

# DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATION TIMELINE—Freshman & Sophomore Year

## Freshman Year

Remember: everything from here on out will be on your academic record and could affect your admission to dental school. Most of your science classes will be the basis for all other science courses you will take during your college career. GPA is a very important factor in the admissions decision, but realize it is only one factor of many that admission committees use to determine who will be granted admission.

Speak to a pre-dental advisor at the L & S Advising Service office in B-12 Bascom Hall.

Consider joining the UW-Madison Pre-Dental Society (<http://pds.rso.wisc.edu>).

Volunteer in patient-related settings. This helps you test your interest in patient care while offering altruistic opportunities. Make sure that dentistry is for you. Think about doing some shadowing at a local dentist's office or dental clinic. Keep in mind that the online dental application service (AADSAS) requires that you list a minimum of ten extracurricular activities and explicate them in detail (with dates and hours per semester).

Visit dental school web pages and contact the dental schools where you might be interested in applying.

Study!

Get to know your faculty.

Stretch and grow. Get involved in the Madison community. Check out Alternative Breaks and other ways to engage with others outside your social set.

Have fun! You only live once. Studying is important, but so is figuring out what you want to do with the rest of your life. Also, start thinking about how you might be able to finance your dental education by applying for scholarships. Freshman scholarships are among the most prevalent at UW-Madison and something not many people apply for...so consider it greatly.

## Sophomore Year

Contact a local dentist or dental clinic and start observing, if you have not done so already. You will want to continue observing through your senior year as some schools require 20-40 observation hours prior to applying. Also, making contacts early will give you enough time to make an informed decision about dentistry and can also benefit you when it is time to submit letters of recommendation.

If possible, visit the schools to which are interested in applying. Speaking with dental admissions offices will assure that you are receiving accurate, up-to-date information about the school and its requirements for admission.

Continue meeting with a pre-dental advisor at the L & S Advising Service office in B-12 Bascom Hall.

Continue participating in extracurricular activities, such as the Pre-Dental Society, and volunteering in patient-related settings.

Continue to maintain good grades. Select a major in any field that you feel passionate about.

Stay informed about issues in dental education, practice, etc.

Begin looking into the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) (<http://www.ada.org>). It should be taken for the first time in January-May of your Junior year. The DAT will test your knowledge of natural sciences, perceptual ability, reading comprehension, and quantitative reasoning.