

PRE-DENTISTRY



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTAL SCHOOL | *Courses and DAT*

Course requirements for dental schools vary widely. For example, some schools require calculus and others do not. Most programs prefer students with broad, well-rounded backgrounds and value a liberal arts education. A science major is not necessarily required for professional programs; in fact, a major or minor in the arts, humanities, or social sciences may be attractive to some dental schools. However, you must balance the requirements of your major with those of dental school admissions and take a wide variety of science courses. Careful planning is essential to avoid scheduling conflicts.

It is recommended that you investigate the particular requirements of dental schools to which you are interested in applying. A complete list of programs and potential specialty tracks can be

found at ada.org. Regardless of a school's particular course requirements, students applying to dental school programs must take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). The DAT requires specific knowledge content that you need to obtain from your courses here at Hollins. The content categories are:

- *Survey of the Natural Sciences (biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry)*
- *Perceptual Ability (two- and three-dimensional problem solving)*
- *Reading Comprehension (dental and basic sciences)*
- *Quantitative Reasoning (mathematical problems in algebra, calculations, conversions, etc.)*

Information about the exam and complete content description can be found at ada.org.

GENERAL COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

to *most* dental schools, and the courses at Hollins that satisfy them

Two semesters of General Chemistry	CHEM 101/102 or 105/214
Two semesters of Organic Chemistry.....	CHEM 221/222
Two semesters of English	ENG 100/elective
Two semesters of General Biology	BIOL 220/236
Two semesters of Introductory Physics	PHYS 151/152 or 201/202
One semester of Biochemistry.....	BIOL/CHEM 351

In addition, many schools require the following.

Precalculus or Calculus	MATH 140 or 241/242
Genetics.....	BIOL 314
Immunology.....	BIOL 332
Microbiology.....	BIOL 312
Comparative Anatomy	BIOL 315

It is imperative that you take the DAT as soon as you have finished the biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry sequences. Please plan on taking it no later than the summer after your third year if you are planning to enter dental school following graduation from Hollins. It is administered at specific testing sites most days of the year and you are required to have an appointment weeks in advance, so the earlier you plan, the better. It takes three to four weeks to receive your score. If your test scores are not what you would like, you must wait 90 days to retake the test. The DAT can only be taken up to three times, so plan to score well the first time you take the test. Information about the exam, locations, and fees can be found at adea.org.

APPLYING TO DENTAL SCHOOL

Official dental school application deadlines vary, but the application cycle opens June 1 and final deadlines are typically in October or November. However, it is **strongly** advised that you apply in early June after your third year. Again, this requires that you take the DAT by May 1. Dental schools accept applications on a rolling basis and begin sending out notification of acceptances on December 1.

In addition to transcripts and test scores, you will need letters of recommendation from your

professors. You must request these from professors who can honestly comment on your potential to successfully navigate a dental program. The pre-health advisor will coordinate the collection and collation of the letters and their submission. Most dental schools use the ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Applications Service (AADSAS) system for recommendation letter submission. Information about AADSAS, participating colleges, fees, and deadlines can be found at adea.org.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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