

Pre-Dentistry Academic Prerequisite Guide 2009/2010

There are academic prerequisite variations between Dental Schools. Therefore, it is up to each student to research the school(s) of interest for specific requirements.

Overall Academic GPA

The average overall GPA in 2007 as reported by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) for Dental School Enrollees was 3.53 on a 4.0 scale.

Science GPA

The average science GPA in 2007 as reported by the ADEA for Dental School Enrollees was 3.46 on a 4.0 scale.

DAT

The average DAT score in 2007 as reported by the ADEA was 19.3 (scores range f/ 1-30)

Required Courses

Most Dental Schools require the following courses:

General Biology	BIOL 1110/11 BIOL 1120/21 BIOL 1130/31	12 hrs.
General Chemistry	CHEM 1110/11 CHEM 1120/21	8 hrs.
Organic Chemistry	CHEM 2010/11 CHEM 2020/21	10 hrs.
General Physics	PHYS 2010/11 PHYS 2020/21	8 hrs.
English	ENGL 1010 ENGL 1020	6 hrs.
Math	MATH 1910 MATH 1530	4-6hrs.

(There may be variations between schools. It is up to the student to ensure they take the courses required by the specific schools they apply to.)

* Technical Physics I and II (PHYS 2110/11 & PHYS 2120/21) may be substituted. Technical Physics is more calculus based. If student has strong Math skills, Technical Physics is encouraged over General.

Recommended Courses

The following courses are recommended for additional preparation:

*Biochemistry	BIOL 4147/57 or BIOL 4167/77	5 hrs.
*Microbiology	HSCI 2230/31	4 hrs.
*Human Anatomy	HSCI 3000	4 hrs.
*Human Physiology	HSCI 3020	4 hrs.
*Principles of Nutrition	FACS 2420	3 hrs.
*Intro. to Psychology	PSYC 1310	3 hrs.
*Intro. to Sociology	SOAA 1020	3 hrs.
General Genetics	BIOL 3100 and 3141	5 hrs.
Molecular Biology	BIOL 4647	3 hrs.
Embryology	BIOL 3230	4 hrs.
Immunology	HSCI 3540	3 hrs.

*These classes may be required by some Dental Schools. It is the student's responsibility to research their schools of interest.

Students are encouraged to take as many courses as possible in Social Science, History, Literature, Economics, Psychology, Philosophy, Business, Computer Science, and Sculpture and Art.

Majors

You do not have to choose a major in a science field. The choice of a major is yours. Choose a course of study that interests you. Dental schools do not assume that you have had any courses other than those required. It is true that students who have an extensive science background have an easier time with the dental school basic sciences than non-science majors.

Degree Requirements

A Bachelor's Degree is not required, however, a degree is strongly recommended because it affords the individual a broad, liberal education.

The vast majority of students do earn a degree prior to enrollment in dental school. The degree is evidence of a well-rounded education with a focus in a particular area, which greatly enhances the competitiveness of an applicant. A degree also provides one with a major field of study, on which to build, if not accepted into Dental School.

The Application Process

The DAT is a multiple choice exam that is administered on computer at Prometric Testing Centers in various locations across the country. The test can be taken on almost any day of the year. Students should plan to take the DAT once they have completed the pre-requisite courses

(i.e., Biology, Organic Chemistry, and Physics). It is **not** recommended to take the exam before completing these pre-requisite courses.

Students are encouraged to begin the application process at the end of their junior year. Students must register through the *American Association of Dental Schools Application Service*. An application will be completed through this service and will then be administered to the dental schools of your choice. Most schools require a supplemental application that can be found at each school's website.

The application deadline is different for each school. It is important to be aware of the deadlines and submit your applications as soon as possible.

Aside from a personal statement, most dental schools require students to submit a Composite Evaluation Letter of Academic Work during the application process. ETSU's MPA office provides this service and will assist students through the process.

Related Experience

Dental Schools want to see that applicants have explored the profession of dentistry. It is important for you to observe in a number of dental offices to get a realistic view of what the profession entails.

Extracurricular Activities

Pre-Dental students should engage in extracurricular activities to demonstrate leadership ability, while also pursuing their academic course loads and volunteer/shadowing experience. ETSU has many organizations that students can join, including a Pre-Dental Students Association club. Students should visit the SORC located on the first floor of the Culp center or www.etsu.edu/sorc for more information regarding extracurricular activities. It is not beneficial to simply join an organization, you must demonstrate leadership qualities!

Volunteer Opportunities

Dental schools are looking for candidates who express a commitment to community service. Students should seek volunteer projects that focus on giving back to their community. Students are encouraged to also look for volunteer opportunities related to the dental field.

Concerns

Students must meet with their pre-professional and academic advisor each semester. Furthermore, students who are Athletes or in the Honors College must also seek advisement from those parties. Serious consequences can occur if students fail to meet with advisors, such as not graduating on schedule, not taking the appropriate courses to prepare for the DAT, etc.

Take Note

Be cautious when putting anything on social networking sites and the internet (such as MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, Email, Voicemail, Mobile Text Messaging, Twitter, and blogs).

Email addresses should also be considered when corresponding with professional schools. Remember that first impressions can also be based on correspondence. Is your email address appropriate for professional communication?

Messages and images you send electronically are reflections of your judgment and potential suitability for Professional Careers. Self-deprecating behaviors shared on an accessible venue can be viewed and/or shared by anyone, resulting in detriment to your acceptance into a Professional School.

**** PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS DO LOOK AT INTERNET SOURCES WHEN CONSIDERING CANDIDATE APPLICATIONS!!!**

Suggested Two Year Schedule for Pre-Dental Students

Fall Freshmen Year

Course	Credit Hours
CHEM 1110/1111	4
BIOL 1110/1111	4
MATH 1910	4
ENGL 1010	3
Elective	3
	18

Fall Sophomore Year

Course	Credit Hours
CHEM 2010/2011	4
PHYS 2010/2011	4
SPCH 1300	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
	17

Spring Freshmen Year

Course	Credit Hours
CHEM 11120/1121	4
BIOL 1120/1121	4
MATH 1530	3
ENGL 1020	3
Elective	3
	17

Spring Sophomore Year

Course	Credit Hours
CHEM 2020/2021	4
PHYS 2020/2021	4
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
	17

***Students should maintain a minimum of 17-19 credit hours each semester.**