EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

PRE-DENTISTRY GUIDE
The Pre-Dentistry track at East Tennessee State University prepares students for application to a four-year Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree program (depending on the degree awarded by institution of choice). Students may apply to most dental schools with the completion of at least 90 hours of undergraduate coursework, but completion of a bachelor’s degree before matriculation is expected.

CAREERS IN DENTISTRY

Dentists diagnose and treat problems with a patient’s teeth, gums, and other parts of the mouth. They provide advice and instruction on taking care of teeth and gums and on diet choices that affect oral health.

There are twelve specialty areas in the field of dentistry: Dental anesthesiology, dental public health, endodontics, oral medicine, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orofacial pain, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, and prosthodontics.

The number of hours worked varies greatly among dentists. Most dentists work full time, and some also work evenings and weekends to meet their patients’ needs. It is common for dentists to continue in part-time practice well beyond the usual retirement age.

Some dentists own their own businesses and work alone or with a small staff; others work with retail dental practices. Other dentists have partners in their practices and a few work for more established dentists as associate dentists.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

151,600 jobs in 2019
156,148 jobs projected in 2029

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE

$159,200 in 2019

for more information, see the Bureau of Labor Statistics http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dentists.htm

FRESHMAN

Complete prerequisite requirements

Build professional relationships with professors, advisors, counselors, and professionals for letters of recommendation

Community service / volunteer work / job shadowing / engagement in student organizations; Document experiences

Choose a major

Gain research experience

Campus visits to professional schools of interest

SUMMER

Sophomore

Summer

Junior

SUMMER

Senior

Request letters of recommendation

Take DAT

Application

Interviews

ADVICEMENT

PRE-DENTISTRY IS NOT A MAJOR. Therefore, you must choose a major (and minor, if appropriate) which supports your life goals by the time you earn 60 credit hours. You do not have to major in a science field. Choose a course of study that interests you. 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. Dental schools do not assume, however, that you have had any courses other than those required.

We strongly recommend you meet with your MPA counselor and major advisor each term before registering for the next semester. Students who receive scholarships or participate in specialized ETSU programs (such as athletics or Honors College programs) must also seek advisement from those departments. Serious consequences can occur if students fail to meet with advisors (e.g., failure to graduate on time, missing appropriate courses to prepare for the DAT, etc.).

MPA COUNSELOR CONTACT
Medical Professions Advisement Office
423-439-5602
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET INTO DENTAL SCHOOL?

GPA - 3.57
Average GPA among admitted students in 2020 as reported by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA)

SCIENCE GPA - 3.49
Average science/math GPA as reported by the ADEA for 2020

DAT SCORE 19.9
Average score on the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) for 2020

CORE PREPARATION COURSES
Different schools may have varying prerequisite requirements. It is up to the student to research and ensure the required courses are completed before application to the preferred school(s) of interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Required Courses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>BIOL 1110/1111, BIOL 1120/1121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Chemistry</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>CHEM 1110/1111, CHEM 1120/1121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CHEM 2010/2011, CHEM 2020/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>PHYS 2010/2011, PHYS 2020/2021*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>Hours vary</td>
<td>Consult with your counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ENGL 1010 and ENGL 1020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Microbiology, Histology or Comparative Anatomy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>HSCI 3320/3321</td>
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</tbody>
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ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Required Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy#</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>HSCI 3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Physiology#</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>HSCI 3020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Nutrition#</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NTDF 2420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calculus#</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>MATH 1910 and 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Genetics</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>BIOL 3100/3141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOL 4647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>HSCI 3540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MATH 1530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PSYC 1310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ECON 2210/2220</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Calculus-based physics (PHYS 2110 and 2120) may be substituted for general physics.
#These classes may be required by some dental schools.
*Core prep based on UTHSC-COD

MANUAL DEXTERITY

In order to perform dental procedures, a dentist must be able to work with precision on an extremely small scale. As a dental student you will spend time developing eye-hand coordination needed to grasp and manipulate small objects and make precise movements. In order to be a competitive applicant students must spend time improving their eye-hand coordination. Taking classes in art, sculpture and ceramics as well as knitting, model building or playing an instrument can help cultivate the dexterity needed to perform dental procedures.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Students are encouraged to begin the application process at the end of their junior year. Students apply to dental school through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) at aadsas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#useraccount. Your completed application will then be submitted to the dental schools of your choice. Most schools also require a supplemental application that they will provide to you after your application has been received. Applications are available in June; however application deadlines vary for each school, with the latest deadline being in February. It is important to be aware of the deadlines and submit your applications as soon as possible.

Some dental schools require students to submit a university composite letter of evaluation during the application process. Please contact your MPA counselor for additional information. Students interested in pursuing a letter of evaluation should start this process around December of their junior year.

The Dental Admissions Test (DAT) is the entrance exam for dental schools. It is a multiple choice exam that is administered by computer at testing centers in various locations across the country. It is not recommended to take the exam before completing the prerequisite courses.

SUGGESTED 2-YEAR SCHEDULE FOR PRE-DENTISTRY STUDENTS

FRESHMAN

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1110/11</td>
<td>CHEM 1120/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1110/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1530</td>
<td>ENGL 1010</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 1305</td>
<td>ENGLISH 1305</td>
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Students should maintain a minimum of 17-19 credit hours per semester
* Consult your MPA counselor before choosing a speech course

SOPHOMORE

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<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 2010/11</td>
<td>CHEM 2020/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 2010/11</td>
<td>PHYS 2020/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPCH*</td>
<td>ELECTIVE</td>
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<td>ELECTIVE</td>
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WE HAVE 15+ PRE-HEALTH
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FROM
THE 250+ AT ETSU

PRE-DENTAL SOCIETY (PDS)
The Pre-Dental Society is ETSU’s pre-dentistry organization. This group is committed to the advancement of students interested in pursuing a career in the field of dentistry. This organization holds various events from speaker series to volunteer opportunities and helps students to cultivate relationships with professionals in the field for shadowing opportunities.

ALPHA EPSILON DELTA HONOR SOCIETY (AED)
AED functions as a health pre-professional honor society encouraging excellence in scholarship. It emphasizes the importance of health education and promotes cooperation and contact among professionals.

WHAT CAN I BE DOING NOW TO STRENGTHEN MY APPLICATION TO DENTISTRY SCHOOL?

RELATED EXPERIENCE
Students are encouraged to explore the field of dentistry either through employment or as a volunteer. Dental schools want to know that a student has worked in the field, observed what is involved, and still has the desire to continue in that profession. Students should gain as much experience as possible without sacrificing grades. The majority of your shadowing experience should be in the field of general dentistry. In addition to shadowing a local practitioner, you may also consider applying to the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), a six-week academic enrichment program for freshman and sophomore college students. SHPEP hosts students at 13 program sites across the country. Learn more and apply at www.sh pep.org.

EXTRACURRICULARS
The admissions committees of dental schools are interested in seeing a range of extracurricular activities, especially those demanding a significant leadership role. Students should demonstrate their ability to balance full academic schedules with extracurricular involvement on and off campus and/or through employment opportunities. ETSU has many student organizations. Students should visit the SAO or www.etsu.edu/students/sao/ for more information regarding extracurricular activities. It is not beneficial to simply join an organization; you must demonstrate leadership qualities!

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE
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.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE
Please consider personal email addresses when corresponding with professional schools. First impressions are often based on correspondence, therefore email addresses should be appropriate for professional communication. Messages and images sent electronically are reflections of judgment and potential suitability for professional careers. Inappropriate behaviors shared on an accessible venue can be viewed and shared by anyone, possibly compromising your admission to dental school.

WATCH WHAT YOU POST!

American Dental Education Association
www.adea.org

Find the link for AADSAS (the dental school application portal) on the ADEA site or visit the link directly if you are viewing an electronic version of this guide.