Pre-Dental Quick Facts

Preparing for a career in dentistry is accomplished by building credentials in scholarship, leadership, humanitarian/community service, and shadowing in the various settings of the profession. There is no "best" major for pre-dental students. Instead, students are encouraged to pursue majors in which they are most interested and in which they believe they will excel. You must become a general dentist before you can become a specialist.

Required Courses

Typical Dental School Pre-Requisites*
- Anatomy & Physiology: BIOL 3324 & Advanced Anatomy **
- Biology: BIOL 1361/1161 & 1362/1162
- Biochemistry: BCHS 3304
- General Chemistry: CHEM 1331/1111 & 1332/1112
- Organic Chemistry: CHEM 3331/3221 & 3332/3222
- Physics: PHYS 1301/1101 & 1302/1102
- Microbiology: BIOL 3332
- Statistics: MATH 2311 or 3339 or INDE 2333
- English: ENGL 1303 & ENGL 1304

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

Recommended Pre-DAT
- Biochemistry: BCHS 3304
- Genetics: BIOL 3301
- Statistics: MATH 2311 or 3339
- Art Courses: ART 1301

Not Necessary Pre-DAT
- Microbiology: BIOL 3332
- Physics: PHYS 1301/1101 & 1302/1102
- Psychology: PSYC 1301
- Calculus: MATH 1431

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

Student 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.

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

**Currently, Texas A&M does not accept UH lower-level A&P courses. It is recommended that pre-Dental students complete the upper-level Physiology and Anatomy courses available.

Shadow & Volunteering Experience

Shadowing means hands-off observation only. You are expected to spend time shadowing a general dentist to experience the “doctor/patient” interaction and should plan to begin shadowing as soon as possible. This experience demonstrates that you understand the profession, but there is no specific hour requirement. While it is helpful to shadow a specialty that you are interested in, 90 percent of your shadowing hours should be with at least three general dentists. Ideally, you should build a good relationship with at least one DMD or DDS so that you may request a letter of evaluation. Depth of commitment is important for volunteering. Volunteering is an important part of the application that you should nor 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 can be done in a clinical setting or with organization that you are passionate about.

Average Matriculant
- Overall GPA: 3.6
- BCP/Overall Science GPA: 3.5/3.5
- DAT: 20 (AA)/ 20 (PAT) -85th
Both TMDSAS 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 dentist. An additional letter may come from an evaluator who can speak highly of your qualifications for medical school (e.g., another 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 UH faculty and staff 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 each student’s academic and biographical records. HPAC provides a committee letter to be included in the student’s letter packet and 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**

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<th>August-December</th>
<th>Continue shadowing, volunteering, conducting research. Register for DENTPIN and select test date.</th>
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<td>October-February</td>
<td>Meet with Pre-Health Advising Office to discuss HPAC application and steps for applying</td>
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<tr>
<td>January-March</td>
<td>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)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Submit HPAC application and supporting materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>March-May</td>
<td>Take DAT. Complete HPAC review process and continue working on application materials.</td>
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**Summer**

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<th>May</th>
<th>Begin completing TMDSAS and AADSAS. Submit applications late-May or early June (even if DAT score, transcripts, and letters are not received).</th>
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<td>June-July</td>
<td>Prepare for secondary applications (look online for previous year’s questions).</td>
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<td>July-August</td>
<td>Complete secondary applications (within 2 weeks of receiving each)</td>
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**Senior Year**

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