Pre-Dent Quick Facts

You should prepare for a career in dentistry by building credentials in scholarship, leadership, humanitarian/community service, and shadowing (largely with a general dentist) in the various settings of the profession. There is no “best” major for pre-dental students. Instead, you are encouraged to pursue a major in which you are genuinely interested and in which you believe you will excel. You MUST become a general dentist before you can become a specialist. Dentistry is ranked #2 in The 100 Best Jobs for 2018 by U.S. News and World Report.

Dental Admission Test (DAT)

**Advised Pre-DAT**
- **Biology:** BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L
- **General Chemistry:** CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L
- **Organic Chemistry:** CHEM 2211/L & CHEM 2212/L
- **Physiology:** VPHY 3100, PMCY 3000, CBIO 3710 OR BOTH (CBIO 2200/L & CBIO 2210/L)

**Recommended Pre-DAT**
- **Biochemistry:** BCMB 3100 or BCMB 4010 & 4020
- **Art Courses:** ARST 1080 3D Design (Helpful for Perceptual Ability)
- **Statistics:** STAT 2000 or BIOS 2010
- **Genetics:** GENE 3200
- **Not Necessary Pre-DAT**
  - **Microbiology:** MIBO 3500 or 3000/L or 2500/L
  - **Physics:** PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212
  - **Psychology:** PSYC 1101
  - **Calculus:** MATH 2250

**Average Matriculant Numbers**
- Overall GPA: 3.6
- Overall Science GPA: 3.5
- BCP GPA: 3.5
- DAT: 85th Percentile
  - AA: 20
  - PAT: 20

**Required Courses**

**DISCLAIMER:** This is not a definitive list of the classes you will need for every school. Always check with the individual schools to see their specific requirements. For example, Dental College of Georgia says Organic Chemistry I and Biochemistry are sufficient without Organic Chemistry II. Most other schools require 2 semesters of organic chemistry and may also require or recommend biochemistry. **Utilize the ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools.**

**Typical Dental Pre-Requisites**
- **General Biology:** BIOL 1107/L & BIOL 1108/L
- **General Chemistry:** CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L
- **Organic Chemistry:** CHEM 2211/L & 2212/L **Organic Chemistry II is required for most dental schools.**
- **Physics:** PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212
- **Calculus:** MATH 2250
- **Biochemistry:** BCMB 3100
- **Microbiology:** MIBO 3500 or 3000/L or 2500/L
- **Psychology:** PSYC 1101
- **Recommended:** Art courses, GENE 3200, CBIO 3400, (VPHY 3100, PMCY 3000, CBIO 3710), CBIO 3010/L

**Join the Pre-Dental Society of AED**
- Facebook: @ugapredentalsociety
- Email: ugadental@gmail.com

**prehealth.uga.edu**
The numbers matter and so do grade trends. If you wish to enter a dental program you will require strong science and overall GPAs. Admissions committees also look for trends on your transcript—so all is not lost if you stumble your first semester or two, but then show substantial improvement each subsequent year. However, they will also notice negative trends such as consistently withdrawing from or performing poorly in hard sciences or completing them away from your home institution. While an instance or two is not a deal-breaker, a pattern of behavior will be. You must demonstrate the ability to handle difficult scientific content.

Selecting your evaluators: The ADEA AADSAS application allows students to upload four letters of recommendation. You will want to check the website of each school to which you plan to apply as requirements do vary between schools. Ideally, you should try to get two letters from hard science faculty, one letter from a dentist and one professional letter. Professional letters may come from whoever will write the most compelling letter (volunteer coordinator, research mentor, other faculty, employer, etc.). Research mentors do not always count for the science letter, as some schools draw a distinction between mentorship and classroom instruction. However, if you are involved in research, this would make an excellent professional letter. At UGA, it can be difficult to build a close relationship with faculty since many of the science courses are large lectures. You must be mindful of this and do your best to foster a strong relationship to be able to request a letter.

Shadowing means hands-off observation only. You are expected to spend time shadowing a general dentist to experience the “doctor/patient” interaction, and should plan to begin shadowing as soon as possible. This experience demonstrates that you understand the profession, but there is no specific hour requirement. While it is helpful to shadow a specialty that you are interested in, 90 percent of your shadowing hours should be with at least three general dentists. Ideally, you should build a good relationship with at least one DMD or DDS so that you may request a letter of evaluation. Depth of commitment is important for volunteering. Volunteering is an important part of the application that you should not neglected. Dental schools are looking for students who not only demonstrate that they can perform well in rigorous courses, but also those who are compassionate, enjoy working with people and are dedicated to serving the community. Volunteering can be done in a clinical setting or with organization that you are passionate about.

### Dental School Application Timeline

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<tr>
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<th>Junior Year</th>
<th>Senior Year</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>Shadow/Volunteer/Write Personal Statement/Study for DAT/Register for DENTPIN</td>
<td>Interview (beginning late August/early September through Spring)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jan-May</strong></td>
<td>Study for DAT</td>
<td>By agreement between dental schools, no school may issue an acceptance before December 1st of each year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Feb/March</strong></td>
<td>Ask for Letters of Evaluation (give letter-writers at least 1-month to compose and upload into Interfolio)</td>
<td>Shadow/Volunteer</td>
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<td><strong>March/April/May</strong></td>
<td>Take DAT</td>
<td>Graduate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
<td>Soft Launch of ADEA AADSAS Application. Begin application and complete before first day of submission.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June</strong></td>
<td>Submit ADEA AADSAS Application (submit as early as possible – even if DAT score or LOEs are not received)</td>
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<td><strong>June/July</strong></td>
<td>Prepare for Secondary Applications (look online for previous year’s questions)</td>
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<td><strong>July/August</strong></td>
<td>Complete Secondary Applications (within 2 weeks of receiving each application)</td>
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