Did You Know?

- Dentists are trained initially to be generalists; to specialize on endodontics, pathology, radiology, pediatric dentistry, surgery, and prosthodontics.
- A general dental education typically takes 4 years to complete and spend 2-3 more years in residency after dental school.
- Some dental programs lead to a DDS degree, and others lead to a DMD. Despite their different names, these are equivalent degrees.
- There are 71 dental schools in the United States and Puerto Rico with OHSU School of Dentistry being the only Dental school in Oregon.

Dental School Application Preparation

- Completing the prerequisite courses is just one aspect of the process. Applicants must also have a well-rounded application consisting of experience (For example: shadowing, volunteer work, undergraduate research, life experience, etc.), letters of recommendation, DAT scores, and a strong admissions essay. Most dental programs require varying shadowing hours.
- Dental schools look for students who chose meaningful experiences that they are able to reflect upon during the application process.
- The Dental Admission Test (DAT) covers four areas: natural sciences, quantitative reasoning, reading comprehension, and perceptual ability: https://www.ada.org/education/testing/exams/dental-admission-test-dat.
- Applying to dental school is a year-long process. Students applying in their final year at UO will have a gap year before starting dental school. Students can work, take courses, travel, etc. during the year. Keep in mind, the average age of a First-Year dental student is 24.
- Be sure to research individual programs about any COVID-19 related changes (Pre-recs, DAT exceptions, Pass/Fail Policy, etc).

Online Resources

UO Pre-Health Advising Website: healthprofessions.uoregon.edu
American Dental Education Association: adea.org
ADEA GoDental: adea.org/GoDental/
American Association of Dental Schools Application Service: aadsas.liaisoncas.com
Exploring Health Careers: explorehealthcareers.org

Campus Resources

- Student Clubs & Organizations
- University Career Center
- Tykeson College and Career Advising
- Duck Nest
- Tutoring & Academic Engagement Center
- Holden Center
- UO Pre-Health Advising Workshops
- Undergrad Research & Distinguished Scholars
Advising:

Schedule an appointment with a Pre-Health Advisor by following one of the options listed here: [https://healthprofessions.uoregon.edu/contact/](https://healthprofessions.uoregon.edu/contact/)

**Sample 4-Year Plan:**

The chart below illustrates one-way Dental program’s prerequisites can fit into a 4-year plan. Keep in mind a graduation plan is as unique as the student following it. Math placement, major, transfer credits, application timeline, and other factors will help shape your graduation plan and timeline. Pre-Health Advisors are here to help you create a graduation plan that works best for you!

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<th>First Year</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Winter</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<td>CH 221 &amp; 227 MATH 112Z</td>
<td>CH 222 &amp; 228 STAT 243Z</td>
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<td><strong>Classes</strong></td>
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<td>CH 335 &amp; 338 Highly recommended course ii</td>
<td>CH 336 Highly recommended course ii</td>
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<td><strong>Classes</strong></td>
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<td>PHYS 202 &amp; 205 Highly recommended course ii</td>
<td>PHYS 203 &amp; 206 BI 330/331 i</td>
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**Prerequisites vary by school:** While some programs require this course, others may not. Other required courses that vary include a second quarter of biochemistry, 1 year of writing, and an introductory Psychology course.

**OHSU School of Dentistry highly recommends students take 3-4 of the highly recommended course requirements listed on their website:** Highly recommended courses include: Human Anatomy (1 year), Human Physiology (1 year), Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Neuroanatomy, biochemistry lab. Connect with a Pre-Health Advisor to finalize your pre-dent graduation plan.

**Note:** This advising handout lists all the common prerequisites for programs. Please research programs to identify additional courses you may need to include and work with your pre-health advisors for any alternate course options.

**Questions?** Email pre-health advisors at health@uoregon.edu.

*Updated Summer 2023*