



DENTAL SCHOOL GUIDE SHEET

Admission to dental school is highly competitive. We highly recommend you consult with the Dental School Admission counselor and/or transfer representative with **each campus** for specific admission requirements. The courses listed are recommended courses and are not articulation agreements.

Applicants for admission to dental schools must take the Dental Admission Test (DAT) which measures general academic ability, comprehensive scientific information, and perceptual ability. It is recommended that a student select an appropriate major for the bachelor's degree (biological or physical sciences, humanities or social sciences) as preparation for work in an allied health field.

How Much Education Does It Take?

For general dentistry, earning the degree typically takes eight to nine years. Students typically have four to five years of undergraduate college **and** a baccalaureate degree. This is followed by four years of Dental School. The last two years students treat patients under the supervision of licensed dentists. In CA, dentists must be licensed by the Dental Board of California. There are 12 recognized [dental specialties](#), in addition to general dentistry.

Subjects required by most U.S. Dental Schools*	
One year of Inorganic (General) Chemistry	Chemistry 1A & 1B
One year of Organic Chemistry	Chemistry 7A & 7B
Biochemistry	*Consider taking it at your four-year transfer institution as various dental schools require it at the 4-year institution level.
One year of Biology	Biology 110, 120, 130(recommended)
One year of Physics	Physics 3A & 3B or Physics 2A & 2B **Phys 3 series requires Calc
One year of English	English 1A & 1B <i>or</i> 1C
One Semester to one year of math	Calc recommended if taking Physics 3 series.
Psychology	Psychology 101
Recommended Courses include: (Vary by School)	Math 150; Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, Philosophy, Business, etc.

*Pre-requisite admissions requirements can vary from school to school. For the specific requirements at individual dental schools, refer to “ADEA: Official Guide to Dental Schools” available to purchase as the [American Dental Education Association \(ADEA\)](#).

What is the Selection Process?

- **Scholastic record.** College grades, particularly science grades, will receive *considerable* attention in the preliminary review. Most schools assess both the science and overall GPA.
- **Standardized Test:** All US Dental Schools requires applicants to take the Dental Admission Test (DAT)
- **Letters of recommendation.** Schools typically require 2-3 letters of recommendation. Requirements and specifications vary from school to school.
- **Clinical Exposure.** We recommend students engage in extracurricular activities such as volunteering in a dental setting, shadowing dental practitioners, and involvement in community service.
- **Extra-Curricular Activities.** This is a great way for pre-dental students to show leadership potential, critical thought, concern for others and underserved communities, and commitment to the dental profession.
- **Manual Dexterity.** While not required, it is recommended that students work on developing/improving manual dexterity and hand-eye coordination skills.

What Major Do I Choose?

Carefully consider your choices and select a major that interests you, while providing a foundation necessary for the pursuit of career alternatives. "Pre- Dental" is not a major at universities. While many successful applicants major in one of the biological or physical sciences, a science major is **NOT** required for admission to dental school! They do, however, need to know that you can handle the rigors of science-intensive medical school coursework. We encourage you to discuss this with your ECC academic or career counselor.

RESOURCES:

[American Dental Association](#): Professional organization for the dental community. The ADA is your source for the latest research on oral health, along with helpful practice guidelines, data on industry trends and a host of practical programs that support your personal health and success.

[Dental Admission Test \(DAT\)](#) - the American Dental Association provides information regarding policies, fees, and guides for DAT.

[American Dental Education Association](#): The association serving the allied, pre-doctoral, and postdoctoral dental education community

[California Dental Association](#): A community where dentists can learn, share, be inspired and grow in their profession. Together, we empower members to excel through dedicated advocacy, protection, education and practice support.