

Pre-Dentistry

Student Advising Services

Pre-Health
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Overview

In the United States and Canada, dentistry is a four-year doctoral level program that prepares men and women for the practice of general dentistry or entry into one of the specialty training programs in dentistry. With the anticipated shortage of dentists in the United States in the near future, there will be an increased demand for dentists throughout the country.

Few colleges or universities have a specific pre-dental program, and this is true of UB as well. Most students pursuing a career in dentistry choose a major area of study in the biological sciences. The latter's degree requirements generally include all the prerequisite courses necessary to enroll in a D.D.S. program. However, it is not necessary to choose a major in the sciences. If a student chooses a major outside the biological sciences, he or she is advised to complete additional course work in biology beyond the prerequisite courses, specifically in areas such as biochemistry, microbiology, histology, molecular biology, and cellular biology. Courses in biology at the molecular or microscopic level provide excellent preparation for the basic science course work during the first two years of dental school.

Acceptance Information

Although no particular major is required to apply to the School of Dental Medicine, we do require completion of certain courses. Please see the Advising Information section below for additional information.

All applicants to the School of Dental Medicine are required to complete the Dental Admissions Test (DAT), administered through the [American Dental Association](#) in Chicago. Nearly every dental school in the United States requires the DAT. After registering with the ADA, an applicant can schedule a convenient time to complete the exam at any Prometric Testing Center.

All applications to the School of Dental Medicine are received through the [Association of American Dental Schools Application Service](#) (AADSAS) administered by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) in Washington DC. Nearly all U.S. dental schools participate in AADSAS. One application completed with AADSAS can be directed to any of the participating schools.

Each year, the school receives approximately two thousand applications for admissions. Approximately three hundred are invited to the school to meet with members of the admissions committee, faculty and dental students. From those invited, a class of approximately eighty-nine is selected each year. In order to receive consideration for acceptance, an applicant should have a minimum overall GPA, and a minimum science GPA, of 3.0. DAT (Dental Admissions Test) scores should, at minimum, average 17 (scored on a 30-point scale). For students applying to the combined degree program, in order to enroll at the School of Dental Medicine, participants must maintain an overall GPA of 3.5 as well as GPA of 3.5 in all biology, chemistry, and physics courses in the undergraduate portion of the program. In addition, participants must complete the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) early in the third year of the program and earn required minimum scores. Application for the combined program is made through the School of Dental Medicine. Acceptance into the program requires an interview at the School of Dental Medicine prior to the freshman year of the undergraduate portion of the program. The preprofessional health advisor can provide further information.

Early Assurance Program with the UB School of Dental Medicine

Each year, well-qualified undergraduates may receive formal acceptance to UB's School of Dental Medicine after the second semester of their sophomore year. To qualify, students must possess a minimum GPA of 3.5 and complete specific science courses. Upon receipt of the baccalaureate degree, the dental phase begins. This is not an accelerated program. The preprofessional health advisors (108 Norton; 716-645-6013; see <http://prehealth.buffalo.edu>) can provide further information.

Degree Options

In order to enroll in a specialty-training program, it is necessary to first complete a D.D.S. degree. All specialty-training areas are competitive, while oral maxillofacial surgery and orthodontics are extremely competitive. Programs are between two and six years in length depending on the specialty.

Pre-Dentistry

The University at Buffalo offers a Combined Degree Program between the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Dental Medicine. This is a program designed for individuals who have a clear career focus and strong motivation to pursue a career in dentistry prior to entering undergraduate school. The program allows students to complete a combined degree with a bachelor's component in biology and a doctor of dental surgery in seven years. Students complete the first three years of the program at the undergraduate level and the last four years in the School of Dental Medicine. To allow for the completion of the undergraduate degree, students must major in biology.

Some Dental Specialties:

- Endodontics
- Oral maxillofacial surgery
- Oral pathology
- Orthodontics
- Pediatric dentistry
- Periodontics
- Prosthetics
- Public health dentistry

Degrees Offered

Combined: BS/DDS (Biological Sciences/Dentistry)

Graduate: DDS

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Pre-Health Advising](#)
- [School of Dental Medicine](#)