

Dental School Application Checklist

COURSE WORK

- One year biology
- Two years of chemistry (organic and inorganic) with corresponding lab work
- One year of physics
- Biochemistry, math, psychology and English may also be required
- See latest edition of *Admissions Requirements of U.S. and Canadian Dental Schools*, published by the American Association of Dental Schools, for specific requirements

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Test your interest in dentistry in a variety of settings, such as private dental offices, hospitals, dental clinics, dental specialties, etc.
- Engage in research if possible

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

- Remember: there is no Pre-Dental Advisory Committee at UW-Madison. The responsibility to collect the letters is on you
- AADAS accepts and processes a maximum of four recommendation letters. These can be submitted on-line.
- Required:* Obtain two letters from science faculty and one letter from non-science faculty
- Optional:* Collect letters from employers, research & health-related volunteer experience supervisors, and dentists-letters of reference policy may vary from school to school

SCHOOL INVESTIGATION

- Consult the *Admissions Requirement* book and the *ASDA Handbook*
- Visit with faculty, advisors, family and friends about the schools they attended
- Learn about schools through their homepages, catalogs, bulletins, etc.
- Set your own criteria for narrowing down the list of schools to which you want to apply
- Visit dental schools' open houses

DAT (Dental Admission Test)

- The DAT is divided into the following sections: Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension Quantitative Reasoning, all scored on a 1-30 scale
- See http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/dat_examinee_guide.pdf for details and registration instructions
- Fee includes the submission of official transcripts of scores to five dental schools, a personal copy, and a copy for the pre-dental advisor. Additional transcripts of scores can be purchased.
- After the application and fee payment are processed, the Prometric Registration Center will receive notification of a candidate's eligibility for DAT testing. Candidate will call an 800-688-5804 or visit <http://www.prometric.com> to schedule the day, time, & Prometric Testing Center to take the DAT
- A computerized DAT may be taken on almost any date
- Candidates will have to wait 90 days before re-taking the test

AADSAS (American Association of Dental Schools Application Service)

- Complete AADSAS-on-the-Web application to apply to the majority of U.S. dental schools at <http://www.adea.org/AADSAS/default.htm>
- Send transcript(s) to AADSAS for every U.S. or Canadian institution that was part of your undergraduate experience, such as summer programs, study abroad, course work prior to enrolling in college, etc.
- Develop a personal statement. Obtain feedback on your essay from objective readers (e.g. faculty, The Writing Center (<http://www.wisc.edu/writing>), etc.)
- Document your academic record--carefully follow instructions!
- Send completed materials to AADSAS any time after June 1
- Make copies of all materials sent for your records
- Follow-up with AADSAS in the event of an error or delay in processing

NON-AADSAS SCHOOLS

- Of the 56 U.S. dental schools, the following institutions do not participate in AADSAS:
 - Louisiana State University
 - Medical College of Georgia
 - Midwestern University
 - University of Mississippi
 - University of Tennessee
- Apply directly to these schools and follow their specific application process

SECONDARY MATERIALS

- Complete school-specific secondary applications in a timely fashion--fees will be involved
- Send letters of reference when and as instructed by *individual* schools
- Keep copies of all materials sent

INTERVIEWS

- Try to coordinate trips within the same region to reduce travel cost
- Gather interview tips through available literature

FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN SELECTING THE BEST SCHOOL FOR YOU

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prestige | <input type="checkbox"/> Class size |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial aid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum/philosophy of education | <input type="checkbox"/> Location |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for research, study abroad, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Timing of clinicals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty training | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial management classes |

USEFUL ADDRESSES

- Dental Admission Testing Program, American Dental Association, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60611. Phone: 1-800-232-2162--for DA T information and registration. <http://www.ada.org>
- American Association of Dental Schools Application Service, 1400 K Street NW, Suite 1100, Washington DC, 20005. Phone: 800-353-2237 or 202-289-8123--for AADSAS-on-the-Web and purchase of admissions requirements book. <http://www.adea.org/AADSAS/default.htm>
- For a comprehensive page of dental-related resources on the Internet, check <http://www.dental-resources.com/>