

# FOR PRE-DENTAL STUDENTS

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Although there are many similarities in the overall application process for dental and medical schools, noteworthy differences are explained below:

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION**

All dental schools require 1-year courses (2 semesters) in Biology, Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Physics. (SEE CHAPTER ON "REQUIRED COURSES FOR PRE-DENTAL STUDENTS.)

Many also require a year of English (one semester should be composition based) and one or two semesters of statistics.

As of 2009, the Tufts and University of Maryland dental schools also require a semester of biochemistry.

There may be slight differences from school to school, and you should review the requirements at each school's website where you intend to apply early in your college career.

While not specifically stated, all dental schools are favorably impressed if you have taken at least 3-4 advanced science courses beyond the requirements (regardless of your major).

You must receive letter grades (A-F). "P", "N", "W", and "I" grades will adversely affect your chances of admission. If you have missing or incomplete grades, get them changed immediately. Don't wait until you are about to apply.

All required courses must be completed at four year colleges or universities (no community colleges).

You should avoid taking these courses during the summer if possible.

You are also expected to maintain a full course load throughout your undergraduate education.

Currently, successful applicants have maintained at least a 3.4 GPA. Science (BCPM) and cumulative GPA's should be at least 3.4.

## **JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Some schools offer programs leading to more than one degree. DDS/MBA programs are available at Temple and the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. DDS/PhD programs can be found at the University of Connecticut, University of Maryland and the University of Minnesota. A number of schools have DDS/MD programs (especially in oral surgery) and they require at least six years to complete.

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