

Pre-Dental Quick Facts

Average Texas Dental Admitted Stats

- GPA: 3.7/3.6 (overall/science)
- DAT: 20 (AA)/ 20 (PAT)

Preparing for a career in dentistry is accomplished by building credentials in scholarship, leadership, community service, and shadowing in various settings of the dental profession. There is **no “best” major** for pre-Dental students—instead, you are encouraged to pursue the major(s)/minor(s) in which you are most interested and believe you will excel. You must become a **general dentist** before you can become a **specialist**.

Required Courses for Admission

Common Dental School Pre-Requisites*

Anatomy & Physiology: BIOL 3324/3224 & BIOL 4397**

Biology: BIOL 1306/1106 & 1307/1107

Biochemistry: BCHS 3304

General Chemistry: CHEM 1311/1111 & 1312/1112

Organic Chemistry: CHEM 2323/2123 & 2325/2125

Microbiology: BIOL 2321

Statistics: MATH 1342 *or* 3339 *or* PSYC 3301 *or* INDE 2333

English: ENGL 1301 & 1302 (*some advanced ENGL/HONS courses may substitute*)

Physics: PHYS 1301/1101 & 1302/1102 *or* 2325/2125 & 2326/2126

Additional Recommended: BIOL 3301, BIOL 3305, MATH 1431, PSYC 1301 and ART 1301 or other design courses.

***DISCLAIMER:** This list uses the current TMDSAS requirements and should not be considered exhaustive. Always check individual schools for specific coursework requirements before applying. For example, not all Texas dental schools require Microbiology or Anatomy/Physiology.

** BIOL 1334/1134 and BIOL 1344/1144 have been accepted by Texas A&M in previous admission cycles but are not preferred. Our office recommends completing the advanced level A&P courses ([see Texas A&M Dental for additional information](#)).

Dental Admission Test (DAT)

The DAT is a computer-based exam, multiple choice, 4-hours in length, and offered multiple times per year at a cost of \$445. To register for the DAT, you must obtain a **DENTPIN**. It tests 6 areas: **Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Reading Comprehension, Perceptual Ability and Quantitative Reasoning.**

Students should plan on taking the exam only once. Retakes are possible if a desired score is not achieved, but they are limited. Further, you must wait 90 days between test attempts. It takes 3-4 weeks for DAT scores to be reported. Commercial prep courses are not required to perform well on the DAT, but they can provide structure for studying.

Advised Pre-DAT

Biology: BIOL 1306/1106 & 1307/1107

General Chemistry: CHEM 1311/1111 & 1312/1112

Organic Chemistry: CHEM 2323/2123 & 2325/2125

Physiology: BIOL 3324

Recommended Pre-DAT

Biochemistry: BCHS 3304

Genetics: BIOL 3301

Statistics: MATH 1342 *or* 3339

Art Courses: ART 1301

Not Necessary Pre-DAT

Microbiology: BIOL 2321

Physics: PHYS 1301/1101 & 1302/1102

Shadow & Volunteering Experience

You are expected to spend time shadowing a general dentist to experience the “dentist/patient” interaction. **Shadowing means hands-off observation only.** Shadowing experience demonstrates that you have explored the profession and understand the day-to-day responsibilities of a dentist. Importantly, there is no specific hour requirement—but strong applicants typically have 50-100 shadowing hours across 2-3 different dental offices. While it is helpful to shadow dental specialists, the bulk of your shadowing hours should be **general dentists**. You should plan to establish a strong relationship with at least one DMD or DDS so that you may request a letter of evaluation.

Volunteering is an important part of the application that should not be neglected. Dental schools are looking for students who not only demonstrate that they can perform well in rigorous courses, but also those who are compassionate, enjoy working with people and are dedicated to serving the community. Volunteering need not be limited to clinical settings. Indeed, seek out organizations in which you are passionate—**depth of commitment is more important than the number of hours or particular setting.**

Dental School Application GPA Calculation

TDMSAS GPA Calculation

The TDMSAS application use the **BCPM** GPA, which includes **b**iology, **c**hemistry, **p**hysics, and **m**athematics courses. All attempts at a course will be included in the GPA calculation. TDMSAS does not utilize a +/- system.

AADSAS GPA Calculation

AADSAS calculates GPA in several ways:

- **BCP GPA:** All undergraduate and graduate courses identified on transcripts as **b**iology, **c**hemistry, or **p**hysics.
- **Science GPA:** All undergraduate and graduate courses identified on transcripts as biology, chemistry, physics, or other science.
- **Overall GPA:** Includes undergraduate and any completed graduate courses.
- Note: AADSAS does utilize a +/- system when calculating GPAs.

Letters of Evaluation for Dental School

Both TDMSAS and AADSAS require applicants to submit either individual letters of evaluation or one Health Professions Committee packet. Two letters should come BCPM faculty members at UH. The third letter must come from a general dentist. An additional letter may come from an evaluator who can speak highly of your qualifications for dental school (e.g., faculty member, research mentor, volunteer coordinators, supervisors, etc.). Most applicants include 4 letters in their application or letter packet.

Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC)

HPAC consists of 18 UH faculty from across campus. Every UH pre-Dental student is required to meet with the Pre-Health Advising Center and submit HPAC application materials prior to applying to dental school. The advisory committee evaluates the student's academic records and provides a committee letter to be included in the letter of evaluation packet that is submitted with their application materials.

Dental School Application Timeline

Freshman & Sophomore Year

Begin preparing for dental school by shadowing dentists, participating in volunteer activities, joining a research project or laboratory, connecting with faculty, joining student organizations, and establishing a strong academic record.

Junior Year

August-December	Continue shadowing, volunteering, conducting research. Register for DENTPIN and select test date.
October-February	Meet with Pre-Health Advising Office to discuss HPAC application and steps for applying
January-March	Study for DAT. Begin completing HPAC application: 1) write draft of Personal Statement, 2) organize Activities/Experiences, and 3) ask for Letters of Evaluation (give letter-writers at least 1-month)
March	Submit HPAC application and supporting materials
March-May	Take DAT. Complete HPAC review process and continue working on application materials.

Summer

May	Begin completing TDMSAS and AADSAS. Submit applications late-May or early June (even if DAT score, transcripts, and letters are not received).
June-July	Prepare for secondary applications (look online for previous year's questions).
July-August	Complete secondary applications (within 2 weeks of receiving each)

Senior Year

Fall	Dental school interviews (beginning August 1 st – January 15 th) Continue to shadow, do research, volunteer, and maintain strong grades.
December 1	Dental schools begin extending offers of admission to applicants
May	Graduate