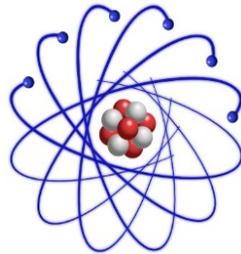


# WHY DO RESEARCH?

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## PRACTITIONERS ARE...



## SCIENTISTS

Doctors and dentists are responsible for—

- Administering a wide-range of medications;
- Making accurate diagnosis

You need to be familiar with scientific methodology.

PLAN AT LEAST A SUMMER OF RESEARCH

## RESEARCH

Research is the systematic investigation of a particular topic to learn facts and draw conclusions. Research is work to acquire new knowledge. Research is a careful inquiry. A science professor may define research in terms of the scientific method. A philosophy professor may define research in reference to a particular philosopher. Regardless of how you define research, it's an experience you want to obtain. Medical schools are more interested in the level of independence you have in conducting research rather than in the topic you choose to study. Both clinical research and wet lab research are equally valuable; except for students who anticipate applying to MD/PhD or DDS/PhD programs.

Nothing prepares you for your career better than hands on experience in either a research or clinical setting. As with everything in the process, starting early is key! You should plan to start your search for a summer research position in the winter (Dec-Jan.)

Students applying to medical schools should have completed 120-150 hours of volunteer or clinical experience. Applicants are also recommended to complete a minimum of one summer of full-time research.

Students applying to dental schools must have spent at least one academic year shadowing a dentist (e.g. five hours weekly/100 hours approximately).

Research is essential for students applying to any medical or dental school, and wet-lab research is required for MD/PhD applicants.

### **CLINICAL VS. WET LAB RESEARCH?**

Wet labs are facilities where experiments are conducted using chemicals and other specialized solutions. Clinical research is patient-based, although students may find that they are not always working directly with the patients in clinical studies. If you have little interest in “bench” or wet lab research you should feel free to gain research experience in other fields or in a clinical setting.

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