

Dentistry

Dentists diagnose and treat problems with teeth and tissues in the mouth, along with giving advice and administering care to help prevent future problems. They provide instruction on diet, brushing, flossing, the use of fluorides and other aspects of dental care. They remove tooth decay, fill cavities, examine x rays, place protective plastic sealants on children's teeth, straighten teeth and repair fractured teeth. They also perform corrective surgery on gums and supporting bones to treat gum diseases. Dentists extract teeth and make models and measurements for dentures to replace missing teeth. They also administer anesthetics and write prescriptions for antibiotics and other medications. Learn more at adea.org

Required Courses: check individual schools.

1 year of General Biology – Bio 240, 240L, 242, 242L

1 year of General Chemistry - Chem 151, 151L, 152, 152L

1 year of Organic Chemistry - Chem 301, 301L, 302, 302L

1 year of General Physics - Phys 136, 136L, 137, 137L or Phys 270, 270L, 271, 271L

1 year of English/USD Core Requirement – FYW 150 + Upper Division Writing course

1 semester of Biochemistry – Chem 331

Some schools require:

1 additional year of upper division Biology

1 semester of Sociology/USD Core Requirement – Soci 101

1 semester of Psychology/USD Core Requirement – Psych 101

1 year of Philosophy, History or Fine Arts

1 semester of Microbiology – Bio 342 or Bio 214

Some schools recommend:

Genetics – Bio 300

Human Anatomy/Physiology – Bio 212, 213

These courses will satisfy the requirements for most dental schools. Make sure that you check for additional requirements at your selected schools. Most schools want you to have completed the required courses prior to the time of application. Also, note that some schools will not accept AP credit in lieu of the required courses (even if accepted by USD). You must then substitute advanced science courses for the traditional requirements satisfied with AP credits. Take all required classes for a grade; Pass/Fail is not acceptable.

DAT (Dental Admissions Test)

You need to take this before or during your application to dental school.

Extracurricular Activities

Clinical: Experiences in dental settings are important ways for you to learn about the field of medicine. Many schools prefer to see a letter of recommendation from a dentist.

Research: Research experiences are strongly recommended by many dental schools. Choose any type of research that interests you – on or off campus – paid or unpaid.

Community Service/Leadership: Community service can strengthen a student's application. Seek opportunities that are meaningful to you and engage in them over time.

Dexterity Skills

Dental schools are seeking candidates who are good with their hands and/or have demonstrated an interest working with their hands. This could be an interest/course in jewelry making, ceramics, electronics, etc.

RESOURCES

Dental School Map -

https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Application_Prep/The_Application_to_Dental_School_ADEA_AADSAS/Deciding_where_to_apply.aspx

Dental School Finder - <https://www.adea.org/officialguide/>

Dental Admissions Test (DAT) - <https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test>

Dental School Application AADSAS - <https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Apply/>

USD does not have a dental school. We share this information for students and alumni who may be interested in becoming dentists.