Fall 2024****DEMOGRAPHICS**

	Applicants	Percent of Total Applicants	First-time, First-year Enrollees	Percent of Total Enrollees
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,491</b>		<b>6,719</b>	
Men	4,977	39.8%	2,808	41.8%
Women	7,499	60.0%	3,906	58.1%
Gender Unknown	15	0.1%	5	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino <sup>1</sup>	1,500	12.0%	718	10.7%
American Indian or Alaska Native	17	0.1%	7	0.1%
Asian	2,969	23.8%	1,682	25.0%
Black or African American	847	6.8%	392	5.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	13	0.1%	7	0.1%
White	5,386	43.1%	3,123	46.5%
Two or More Races	529	4.2%	293	4.4%
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	383	3.1%	211	3.1%
International	847	6.8%	286	4.3%

<sup>1</sup> Hispanic or Latino of any race.**DENTAL ADMISSION TEST (DAT)**

	Academic Average		Perceptual Ability		Total Science	
	Mean	5th–95th Percentiles	Mean	5th–95th Percentiles	Mean	5th–95th Percentiles
Applicants	19.7	15-25	19.3	15-24	19.3	14-25
First-time, First-year Enrollees	21.0	17-25	20.2	17-25	20.7	17-26

**GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)**

	Science GPA		Total GPA	
	Mean	5th–95th Percentiles	Mean	5th–95th Percentiles
Applicants	3.42	2.66-3.98	3.53	2.85-3.98
First-time, First-year Enrollees	3.59	3.00-4.00	3.67	3.15-3.99

Table 2 | Origin of First-time, First-year Enrollees by Dental School—Class Entering Fall 2024

State, Territory or Province	Dental School	Origin of Out-of-State, Out-of-Province and International Enrollees
AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry	FL-6, IL-1, CA-1, IN-1, GA-13, SC-2, NC-1, MS-4, Canada-1
AZ	A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health	MI-5, MN-1, CO-1, CA-15, AR-1, NY-4, NV-1, NM-2, NJ-1, NC-1, MS-1, MO-1, DE-1, OK-1, TX-10, OR-1, UT-4, VA-1, WI-1, FL-3, GA-2, ID-1, IL-3
AZ	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Arizona	OK-1, WI-2, UT-9, TX-9, VA-2, WA-7, AK-1, AR-1, CA-28, CO-1, FL-10, GA-1, IA-1, ID-6, IL-4, IN-2, LA-2, MA-2, MD-1, ME-1, OR-1, MI-6, MN-1, MO-1, MT-2, NY-1, OH-2, RI-1, State Not Reported-1, China-1, Hungary-1, Canada-3
CA	University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry	HI-2, VA-1, WA-2, NM-1, NV-3, OR-1, TX-3, UT-10, AZ-2, CO-1, FL-1, IL-1, Canada-2, China-1, India-1, South Korea-3
CA	University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry	IL-2, WA-3, WI-3, MI-2, ME-1, MA-1, NY-3, TX-2, HI-1, China-2
CA	University of California, Los Angeles, School of Dentistry	CT-1, TX-1, UT-1, VA-1, WA-2, AZ-1, NJ-1, GA-1, MI-1, China-1
CA	Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC	NC-1, AK-1, AZ-1, DC-1, FL-2, HI-1, IA-1, IL-3, MA-3, MD-1, MI-2, MN-2, NE-1, NJ-3, NV-1, NY-2, PA-1, TX-1, UT-1, WA-5, China-1, Iran-1, South Korea-1, Taiwan-1, Vietnam-1, Canada-3
CA	Loma Linda University School of Dentistry	TX-1, WA-5, WI-1, IL-1, MI-4, GA-4, AZ-1, MD-2, FL-1, UT-1, CO-1, NJ-2, NV-1, NY-1, OR-1, TN-3, South Korea-7
CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	UT-1, VA-1, WA-4, DC-1, FL-2, HI-1, IL-1, MA-1, NJ-2, NY-1, TX-1
CA	California Northstate University College of Dental Medicine	ND-1, NJ-1, OR-1, TX-1, PA-1, CO-1, FL-1
CO	University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine	PA-1, AK-1, AR-1, AZ-4, CA-2, CT-1, FL-4, IA-1, KS-1, MI-1, MN-2, MT-2, ND-3, NV-1, OH-1, OK-1, SC-1, SD-1, TX-2, UT-2, VA-1, WA-1, WI-1
CT	University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine	MA-11, NH-1, NJ-4, NY-2, WA-1, FL-1, Italy-1
DC	Howard University College of Dentistry	NJ-1, NC-7, PA-2, TX-3, AL-1, IL-1, LA-1, MD-11, VA-12, NY-4, AR-1, DE-2, GA-5, FL-10, Ethiopia-1, Haiti-1, Jamaica-1, The Bahamas-1, Virgin Islands (British)-1
FL	University of Florida College of Dentistry	GA-2, AR-1, CO-1, OH-1, TN-1
FL	Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine	AL-1, CA-4, CO-1, WV-1, GA-1, IL-1, LA-1, NJ-6, NM-1, NY-4, OH-1, PR-1, TX-4, UT-1, VA-1, WA-1, Canada-6, South Korea-1
FL	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Dental Medicine	MN-1, MI-4, ME-1, MA-1, LA-3, KY-2, IN-1, IL-6, GA-10, CA-13, WA-2, MS-1, NC-2, NJ-4, NV-1, NY-6, OH-3, PA-5, TX-4, UT-6, VA-1
GA	Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University	NY-1, SC-3, MI-1, FL-3
IA	University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics	WI-5, AZ-1, CA-1, CO-1, FL-2, GA-1, IL-4, MI-1, MN-3, ND-3, NJ-1, SD-1, TX-1
IL	Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine	AZ-1, TX-1, MO-5

Table 2 | Origin of First-time, First-year Enrollees by Dental School—Class Entering Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	Dental School	Origin of Out-of-State, Out-of-Province and International Enrollees
IL	University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry	
IL	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Illinois	CA-8, NY-5, OH-3, OK-1, OR-1, PA-3, RI-1, TX-12, UT-1, VA-6, WA-1, WI-1, NC-5, MO-2, MN-2, MI-14, MD-1, LA-2, KY-2, KS-2, IN-1, GA-5, FL-15, DE-1, CT-1, CO-1, NJ-3, AZ-2, AR-1, AL-2, Canada-1
IN	Indiana University School of Dentistry	WA-1, UT-1, TX-1, PA-1, OR-1, OH-1, NJ-1, MI-3, IL-6, FL-4, Canada-1, Venezuela-1
KY	University of Kentucky College of Dentistry	LA-1, IN-3, IL-1, GA-2, FL-5, AZ-1, MI-2, TX-2, UT-1, VA-2, WA-1, WV-1, MO-1, NC-1, ND-1, OH-1, OR-1, TN-3, MA-1
KY	University of Louisville School of Dentistry	PA-2, AL-2, AZ-3, CA-3, FL-14, GA-4, WV-1, IN-5, LA-3, MD-2, MI-8, MO-2, MS-2, NC-5, NY-1, OH-8, SC-2, TN-2, TX-3, UT-3, VA-5, WA-1, IL-5, India-1
LA	Louisiana State University Health New Orleans School of Dentistry	TX-1, MS-1, KS-1, FL-2, CO-1, AZ-1, AR-5
MA	Harvard School of Dental Medicine	VA-1, AZ-1, CA-6, FL-5, GA-1, IL-1, IN-2, KY-1, MD-1, MN-1, NJ-1, NY-2, OH-1, PA-1, TX-1, UT-2, China-1, Ethiopia-1
MA	Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine	VA-5, TX-3, SC-2, RI-1, OH-1, NY-5, NJ-7, NH-6, MN-1, MI-3, ME-1, MD-2, IN-2, IL-2, GA-2, FL-14, DE-2, CA-2, AL-1, UT-1, WI-1, WA-2, VT-1, CT-3, Canada-6, China-2, Taiwan-2
MA	Tufts University School of Dental Medicine	AZ-2, AL-2, DE-1, CT-3, FL-30, GA-7, IL-4, IN-3, LA-2, MD-2, ME-2, MI-8, NC-5, NH-4, NJ-4, NV-1, NY-11, OH-3, OR-2, PA-6, RI-2, SC-2, TN-1, TX-4, VA-7, WA-2, CA-20, India-1, Canada-9, Greece-1
MD	University of Maryland School of Dentistry	CA-1, DE-2, FL-16, GA-3, ID-1, LA-1, MI-3, NC-1, NJ-2, NY-6, OH-1, OT-1, PA-5, TX-1, VA-12, AZ-1, China-1
ME	University of New England College of Dental Medicine	UT-2, CA-4, CT-2, FL-3, ID-2, IL-1, MA-6, MD-1, MI-5, MN-1, MO-1, NC-1, ND-2, NH-3, NJ-5, NY-8, OH-1, OK-1, OR-2, PA-6, TX-4, VA-3, VT-1, WA-1, WV-1
MI	University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry	OH-2, AZ-1, CA-2, CO-2, FL-9, GA-2, ID-1, IL-4, IN-1, MD-1, MN-1, NC-1, NY-1, PA-1, TX-4, VA-1, WI-1, State Not Reported-1, Ukraine-1, South Korea-3, Iraq-1, Iran-1, China-1, Canada-21
MI	University of Michigan School of Dentistry	FL-2, IL-9, WI-1, WA-1, VA-2, UT-5, RI-1, PA-1, OH-5, NJ-1, NH-1, NE-1, NC-5, ME-1, KY-1, GA-1, AR-1, CA-1, China-3
MN	University of Minnesota School of Dentistry	IL-4, TX-1, WI-7, CA-3, FL-1, ND-2, MO-1, MT-3, MI-5, NM-1, SD-6, TN-1, Afghanistan-1, Canada-1, China-2, India-1, South Korea-1
MO	University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry	IL-1, HI-4, GA-1, AR-1, OK-1, NM-3, KS-19, Kuwait-2
MO	A.T. Still University Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health	WI-1, CA-2, FL-4, GA-1, ID-1, IL-7, KS-2, KY-1, LA-1, MI-3, MN-2, NC-3, NJ-1, OK-3, TX-14, UT-3, WA-1

Table 2 | Origin of First-time, First-year Enrollees by Dental School—Class Entering Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	Dental School	Origin of Out-of-State, Out-of-Province and International Enrollees
MO	Kansas City University College of Dental Medicine	CO-1, MI-3, MN-2, MS-1, NC-1, OH-4, OK-9, SC-1, SD-1, LA-3, KS-7, IN-1, IL-3, IA-1, HI-1, GA-2, FL-1, CA-4, AR-9, AL-1, TX-8, UT-1, VA-1, MD-1
MS	University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry	
NC	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry	MI-1, MS-1, NH-1, NY-2, AL-2, PA-1, CA-1, FL-2, GA-1, IA-1, KY-1, LA-1, VA-2, UT-2, TX-2, SD-1, SC-1, IN-1, Nigeria-1, India-1
NC	East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine	
NE	Creighton University School of Dentistry	NC-2, AK-2, AZ-5, CA-4, CO-5, FL-1, GA-2, HI-2, IA-3, ID-9, IL-1, KS-5, MN-13, MO-6, ND-10, NJ-1, NM-7, NY-1, OH-1, OR-1, PA-1, SD-2, TX-2, UT-3, WI-11, WY-4, Kuwait-3, Canada-1
NE	University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry	OR-1, OK-1, NC-1, MO-1, WY-2, CA-1, KS-3, SD-2
NJ	Rutgers School of Dental Medicine	CO-1, DC-1, FL-4, GA-1, MD-1, NV-1, NY-11, PA-4, VA-2, CT-1, CA-5, State Not Reported-1, South Korea-1, Venezuela-1, Egypt-1
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine	CA-12, WI-1, WA-1, VT-1, VA-1, UT-13, TX-1, OH-1, NC-1, NY-3, MI-1, MA-1, ID-1, HI-1, CO-1, France-1, Canada-1
NY	Columbia University College of Dental Medicine	SC-1, TX-3, WI-1, WA-1, VA-2, PA-5, OH-4, NJ-15, MN-1, MI-1, MD-1, MA-4, IL-3, GA-2, FL-2, CO-1, CA-12, TN-2, UT-1, China-1, Canada-1, South Korea-4, Jordan-1
NY	NYU College of Dentistry	MI-9, AL-1, CA-43, CO-1, CT-2, DC-1, DE-3, FL-24, GA-5, HI-1, IL-3, IN-1, KY-1, LA-1, MA-6, MD-5, ME-1, MN-2, NC-8, NJ-47, NV-1, OH-1, OK-1, OT-1, PA-13, PR-1, SC-1, TN-1, TX-12, VA-9, WA-3, WV-1, State Not Reported-1, Taiwan-1, South Korea-17, Kuwait-1, China-3, Canada-27, Brazil-1
NY	Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine	NJ-1, MA-1, CT-1, South Korea-1, Egypt-1, China-1
NY	University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine	PA-1, FL-3, MI-4, GA-1, MS-1, NJ-2, State Not Reported-1, Canada-2, Bangladesh-1
NY	Touro College of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College	IN-1, WA-1, VA-3, TX-6, SC-1, PA-5, OT-2, OR-2, OK-1, OH-4, NV-1, NM-1, NJ-21, ND-1, NC-1, MI-2, MD-4, MA-2, IL-3, GA-5, FL-14, CT-4, CO-2, CA-32, AZ-2, Canada-5, China-2, India-1, Iran-2, South Korea-2
OH	The Ohio State University College of Dentistry	MN-1, WV-1, WI-1, VA-2, UT-1, MI-3, ME-1, IN-3, IL-1, FL-3, CA-1
OH	Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine	TX-1, CA-3, CT-1, FL-1, IL-2, MD-3, MI-10, MO-1, NJ-3, NY-1, PA-5, UT-1, TN-1, VA-2, NC-2, State Not Reported-2, Canada-10, China-4, South Korea-3, Taiwan-1, Vietnam-1
OK	University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry	TX-1, CO-2

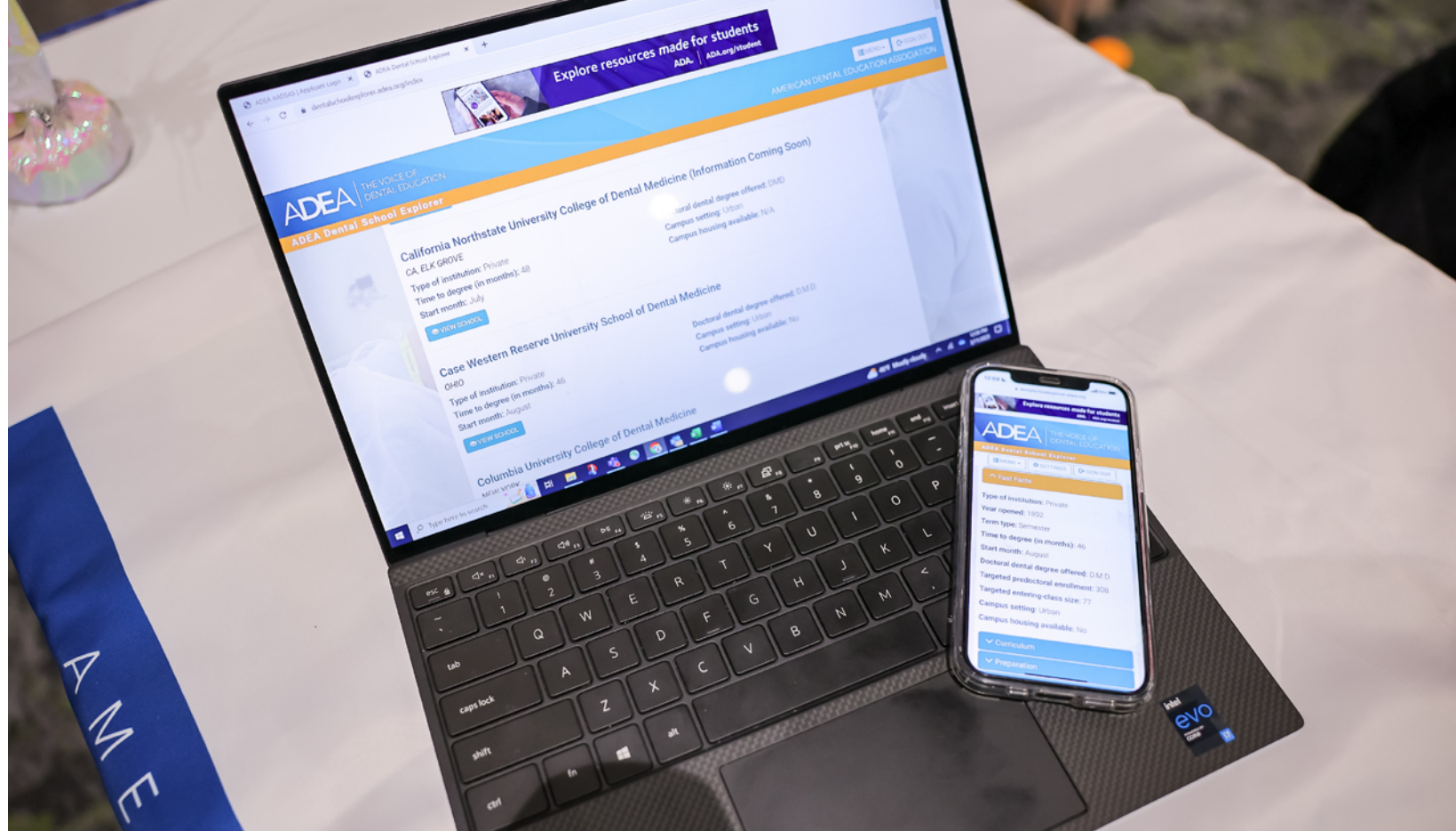


Table 2 | Origin of First-time, First-year Enrollees by Dental School—Class Entering Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	Dental School	Origin of Out-of-State, Out-of-Province and International Enrollees
OR	Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry	AZ-2, AK-2, CA-9, HI-3, ID-1, IL-1, MD-1, MI-1, TX-1, UT-2, VA-1, WA-6
PA	The Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry, Temple University	TX-2, VA-4, NC-1, KS-1, IL-3, FL-5, DE-7, CA-3, AZ-1, AE-1, MD-3, MA-1, ND-1, NH-1, NJ-26, NV-1, NY-8, OH-1, SD-1, TN-1, South Korea-1, Canada-13, China-4, Vietnam-3
PA	University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine	CA-19, IL-4, GA-6, FL-8, CT-1, CO-1, WA-6, VA-8, TX-2, TN-2, SC-2, RI-1, PR-1, OT-1, OR-2, NY-24, NJ-20, NH-1, NC-4, MO-1, MN-3, MI-7, MD-2, MA-3, KS-1, Iran-1, China-9, Canada-7, Taiwan-1, South Korea-2
PA	University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine	NY-1, UT-1, OH-2, TX-1, LA-1, IN-2, IL-1, FL-7, CT-1, CO-1, AK-1, WV-1, VA-1, MA-1, MO-1, Russia-1
PR	University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine	FL-1, TX-3, Chile-1
PR	Ponce Health Sciences University School of Dental Medicine	TX-2, FL-3, CA-1
SC	Medical University of South Carolina James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine	RI-1, NC-6, MI-1, MD-1, LA-2, FL-1, CT-1, IL-1, GA-3, AK-1, Canada-1
TN	Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry	MI-2, MD-2, MA-2, LA-5, KS-1, IL-1, AL-6, AR-3, AZ-1, FL-3, GA-11, HI-1, MO-2, IA-1, VA-3, TX-8, SC-1, OH-4, NY-2, NJ-2, NC-5, MS-1, Canada-1
TN	University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry	IL-1, GA-2, CA-1, WI-1, UT-1, MS-3, MO-2, MI-1, AR-24, LA-2
TN	Lincoln Memorial University College of Dental Medicine	KY-7, MI-7, LA-1, OH-1, VA-6, SC-1, PA-1, IL-1, CA-1, GA-6, DE-1, FL-6, AL-5, OK-1, NJ-3, NH-1, NC-7, MS-3, MN-1
TX	Texas A&M University College of Dentistry	WA-1, UT-1, NM-1, AR-2, Egypt-2, India-1, Iran-1, Mexico-2, Singapore-1
TX	UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry	LA-2, CA-1, SC-1, TN-1
TX	UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry	WA-1, AL-1, AZ-1, FL-1, MS-1, UT-3
TX	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine	FL-1, NM-4, UT-1
UT	Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	OH-1, PA-2, OR-2, OK-2, NC-1, NY-1, NV-5, NM-3, NJ-1, NH-2, MT-1, MS-1, MN-1, MI-5, MD-1, MA-1, IN-1, IL-4, ID-2, HI-1, GA-1, FL-6, CO-5, CA-19, AZ-6, WY-1, WV-1, WA-5, VT-1, VA-1, TX-10, TN-1, SC-1, State Not Reported-1, China-1, India-1, Canada-4
UT	University of Utah School of Dentistry	WI-1, AK-1, AZ-2, CA-4, CO-1, HI-1, ID-4, IL-2, LA-1, MN-1, MT-2, NC-1, NY-1, TX-4, WA-2, WY-1

Table 2 | Origin of First-time, First-year Enrollees by Dental School—Class Entering Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	Dental School	Origin of Out-of-State, Out-of-Province and International Enrollees
VA	Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry	WA-1, GA-4, FL-5, CA-1, NC-10, TN-1, MS-1, IL-1, ID-1, IA-1, NY-2, State Not Reported-1, Egypt-1, El Salvador-1, Kuwait-6
WA	University of Washington School of Dentistry	TX-1, AZ-2, CA-1, AK-1, MT-1, NM-1, China-2
WI	Marquette University School of Dentistry	WA-1, TX-3, AZ-1, CA-1, FL-5, IA-2, IL-19, MI-7, MN-3, NY-1, OH-1, SD-3, UT-1, VA-1, Egypt-1
WV	West Virginia University School of Dentistry	MS-1, NC-1, VA-5, CO-1, UT-1, PA-6, OH-4, NY-2, MI-1, FL-1, IL-1, MD-3, Kuwait-1



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Table 3 | Characteristics of the Class Entering Fall 2024 by Dental School

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Age	Predental Education**				
		Mean	2 Yrs.	3 Yrs.	4 Yrs. (w/o B.A./B.S.)	B.A./B.S. Degree	M.A. Degree and Above
AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	77	6
AZ	A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health	25	0	0	0	72	8
AZ	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Arizona	25	0	0	0	113	33
CA	University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	143	5
CA	University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry	24	0	0	0	60	0
CA	University of California, Los Angeles, School of Dentistry	23	0	0	1	82	5
CA	Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC	23	0	0	0	139	5
CA	Loma Linda University School of Dentistry	24	0	0	0	99	2
CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	25	0	0	0	70	4
CA	California Northstate University College of Dental Medicine	25	0	0	0	36	7
CO	University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine	24	0	0	0	74	7
CT	University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine	23	0	0	0	48	3
DC	Howard University College of Dentistry	25	0	0	0	61	14
FL	University of Florida College of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	90	3
FL	Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine	24	0	0	0	110	18
FL	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Dental Medicine	23	0	0	0	97	3
GA	Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University	24	0	8	0	81	7

Table 3 | Characteristics of the Class Entering Fall 2024 by Dental School, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	DAT Scores Mean			DAT Scores 5th–95th percentiles			Undergraduate GPA Mean		Undergraduate GPA 5th–95th percentiles	
		AA	PAT	Sci	AA	PAT	Sci	Science	Total	Science	Total
AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry	21.5	20.1	21	18-25	17-24	17-25	3.71	3.79	3.19-4.00	3.43-4.00
AZ	A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health	19.5	19.8	19	16-23	16-23	16-23	3.43	3.52	2.98-3.96	3.12-3.97
AZ	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Arizona	20.3	20	19.9	18-24	17-24	17-24	3.5	3.58	2.96-3.95	3.10-3.96
CA	University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry	22	21.3	21.7	19-26	18-25	19-26	3.58	3.65	3.05-4.00	3.20-3.99
CA	University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry	23.3	21.2	23.5	19-27	17-25	19-30	3.66	3.72	2.97-4.00	3.12-4.00
CA	University of California, Los Angeles, School of Dentistry	23.1	21.5	23.3	20-26	18-25	20-27	3.84	3.87	3.61-4.00	3.67-4.00
CA	Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC	21.2	20.3	21	18-26	17-24	17-26	3.7	3.76	3.40-3.98	3.54-3.98
CA	Loma Linda University School of Dentistry	21.2	21.1	20.7	18-25	18-24	18-25	3.53	3.62	3.01-3.93	3.12-3.95
CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	20	20	19.8	17-23	17-23	16-23	3.38	3.47	2.79-3.93	2.88-3.91
CA	California Northstate University College of Dental Medicine	19.8	20.2	18.9	17-22	17-24	16-22	3.3	3.42	2.83-3.86	2.90-3.81
CO	University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine	20.4	19.7	19.8	17-25	16-23	16-25	3.56	3.65	2.95-4.00	3.09-4.00
CT	University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine	22.5	20.6	22.2	20-26	17-24	19-26	3.7	3.76	3.15-3.99	3.33-3.98
DC	Howard University College of Dentistry	18.9	18.2	18.8	17-22	16-21	16-22	3.25	3.34	2.59-3.76	2.77-3.84
FL	University of Florida College of Dentistry	22.7	20.9	22.7	20-26	17-26	19-26	3.82	3.86	3.47-4.00	3.60-4.00
FL	Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine	20.9	19.4	20.9	18-24	16-24	18-24	3.6	3.66	2.93-3.96	3.06-3.98
FL	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Dental Medicine	20.9	19.8	20.5	18-24	17-23	18-24	3.66	3.72	3.31-4.00	3.36-3.99
GA	Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University	20.8	20.2	20.5	18-24	17-24	17-25	3.64	3.72	3.17-3.99	3.29-3.99



Table 3 | Characteristics of the Class Entering Fall 2024 by Dental School, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Age	Predental Education**				
		Mean	2 Yrs.	3 Yrs.	4 Yrs. (w/o B.A./B.S.)	B.A./B.S. Degree	M.A. Degree and Above
IA	University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics	24	0	0	1	79	0
IL	Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine	23	0	1	0	47	2
IL	University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	61	9
IL	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Illinois	25	0	0	0	106	36
IN	Indiana University School of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	90	16
KY	University of Kentucky College of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	63	2
KY	University of Louisville School of Dentistry	23	0	2	0	107	11
LA	Louisiana State University Health New Orleans School of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	67	8
MA	Harvard School of Dental Medicine	23	0	0	0	35	0
MA	Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine	24	0	0	0	0	117
MA	Tufts University School of Dental Medicine	24	0	0	0	125	85
MD	University of Maryland School of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	123	7
ME	University of New England College of Dental Medicine	24	0	1	1	63	6
MI	University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry	23	2	4	0	132	6
MI	University of Michigan School of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	104	5
MN	University of Minnesota School of Dentistry	24	0	0	0	104	1
MO	University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry	23	0	0	1	107	0
MO	A.T. Still University Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health	24	0	0	0	59	6
MO	Kansas City University College of Dental Medicine	25	0	1	0	69	10

Table 3 | Characteristics of the Class Entering Fall 2024 by Dental School, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	DAT Scores Mean			DAT Scores 5th–95th percentiles			Undergraduate GPA Mean		Undergraduate GPA 5th–95th percentiles	
		AA	PAT	Sci	AA	PAT	Sci	Science	Total	Science	Total
IA	University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics	21.2	20.6	20.9	18-27	18-24	17-27	3.66	3.74	2.94-4.00	3.19-4.00
IL	Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine	20.5	20.3	19.9	17-24	17-23	17-24	3.59	3.68	3.04-4.00	3.11-4.00
IL	University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry	21.2	19.8	20.9	17-25	17-23	17-24	3.71	3.77	3.08-4.00	3.25-4.00
IL	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Illinois	19.4	19.5	19	17-23	16-23	17-22	3.26	3.39	2.75-3.87	2.86-3.90
IN	Indiana University School of Dentistry	20.6	19.9	20.1	18-24	16-24	17-24	3.62	3.7	3.14-4.00	3.33-3.99
KY	University of Kentucky College of Dentistry	20.4	19.8	20.1	18-24	17-23	17-24	3.69	3.75	3.01-4.00	3.26-4.00
KY	University of Louisville School of Dentistry	19.9	19.9	19.5	18-24	17-23	17-22	3.57	3.66	3.09-3.94	3.23-3.96
LA	Louisiana State University Health New Orleans School of Dentistry	21.6	20.4	21.1	20-24	17-24	19-24	3.61	3.7	3.11-4.00	3.21-4.00
MA	Harvard School of Dental Medicine	24.9	22.5	24.9	21-29	19-27	22-30	3.91	3.91	3.59-4.00	3.61-4.00
MA	Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine	19.8	19.6	19.5	16-24	16-23	16-24	3.44	3.51	2.79-3.95	2.91-3.93
MA	Tufts University School of Dental Medicine	19.4	18.7	19	16-23	15-22	16-23	3.39	3.47	2.82-3.93	2.94-3.94
MD	University of Maryland School of Dentistry	21.7	20.6	21.4	19-25	17-24	18-25	3.63	3.71	3.20-3.99	3.35-3.99
ME	University of New England College of Dental Medicine	19.5	19.8	19.1	17-23	17-24	17-23	3.5	3.6	3.19-3.88	3.26-3.91
MI	University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry	20.4	19.3	20.3	18-24	15-23	17-25	3.61	3.68	3.09-3.97	3.24-3.98
MI	University of Michigan School of Dentistry	22.4	21.4	22.1	19-26	18-25	19-27	3.77	3.82	3.30-4.00	3.40-4.00
MN	University of Minnesota School of Dentistry	21.5	20.6	21.2	18-25	17-25	18-25	3.67	3.75	3.21-4.00	3.33-4.00
MO	University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry	20.2	19.8	19.8	17-24	16-23	17-24	3.71	3.77	3.41-3.98	3.42-3.97
MO	A.T. Still University Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health	19.3	19.3	18.8	17-22	16-23	16-23	3.46	3.56	3.08-3.90	3.07-3.93
MO	Kansas City University College of Dental Medicine	18.4	19.1	17.5	16-22	15-23	15-21	3.44	3.53	3.03-3.88	3.04-3.89

Table 3 | Characteristics of the Class Entering Fall 2024 by Dental School, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Age  Mean	Predental Education**				
			2 Yrs.	3 Yrs.	4 Yrs. (w/o B.A./B.S.)	B.A./B.S. Degree	M.A. Degree and Above
MS	University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	32	8
NC	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry	24	0	0	0	71	11
NC	East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine	23	0	0	0	45	8
NE	Creighton University School of Dentistry	23	1	1	3	104	3
NE	University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry	23	0	0	1	50	1
NJ	Rutgers School of Dental Medicine	24	0	3	5	75	9
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine	24	0	0	2	75	1
NY	Columbia University College of Dental Medicine	23	0	0	0	84	0
NY	NYU College of Dentistry	23	0	19	0	319	34
NY	Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine	23	0	0	0	45	0
NY	University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine	23	0	0	0	88	6
NY	Touro College of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College	24	0	0	0	179	11
OH	The Ohio State University College of Dentistry	23	0	0	84	35	1
OH	Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine	23	0	12	8	57	1
OK	University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry	24	0	2	0	50	1
OR	Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry	24	0	0	0	74	0
PA	The Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry, Temple University	24	11	33	13	75	7
PA	University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine	22	0	4	0	152	2

Table 3 | Characteristics of the Class Entering Fall 2024 by Dental School, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	DAT Scores Mean			DAT Scores 5th–95th percentiles			Undergraduate GPA Mean		Undergraduate GPA 5th–95th percentiles	
		AA	PAT	Sci	AA	PAT	Sci	Science	Total	Science	Total
MS	University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry	20.3	20.2	19.9	17-23	17-23	17-23	3.71	3.78	3.12-4.00	3.27-4.00
NC	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry	22.7	21.4	22.4	19-27	18-25	19-28	3.64	3.72	3.16-4.00	3.32-4.00
NC	East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine	21.7	20	21.2	19-25	17-24	19-25	3.7	3.76	3.27-4.00	3.31-4.00
NE	Creighton University School of Dentistry	20.5	20.5	20.2	18-25	17-25	17-25	3.65	3.72	3.09-4.00	3.26-4.00
NE	University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry	20.6	20.2	19.8	18-25	16-23	17-24	3.7	3.77	3.34-3.99	3.38-3.99
NJ	Rutgers School of Dental Medicine	22.1	20.3	21.9	19-26	17-24	19-26	3.66	3.72	2.90-4.00	3.00-3.99
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine	21.2	20.8	20.9	18-24	17-25	18-25	3.59	3.66	3.02-3.99	3.19-3.99
NY	Columbia University College of Dental Medicine	25.7	22.6	26	24-28	18-26	23-30	3.79	3.82	3.45-4.00	3.53-4.00
NY	NYU College of Dentistry	21	19.9	20.7	18-24	16-25	17-25	3.52	3.62	3.09-3.97	3.25-3.97
NY	Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine	22.2	21	22.2	20-25	18-25	19-25	3.74	3.79	3.42-3.98	3.50-3.99
NY	University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine	21.1	20.3	20.9	18-25	17-24	18-24	3.64	3.7	3.24-3.99	3.38-3.99
NY	Touro College of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College	21.1	20	21	19-25	17-23	18-24	3.51	3.59	2.99-3.96	3.08-3.97
OH	The Ohio State University College of Dentistry	20.9	20.5	20.6	17-26	17-25	17-26	3.61	3.68	2.87-4.00	2.98-4.00
OH	Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine	21.4	20.6	20.7	19-24	18-24	18-24	3.62	3.69	3.13-4.00	3.29-4.00
OK	University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry	20.4	20.1	20	18-25	17-23	17-26	3.67	3.74	3.03-4.00	3.19-4.00
OR	Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry	20.7	19.8	20.1	17-25	16-24	17-24	3.61	3.68	3.20-3.98	3.31-3.98
PA	The Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry, Temple University	21.4	20.2	21.3	19-25	16-24	18-25	3.52	3.6	2.97-3.98	3.11-3.97
PA	University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine	23.7	21.6	23.4	21-27	19-25	20-27	3.8	3.84	3.52-4.00	3.63-4.00

Table 3 | Characteristics of the Class Entering Fall 2024 by Dental School, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Age  Mean	Predental Education**				
			2 Yrs.	3 Yrs.	4 Yrs. (w/o B.A./B.S.)	B.A./B.S. Degree	M.A. Degree and Above
PA	University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine	23	0	0	0	76	4
PR	University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine	24	0	2	0	32	6
PR	Ponce Health Sciences University School of Dental Medicine	25	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SC	Medical University of South Carolina James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine	23	0	0	0	68	10
TN	Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry	24	0	0	0	54	21
TN	University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry	23	0	0	1	111	9
TN	Lincoln Memorial University College of Dental Medicine	24	0	0	0	79	0
TX	Texas A&M University College of Dentistry	23	0	0	1	92	13
TX	UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry	22	0	0	0	103	3
TX	UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry	23	0	2	5	92	3
TX	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine	24	0	0	1	52	7
UT	Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	26	0	0	4	72	24
UT	University of Utah School of Dentistry	24	0	0	0	51	0
VA	Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry	23	0	5	0	87	7
WA	University of Washington School of Dentistry	24	0	0	0	59	4
WI	Marquette University School of Dentistry	23	0	10	0	90	1
WV	West Virginia University School of Dentistry	23	0	0	0	46	2



Table 3 | Characteristics of the Class Entering Fall 2024 by Dental School, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	DAT Scores Mean			DAT Scores 5th–95th percentiles			Undergraduate GPA Mean		Undergraduate GPA 5th–95th percentiles	
		AA	PAT	Sci	AA	PAT	Sci	Science	Total	Science	Total
PA	University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine	21.8	21	21.5	19-26	18-24	18-26	3.7	3.77	3.17-3.97	3.38-3.98
PR	University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine	17.4	18.6	17.6	15-21	15-22	15-22	3.39	3.54	2.76-3.94	3.04-3.96
PR	Ponce Health Sciences University School of Dental Medicine	16.4	18	16.2	14-19	16-21	13-19	3.24	3.41	2.79-3.82	2.92-3.86
SC	Medical University of South Carolina James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine	20.4	20.3	19.9	18-23	17-23	17-24	3.69	3.73	3.09-4.00	3.19-4.00
TN	Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry	17.7	17.2	17.3	15-20	14-21	15-20	3.33	3.44	2.75-3.93	2.84-3.93
TN	University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry	20.5	20.2	20.1	18-24	16-24	17-24	3.65	3.75	3.16-4.00	3.34-4.00
TN	Lincoln Memorial University College of Dental Medicine	18.4	18.6	17.7	15-22	14-23	14-21	3.32	3.46	2.63-3.91	2.81-3.93
TX	Texas A&M University College of Dentistry	21.4	19.7	21	19-26	17-24	18-25	3.69	3.76	3.09-4.00	3.29-4.00
TX	UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry	22.6	20.9	22.2	19-26	17-25	19-27	3.84	3.87	3.53-4.00	3.63-4.00
TX	UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry	21.9	20.5	21.9	19-26	17-25	18-28	3.76	3.81	3.43-4.00	3.55-4.00
TX	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine	20.4	19.3	19.8	17-24	16-23	16-24	3.62	3.71	3.17-4.00	3.32-4.00
UT	Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	20.3	20.1	20	18-25	17-24	17-25	3.41	3.51	2.87-3.96	2.97-3.94
UT	University of Utah School of Dentistry	21.8	21.3	21.4	18-26	18-25	18-27	3.66	3.74	3.28-4.00	3.38-3.99
VA	Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry	21.8	20.7	21.5	18-26	17-25	18-26	3.72	3.76	3.21-4.00	3.25-4.00
WA	University of Washington School of Dentistry	21.6	21	21.4	18-26	17-25	18-27	3.62	3.68	3.11-3.99	3.19-3.99
WI	Marquette University School of Dentistry	20.5	20	20.3	18-26	17-24	17-26	3.6	3.7	2.99-3.99	3.17-3.99
WV	West Virginia University School of Dentistry	20	19.7	19.4	17-23	17-23	17-23	3.75	3.8	3.45-4.00	3.57-4.00

\*Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Surveys of Dental Education, Report 1: Academic Programs, Enrollment, and Graduates, 2023-2024: Table 6.

##"MA Degree and Above" includes Master's and Ph.D. degrees.

Table 4 | Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, In-state or -province vs. Out-of-State or -Province—Entering Class Fall 2024

State, Territory, or Province	University + Dental School Name	Total Applicants	In-state or -province Applicants		Out-of-State or -Province Applicants		International Applicants	
			Total In-state	No. of Offers Made	Total Out-of- State	No. of Offers Made	Total Int'l	No. of Offers Made
AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry	1229	115	59	1088	75	26	2
AZ	A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health	2914	140	32	2725	206	49	2
AZ	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Arizona	2879	143	57	2541	334	195	17
CA	University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry	2211	1013	165	931	80	267	11
CA	University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry	1496	782	57	606	36	108	5
CA	University of California, Los Angeles, School of Dentistry	1681	891	101	680	25	110	3
CA	Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC	2618	1027	191	1266	146	325	30
CA	Loma Linda University School of Dentistry	1478	625	102	702	78	151	11
CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	2544	1047	100	1381	48	116	2
CA	California Northstate University College of Dental Medicine	613	341	105	254	59	18	0
CO	University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine	2087	131	52	1907	95	49	1
CT	University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine	1525	89	29	1359	29	77	1
DC	Howard University College of Dentistry	802	1	0	721	146	80	6
FL	University of Florida College of Dentistry	1878	694	102	1182	32	2	0
FL	Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine	2737	739	160	1739	153	259	28
FL	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Dental Medicine	3527	671	194	2800	442	56	0
GA	Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University	1107	333	99	756	17	18	1
IA	University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics	1130	117	58	990	77	23	1
IL	Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine	774	330	66	426	12	18	0

Table 4 | Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, In-state or -province vs. Out-of-State or -Province—Entering Class Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Total Enrollees	In-state or -province Enrollee		Out-of-State or -Province Enrollee		International Enrollee	
			Total In-state	% of Total Enrollees	Total Out-of- State	% of Total Enrollees	Total Int'l	% of Total Enrollees
AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry	83	53	63.9%	29	34.9%	1	1.2%
AZ	A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health	78	16	20.5%	62	79.5%	0	0.0%
AZ	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Arizona	147	35	23.8%	107	72.8%	5	3.4%
CA	University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry	142	107	75.4%	28	19.7%	7	4.9%
CA	University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry	61	41	67.2%	18	29.5%	2	3.3%
CA	University of California, Los Angeles, School of Dentistry	85	74	87.1%	10	11.8%	1	1.2%
CA	Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC	144	102	70.8%	34	23.6%	8	5.6%
CA	Loma Linda University School of Dentistry	98	61	62.2%	30	30.6%	7	7.1%
CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	70	54	77.1%	16	22.9%	0	0.0%
CA	California Northstate University College of Dental Medicine	39	32	82.1%	7	17.9%	0	0.0%
CO	University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine	80	44	55.0%	36	45.0%	0	0.0%
CT	University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine	49	28	57.1%	20	40.8%	1	2.0%
DC	Howard University College of Dentistry	66	0	0.0%	61	92.4%	5	7.6%
FL	University of Florida College of Dentistry	86	80	93.0%	6	7.0%	0	0.0%
FL	Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine	128	91	71.1%	30	23.4%	7	5.5%
FL	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Dental Medicine	124	47	37.9%	77	62.1%	0	0.0%
GA	Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University	95	87	91.6%	8	8.4%	0	0.0%
IA	University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics	80	55	68.8%	25	31.3%	0	0.0%
IL	Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine	50	43	86.0%	7	14.0%	0	0.0%

Table 4 | Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, In-state or -province vs. Out-of-State or -Province—Entering Class Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory, or Province	University + Dental School Name	Total Applicants	In-state or -province Applicants		Out-of-State or -Province Applicants		International Applicants	
			Total In-state	No. of Offers Made	Total Out-of- State	No. of Offers Made	Total Int'l	No. of Offers Made
IL	University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry	1610	441	119	1110	4	59	1
IL	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Illinois	2698	377	48	2189	210	132	1
IN	Indiana University School of Dentistry	1328	180	89	1098	79	50	6
KY	University of Kentucky College of Dentistry	1110	114	46	969	74	27	0
KY	University of Louisville School of Dentistry	1557	112	42	1416	223	29	2
LA	Louisiana State University Health New Orleans School of Dentistry	631	168	70	458	26	5	0
MA	Harvard School of Dental Medicine	1263	77	5	1068	37	118	2
MA	Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine	3240	170	57	2650	190	420	18
MA	Tufts University School of Dental Medicine	4361	189	66	3753	368	419	33
MD	University of Maryland School of Dentistry	2823	187	74	2416	214	220	7
ME	University of New England College of Dental Medicine	1068	18	7	1014	205	36	3
MI	University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry	2155	420	126	1353	151	382	56
MI	University of Michigan School of Dentistry	1716	384	68	1232	151	100	8
MN	University of Minnesota School of Dentistry	1419	202	83	995	108	222	27
MO	University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry	1030	150	56	867	48	13	2
MO	A.T. Still University Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health	1635	110	28	1513	123	12	0
MO	Kansas City University College of Dental Medicine	1246	95	37	1120	202	31	1
MS	University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry	173	113	42	59	0	1	0
NC	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry	1102	300	62	778	37	24	2

Table 4 | Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, In-state or -province vs. Out-of-State or -Province—Entering Class Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Total Enrollees	In-state or -province Enrollee		Out-of-State or -Province Enrollee		International Enrollee	
			Total In-state	% of Total Enrollees	Total Out-of- State	% of Total Enrollees	Total Int'l	% of Total Enrollees
IL	University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry	69	69	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
IL	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Illinois	138	32	23.2%	105	76.1%	1	0.7%
IN	Indiana University School of Dentistry	104	82	78.8%	20	19.2%	2	1.9%
KY	University of Kentucky College of Dentistry	69	38	55.1%	31	44.9%	0	0.0%
KY	University of Louisville School of Dentistry	113	26	23.0%	86	76.1%	1	0.9%
LA	Louisiana State University Health New Orleans School of Dentistry	75	63	84.0%	12	16.0%	0	0.0%
MA	Harvard School of Dental Medicine	35	5	14.3%	28	80.0%	2	5.7%
MA	Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine	110	30	27.3%	70	63.6%	10	9.1%
MA	Tufts University School of Dental Medicine	188	37	19.7%	140	74.5%	11	5.9%
MD	University of Maryland School of Dentistry	128	70	54.7%	57	44.5%	1	0.8%
ME	University of New England College of Dental Medicine	70	3	4.3%	67	95.7%	0	0.0%
MI	University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry	145	81	55.9%	36	24.8%	28	19.3%
MI	University of Michigan School of Dentistry	108	65	60.2%	40	37.0%	3	2.8%
MN	University of Minnesota School of Dentistry	105	64	61.0%	35	33.3%	6	5.7%
MO	University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry	79	47	59.5%	30	38.0%	2	2.5%
MO	A.T. Still University Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health	63	13	20.6%	50	79.4%	0	0.0%
MO	Kansas City University College of Dental Medicine	81	14	17.3%	67	82.7%	0	0.0%
MS	University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry	40	40	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
NC	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry	82	56	68.3%	24	29.3%	2	2.4%



Table 4 | Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, In-state or -province vs. Out-of-State or -Province—Entering Class Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory, or Province	University + Dental School Name	Total Applicants	In-state or -province Applicants		Out-of-State or -Province Applicants		International Applicants	
			Total In-state	No. of Offers Made	Total Out-of- State	No. of Offers Made	Total Int'l	No. of Offers Made
NC	East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine	364	324	74	36	0	4	0
NE	Creighton University School of Dentistry	2072	59	13	1932	202	81	7
NE	University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry	705	77	43	610	31	18	0
NJ	Rutgers School of Dental Medicine	2767	383	67	2194	91	190	9
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine	1746	84	48	1621	118	41	5
NY	Columbia University College of Dental Medicine	1895	347	23	1361	122	187	10
NY	NYU College of Dentistry	3125	506	119	2216	212	403	50
NY	Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine	594	334	50	218	10	42	5
NY	University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine	2358	513	108	1500	35	345	4
NY	Touro College of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College	2867	591	196	1912	424	364	76
OH	The Ohio State University College of Dentistry	1264	253	125	988	97	23	1
OH	Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine	1668	148	41	1253	195	267	56
OK	University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry	687	132	50	539	32	16	0
OR	Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry	1602	97	47	1423	156	82	3
PA	The Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry, Temple University	2838	265	79	2180	257	393	71
PA	University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine	2852	163	17	2416	130	273	20
PA	University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine	1747	208	52	1396	51	143	2
PR	University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine	358	111	40	235	5	12	1
PR	Ponce Health Sciences University School of Dental Medicine	304	135	95	153	13	16	0
SC	Medical University of South Carolina James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine	1764	163	66	1568	25	33	1
TN	Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry	1852	86	9	1670	113	96	3
TN	University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry	1291	172	109	1116	63	3	0

Table 4 | Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, In-state or -province vs. Out-of-State or -Province—Entering Class Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Total Enrollees	In-state or -province Enrollee		Out-of-State or -Province Enrollee		International Enrollee	
			Total In-state	% of Total Enrollees	Total Out-of- State	% of Total Enrollees	Total Int'l	% of Total Enrollees
NC	East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine	52	52	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
NE	Creighton University School of Dentistry	116	8	6.9%	104	89.7%	4	3.4%
NE	University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry	52	40	76.9%	12	23.1%	0	0.0%
NJ	Rutgers School of Dental Medicine	89	53	59.6%	33	37.1%	3	3.4%
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine	82	40	48.8%	40	48.8%	2	2.4%
NY	Columbia University College of Dental Medicine	84	15	17.9%	62	73.8%	7	8.3%
NY	NYU College of Dentistry	380	119	31.3%	211	55.5%	50	13.2%
NY	Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine	46	40	87.0%	3	6.5%	3	6.5%
NY	University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine	94	78	83.0%	13	13.8%	3	3.2%
NY	Touro College of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College	214	81	37.9%	121	56.5%	12	5.6%
OH	The Ohio State University College of Dentistry	123	105	85.4%	18	14.6%	0	0.0%
OH	Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine	78	20	25.6%	39	50.0%	19	24.4%
OK	University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry	52	49	94.2%	3	5.8%	0	0.0%
OR	Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry	73	43	58.9%	30	41.1%	0	0.0%
PA	The Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry, Temple University	135	42	31.1%	72	53.3%	21	15.6%
PA	University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine	167	17	10.2%	130	77.8%	20	12.0%
PA	University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine	63	39	61.9%	23	36.5%	1	1.6%
PR	University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine	40	35	87.5%	4	10.0%	1	2.5%
PR	Ponce Health Sciences University School of Dental Medicine	50	44	88.0%	6	12.0%	0	0.0%
SC	Medical University of South Carolina James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine	78	59	75.6%	18	23.1%	1	1.3%
TN	Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry	75	7	9.3%	67	89.3%	1	1.3%
TN	University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry	128	90	70.3%	38	29.7%	0	0.0%

Table 4 | Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, In-state or -province vs. Out-of-State or -Province—Entering Class Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory, or Province	University + Dental School Name	Total Applicants	In-state or -province Applicants		Out-of-State or -Province Applicants		International Applicants	
			Total In-state	No. of Offers Made	Total Out-of- State	No. of Offers Made	Total Int'l	No. of Offers Made
TN	Lincoln Memorial University College of Dental Medicine	408	80	45	319	116	9	1
TX	Texas A&M University College of Dentistry	1710	908	190	753	14	49	8
TX	UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry	1656	923	143	703	10	30	0
TX	UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry	1131	924	193	190	20	17	0
TX	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine	1040	879	106	147	12	14	0
UT	Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	2156	150	49	1908	141	98	10
UT	University of Utah School of Dentistry	562	149	25	411	75	2	0
VA	Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry	2171	283	74	1709	115	179	9
WA	University of Washington School of Dentistry	972	188	76	722	28	62	2
WI	Marquette University School of Dentistry	2657	154	63	2281	122	222	1
WV	West Virginia University School of Dentistry	754	52	26	659	47	43	3

Table 4 | Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, In-state or -province vs. Out-of-State or -Province—Entering Class Fall 2024, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Total Enrollees	In-state or -province Enrollee		Out-of-State or -Province Enrollee		International Enrollee	
			Total In-state	% of Total Enrollees	Total Out-of- State	% of Total Enrollees	Total Int'l	% of Total Enrollees
TN	Lincoln Memorial University College of Dental Medicine	79	19	24.1%	60	75.9%	0	0.0%
TX	Texas A&M University College of Dentistry	102	90	88.2%	5	4.9%	7	6.9%
TX	UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry	106	101	95.3%	5	4.7%	0	0.0%
TX	UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry	99	91	91.9%	8	8.1%	0	0.0%
TX	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine	60	54	90.0%	6	10.0%	0	0.0%
UT	Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	140	37	26.4%	97	69.3%	6	4.3%
UT	University of Utah School of Dentistry	50	21	42.0%	29	58.0%	0	0.0%
VA	Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry	95	58	61.1%	29	30.5%	8	8.4%
WA	University of Washington School of Dentistry	62	53	85.5%	7	11.3%	2	3.2%
WI	Marquette University School of Dentistry	100	50	50.0%	49	49.0%	1	1.0%
WV	West Virginia University School of Dentistry	48	20	41.7%	27	56.3%	1	2.1%

\* Number interviewed includes the following decision codes: Matriculated, Applicant Matriculated, Withdrew after Offer Accepted, Offer Rescinded by School, Withdrawn after Acceptance, Rejected after Interview, Invited for Interview, Withdrew after Matriculation, Offer Accepted, Defer to Next Cycle, Offer Made, Withdrew after Interview, Wait Listed, Deferred Enrollment, Offer Declined. Missing decision codes are excluded.

Table 5 | Undergraduate Majors of Dental School Applicants and First-time, First-year Enrollees, 2024

Predental Major	Percent of Applicants	Percent of First-Time, First-Year Enrollees	Percent Rate of Enrollment
Biological and Biomedical Science	64.9%	66.1%	55.4%
Health Professions and Related Programs	11.3%	10.3%	49.5%
<i>Dental, Medical or Health Preparatory Programs</i>	0.3%	0.2%	44.1%
<i>Dental Support Services and Allied Professions</i>	1.0%	0.7%	37.0%
<i>Health Professions and Related Programs, Others</i>	10.0%	9.4%	50.9%
Physical Sciences	3.4%	3.2%	51.3%
Psychology	4.0%	3.9%	53.3%
Parks, Recreation, Leisure and Fitness Studies	2.5%	2.6%	54.9%
Multi- or Interdisciplinary Studies	3.3%	3.4%	56.0%
Business, Management, Marketing and Related Support Services	1.9%	2.1%	58.4%
Family and Consumer Sciences or Human Sciences	1.2%	1.2%	53.1%
Engineering and Engineering-related Fields	1.5%	1.8%	65.9%
Social Sciences	1.5%	1.3%	47.8%
All Other Majors	4.4%	4.3%	52.5%



Table 6 | Dental Doctoral and Combined Degree Programs by Dental School

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Type of Degree Granted	Ph.D.	M.D.	M.P.H.	M.S.	Other	Predental
AL	University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry	D.M.D.	✓					
AZ	A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health	D.M.D.			✓		✓	
AZ	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Arizona	D.M.D.			✓		✓	
CA	University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry	D.D.S.						✓
CA	University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓			✓		
CA	University of California, Los Angeles, School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓					
CA	Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC	D.D.S.						
CA	Loma Linda University School of Dentistry	D.D.S.					✓	
CA	Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.						
CO	University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine	D.D.S.			✓			✓
CT	University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.	✓		✓	✓		✓
DC	Howard University College of Dentistry	D.D.S.						
FL	University of Florida College of Dentistry	D.M.D.	✓					✓
FL	Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.			✓	✓		✓
FL	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.						✓
GA	Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University	D.M.D.	✓			✓	✓	✓
IA	University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics	D.D.S.						
IL	Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.						✓
IL	University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry	D.M.D.	✓		✓			✓

Table 6 | Dental Doctoral and Combined Degree Programs by Dental School, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Type of Degree Granted	Ph.D.	M.D.	M.P.H.	M.S.	Other	Predental
IL	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine-Illinois	D.M.D.			✓	✓		
IN	Indiana University School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓		✓			
KY	University of Kentucky College of Dentistry	D.M.D.						
KY	University of Louisville School of Dentistry	D.M.D.	✓			✓		✓
LA	Louisiana State University Health New Orleans School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓					
MA	Harvard School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.	✓					
MA	Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.						
MA	Tufts University School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.			✓	✓		
MD	University of Maryland School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓		✓	✓		
ME	University of New England College of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.						✓
MI	University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry	D.D.S.					✓	✓
MI	University of Michigan School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓					
MN	University of Minnesota School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓		✓	✓		
MO	University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓					
MO	A.T. Still University Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health	D.M.D.			✓		✓	
MO	Kansas City University College of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.			✓			✓
MS	University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry	D.M.D.						
NC	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry	D.D.S.						
NC	East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.					✓	
NE	Creighton University School of Dentistry	D.D.S.						
NE	University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry	D.D.S.					✓	✓

Table 6 | Dental Doctoral and Combined Degree Programs by Dental School, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Type of Degree Granted	Ph.D.	M.D.	M.P.H.	M.S.	Other	Predental
NJ	Rutgers School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.	✓		✓			✓
NV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.			✓			✓
NY	Columbia University College of Dental Medicine	D.D.S.			✓		✓	
NY	NYU College of Dentistry	D.D.S.			✓		✓	✓
NY	Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine	D.D.S.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
NY	University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine	D.D.S.				✓		
NY	Touro College of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College	D.D.S.						
OH	The Ohio State University College of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓		✓	✓	✓	
OH	Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.			✓	✓		✓
OK	University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry	D.D.S.						
OR	Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry	D.M.D.						
PA	The Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry, Temple University	D.M.D.			✓			
PA	University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.			✓	✓	✓	✓
PA	University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.	✓			✓	✓	✓
PR	University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.						
PR	Ponce Health Sciences University School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SC	Medical University of South Carolina James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.	✓					
TN	Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓				✓	✓
TN	University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry	D.D.S.						
TN	Lincoln Memorial University College of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.				✓		✓
TX	Texas A&M College of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓					

Table 6 | Dental Doctoral and Combined Degree Programs by Dental School, *continued*

State, Territory or Province	University + Dental School Name	Type of Degree Granted	Ph.D.	M.D.	M.P.H.	M.S.	Other	Predental
TX	UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry	D.D.S.			✓			
TX	UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓					
TX	Texas Tech University Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.			✓			
UT	Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine	D.M.D.						
UT	University of Utah School of Dentistry	D.D.S.						
VA	Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓					✓
WA	University of Washington School of Dentistry	D.D.S.	✓					
WI	Marquette University School of Dentistry	D.D.S.						✓
WV	West Virginia University School of Dentistry	D.D.S.						✓

Degree Awarded: Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2023-2024 Survey of Dental Education, Report 1, Table 1.

Combined Degree Programs: Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2023-2024 Survey of Dental Education, Report 2, Table 16.

## Finding More Information

This section provides a list of organizations that can inform you about the dental profession and offer support during various phases of the application process. In this section, we provide a quick reference list of individuals and organizations mentioned in the Guide. We've also added the names and websites of organizations and publications you may wish to consult for additional information.

### Who Can Advise Me?.....100

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# FINDING MORE INFORMATION

This section provides lists of individuals, organizations and references that can help you find answers to any remaining questions you may have.

## Who Can Advise Me?

First, consider talking to people involved in dental education. They are interested in encouraging students like you to consider dentistry as a career. Next, think about approaching other professionals, such as the ones indicated here:

These professionals	Can help you by ...
Health Professions Advisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisting you with a broad range of issues about dental education and dental schools.</li> <li>• Informing you about the academic preparation necessary (before you begin the application process) to be accepted into a dental school.</li> <li>• Helping coordinate letters of evaluation (during the application process).</li> </ul>
Science Professors (especially those in biological sciences)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing letters of evaluation.</li> <li>• Substituting for a health professions advisor if your undergraduate school does not have one.</li> </ul>
Practicing Dentists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing their knowledge about the education and skills needed to pursue a variety of careers in dentistry.</li> <li>• Describing day-to-day work and addressing work-life balance.</li> <li>• Offering you internship or “shadowing” opportunities.</li> </ul>
Dental School Admissions Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing information about the dental schools they represent, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Admission criteria,</li> <li>&gt; Academic program highlights and</li> <li>&gt; Student support services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Dental School Student Affairs Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing information about diversity at their schools.</li> <li>• Welcoming and assisting students from diverse backgrounds.</li> <li>• Providing information about support services.</li> </ul>
Financial Aid Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advising you on ways to finance the cost of attending dental school.</li> <li>• Helping you understand the:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Financial aid application process and</li> <li>&gt; Eligibility requirements for governmental, institutional and private sources of financial aid.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Dental Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing perceptions and personal experiences about the education they are receiving. (Keep in mind that it is always a good idea to base your decisions on information collected from a variety of sources.)</li> <li>• Describing their experiences of their schools’ nonacademic features, such as student support services and social atmosphere.</li> </ul>

## What Organizations Can Help Me?

A number of organizations offer information about careers in dentistry, preparing for admission to dental school and seeking financial aid.

### Dental Education

Organization	Contact Information	Mission/Objectives
American Dental Education Association (ADEA)	<a href="http://adea.org">adea.org</a> <a href="http://adea.org/GoDental">adea.org/GoDental</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides information about dental school application and admissions processes.</li> <li>• Sponsors application services for admission to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Dental school (ADEA AADSAS®),</li> <li>&gt; Advanced placement for international dentists (ADEA CAAPID®),</li> <li>&gt; Dental hygiene programs (ADEA DHCAS®) and</li> <li>&gt; Advanced dental education (ADEA PASS®).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The ADEA GoDental® website is dedicated as an online career-building and networking resource for people on the pathway to careers in dentistry or dental hygiene.</li> <li>• ADEA GoDental promotes collaboration, community and connection between prehealth and current health professionals.</li> </ul>
Canadian Dental Association	<a href="http://cda-adc.ca/en/index.asp">cda-adc.ca/en/index.asp</a>	
ExploreHealthCareers	<a href="http://ExploreHealthCareers.org">ExploreHealthCareers.org</a> <a href="mailto:feedback@explorehealthcareers.org">feedback@explorehealthcareers.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serves as a free multidisciplinary website allowing users to explore more than 100 health professions careers, including dentistry and allied dentistry.</li> <li>• Provides a database with more than 500 resources about scholarships and predental enrichment programs.</li> </ul>
International Federation of Dental Educators and Associations	<a href="http://www.ifdea.org">www.ifdea.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operates a web-based, knowledge-sharing resource for the dental education community.</li> <li>• Gathers international resources and expertise in dental education.</li> </ul>

### Research Organizations

Organization	Contact Information	Mission/Objectives
American Association for Dental Research  International Association for Dental Research	<a href="http://iadr.org/AADR">iadr.org/AADR</a>  <a href="http://iadr.org">iadr.org</a>	Both organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance research and increases knowledge for the improvement of oral health,</li> <li>• Support and represent the oral health research community and</li> <li>• Facilitate the communication and application of research findings.</li> </ul>
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	<a href="http://nidcr.nih.gov">nidcr.nih.gov</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims to improve dental, oral and craniofacial health through research, research training and the dissemination of health information.</li> </ul>

## What Organizations Can Help Me Learn More About the Dental Profession?

### Professional Organizations

Students can join these organizations during dental school or after graduation:

Organization	Website
American Association of Women Dentists	<a href="http://aawd.org">aawd.org</a>
American Dental Association	<a href="http://ada.org">ada.org</a>
American Student Dental Association	<a href="http://asdanet.org">asdanet.org</a>
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health	<a href="http://aspph.org">aspph.org</a>
Hispanic Dental Association	<a href="http://hdassoc.org">hdassoc.org</a>
National Dental Association and Student National Dental Association	<a href="http://ndaonline.org">ndaonline.org</a> <a href="http://sndaonline.net">sndaonline.net</a>
Society of American Indian Dentists	<a href="http://thesaidonline.org">thesaidonline.org</a>

### Dental Organizations

Organization	Website
Academy of General Dentistry	<a href="http://agd.org">agd.org</a>
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	<a href="http://aaomp.org">aaomp.org</a>
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	<a href="http://aaomr.org">aaomr.org</a>
American Academy of Oral Medicine	<a href="http://aaom.com">aaom.com</a>
American Academy of Orofacial Pain	<a href="http://aaop.org">aaop.org</a>
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry	<a href="http://aapd.org">aapd.org</a>
American Academy of Periodontology	<a href="http://perio.org">perio.org</a>
American Association of Endodontists	<a href="http://aae.org">aae.org</a>
American Association of Hospital Dentists	See under: Special Care Dentistry Association, <a href="http://scdaonline.org">scdaonline.org</a>
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons	<a href="http://aaoms.org">aaoms.org</a>
American Association of Orthodontists	<a href="http://mylifemysmile.org">mylifemysmile.org</a>
American Association of Public Health	<a href="http://aaphd.org">aaphd.org</a>
American College of Prosthodontists	<a href="http://gotoapro.org">gotoapro.org</a>
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists	<a href="http://asda.org">asda.org</a>
Special Care Dentistry Association	<a href="http://scdaonline.org">scdaonline.org</a>

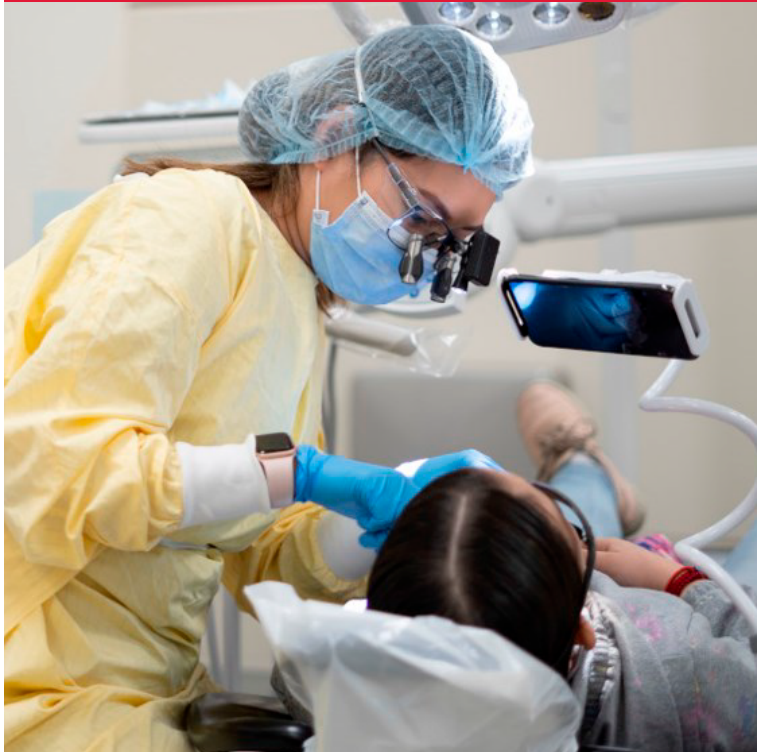
## Are There Other Helpful Resources I Can Access?

College, university and public libraries generally have a range of publications about careers, undergraduate and graduate education, and financial aid. Many also offer computer use for access to electronic resources.

You can find American Student Dental Association (ASDA) publications, including a monthly newspaper and quarterly journal, on [www.asdanet.org/utility-navigation/Publications](http://www.asdanet.org/utility-navigation/Publications). The association also offers its members free copies of the following:

- *Getting Into Dental School: ASDA's Guide for Predental Students*
- *Getting Through Dental School: ASDA's Guide for Dental Students*

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**[unlvdentsch@unlv.edu](mailto:unlvdentsch@unlv.edu)**

**Website: [unlv.edu/dental/students](http://unlv.edu/dental/students)**



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Dentist of the  
Future, **Now.****

**[DENTISTRY.UKY.EDU/GOUKCD](http://DENTISTRY.UKY.EDU/GOUKCD)**

**UK** University of  
**Kentucky**  
College of Dentistry