



ADEA Statement of Ethical Conduct

Ethical Conduct in Applying to Dental Education Programs

This statement of ethical conduct relates to all individuals seeking admission to pre-doctoral dental education programs. The beginning of the application process is the time to understand and abide by the principles set forth in this document.

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the American Dental Association (ADA) have developed this statement in collaboration, as both organizations play roles in the admissions process. The ADEA sponsors the Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) and the ADA sponsors the Dental Admissions Test (DAT).

The American Dental Association *Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct* states:

The dental profession holds a special position of trust within society. As a consequence, society affords the profession certain privileges that are not available to members of the public-at-large. In return, the profession makes a commitment to society that its members will adhere to high ethical standards of conduct. These standards are embodied in the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct (ADA Code). The ADA Code is, in effect, a written expression of the obligations arising from the implied contract between the dental profession and society.

Members of the dental profession voluntarily abide by the *ADA Code* in the interest of protecting patients and maintaining the trust of society as a whole. Submission of an application to a dental education program is the first step in the process of becoming a member of the dental profession. With the application comes the obligation to uphold the highest level of honesty and ethical behavior. An applicant is to be held to the same high standards for truth, full disclosure, and accuracy in the application process as a member of the dental profession is expected to aspire to in their capacity as a member of the profession. Applicants to pre-doctoral dental educational programs are expected to understand and comply with the standards expressed in this statement in their applications for admission to dental school and their applications to take the DAT.

Behavior that results in misconduct or irregularity in the dental education program admissions process is a very serious matter. An applicant who acts unethically risks being denied admission to dental education programs. Moreover, such unethical actions, if disclosed after enrollment in a program or at the beginning of dental practice, can result in more serious outcomes. It is important that applicants understand the significance of exhibiting professional behavior throughout their careers, starting with the application process.

ADA and ADEA expect strong ethical behavior in all persons who are and who aspire to become members of the profession of dentistry. Applicants may contact both associations for more information about their policies and procedures applicable to misconduct and irregularities in the dental school admissions process.