

PRE-DENTAL ADVISING SHEET

This sheet is designed to give a typical pre-dental student a general understanding of the minimum course work generally required for DAT preparation and as required for acceptance to dental schools. This document may not be equally suitable for all students and should be used solely as an initial guide since specific pre-requisite course requirements vary between dental schools. This variation can include how these schools view credit awarded for AP/IB credit and courses taken online, as well as the types of courses and number of credit hours required in each subject. **Therefore, students are responsible for checking the specific admission prerequisites for each dental school to which they apply.**

Typical Dental School Requirements**Biology**

Biological sciences with lab (BI 210 and BI220)

Microbiology (BI438) or Principles of Pathogenic Microbiology (BI325)

Chemistry, listed in sequence according to pre-requisites:

General chemistry with lab (CH 105 and CH 106, or CH 107)

Organic chemistry with lab (CH 351 and CH 352)

Introduction to Biochemistry (361) **or** Biochemistry I (CH362) and Biochemistry II (CH462)*

Anatomical and Physiological coursework

Physiology (BI411) and Vertebrate Biology (BI317), or Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 & 2 (BSHS 334 and 335)

Other courses that can be taken at any point before application:

Psychological Inquiry (SW 250-PS)

Physics with lab (PH 107 and PH 108)

Elementary Statistics (MA162) and/or college-level math***

* Introduction to Biochemistry should be sufficient for any dental school requiring *one semester* of biochemistry. *If a student chooses to take the two course Biochemistry 1 and 2 sequence, both courses should be completed.* Some dental schools will not accept one semester of a two course sequence as sufficient coverage (even if their requirements state only one semester is required). Cellular and Molecular Biology (BI220) is a prerequisite for Biochemistry 1 (CH362).

**Students should check with their dental schools of interest to determine the mixture of statistics and mathematics courses required for admission.

In addition to the typically required courses, we recommend taking as many of the following as possible:

Upper level (≥ 300 level) biology courses

Upper level (≥ 300 level) chemistry courses

Additional psychology or sociology courses

Research:

While dental schools do not list research experiences as required, it is suggested that pre-dental students engage in this intellectually challenging and highly educational pursuit. Generally, the first place students should look for these activities is within the academic department that houses the student's major.

Pre-professional advising:

Pre-Dental students should contact the administrative assistant for pre-professional programs to ensure that they are included on the pre-Dental email listserv. Pre-Dental students are also encouraged to find more details on Butler's pre-health website at <https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/>.

Two Major Types of Dentistry Degrees in the United States: Within the United States, there are two degrees awarded to those who complete dental school, DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) and DMD (Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry). The difference in title is mainly historical, with some schools issuing DMD degrees and others DDS. According to the American Dental Association website (<https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/careers-in-dentistry/general-dentistry>), "There is no difference between the two degrees; dentists who have a DMD or DDS have the same education. Universities have the prerogative to determine what degree is awarded."

Applying to Dental School: for details, please consult the Butler pre-health website at <https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/areas-of-interest/pre-dentistry/>.

Dental Admission Test (DAT): Dental students may consider taking the DAT exam as early as the summer after their second year, but no later than spring of the year in which they apply. Applicants should take the DAT exam with enough lead time to allow score release early in June at the latest. While the coursework leading to the DAT may be complete by the end of the second year, it is recommended that Butler students consult with a pre-health professions advisor to determine the best time for them to take the exam.

Letters of Recommendation: Pre-dental students should be prepared to ask two science professors and one non-science professor for letters of recommendation. For more details, please check the Butler pre-health website. AADSAS will generally have you submit four letters of recommendation, and while all four may come from professors, three from professors and one from a dentist you have extensively shadowed is also good.

Personal statement: A personal statement is a well thought out explanation of why dentistry is right for you based on the experiences that have led you to this conclusion. Experiences from your life, work, research, or shadowing that are pertinent to explaining your call to dentistry need to be included as part of this statement. Journaling is a convenient way of keeping track of formative experiences and their impact on you as they occur.

Application timeline: Applications are submitted approximately one year prior to entrance into dental school. Applicants can begin to build their application in early May within the [American Association of Dental Schools Application Service](#) (AADSAS). June 1 is the first day to submit a completed application. Texas applicants applying to Texas Dental Schools are required to utilize [Texas Medical Dental Application Service](#). Secondary applications begin to arrive in August or September of the that year and they must be completed and returned immediately. For more details, please consult the Butler pre-health website at <https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/areas-of-interest/pre-dentistry/>

Pre-health Advising:

Contact: Should you have more questions, please request to meet with one of the two current faculty pre-health advisors (<https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/advisors/>). The advisors are happy and excited to work with you to help ensure you become the best candidate possible for professional school.

Sophomore review: In the spring semester of the sophomore year, each pre-dental student will meet with one of the pre-health advisors for a review of their preparation to date. The student's coursework, overall GPA, volunteering and shadowing experiences, and other extra-curricular activities will be discussed.

Programming: Our programming goal is to provide general information and advice to students, while also providing individualized advising sessions. Programming for pre-dental and pre-health professional students starts the first-week students are on campus and extends through their time at Butler and beyond. First-year programming includes an introduction of the advisors and what they do, along with information on what students can do to start building a competitive application. Second-year programming includes our Networking Night with local health professionals, which can lead to shadowing and other opportunities. Our third year programming focuses on helping students understand the application process and timeline. We support alumni up to five years after graduating from Butler.