

Pre-Dent Quick Facts



Pre-Health Advising
Pre-Professional Advising Office
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Average Matriculant Numbers

- Overall GPA: 3.6
- Science GPA: 3.5
- BCP GPA: 3.5
- DAT (AA/PA/TS): 20/20/20

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 you are genuinely interested in as that will help you excel. You **MUST** become a **general dentist** before you can become a **specialist**.

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

Statistics: STAT 2000, BIOS 2010

Biochemistry: BCMB 3100 or BCMB 4020

Art Courses: ARST 1080 3D Design (Helpful for Perceptual Ability)

Genetics: GENE 3200

Calculus: MATH 2250

The DAT is required for admission into dental school and is offered multiple times per year at a cost of **\$495**. Before you can register for the DAT you must secure a **DENTPIN**. The DAT is computer based and **5 hours** in length. The test is multiple choice and includes the following 6 areas: **Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Reading Comprehension, Perceptual Ability and Quantitative Reasoning**.

You should plan to take the exam only once. Retakes are possible if a desired score is not achieved on the first attempt, but they are limited. Further, you must wait 90 days between test attempts. It may take **3-4 weeks** from the date that you take the DAT for scores to be reported to and verified by the American Dental Association, and for scores to be transmitted to AADSAS.

If you have time in your schedule, take the recommended pre-DAT courses, especially statistics and biochemistry.

Commercial prep courses are not required to perform well on the DAT, but they can provide structure for studying.

Join the Pre-Dental Society



@ugapredentalsociety



ugadental@gmail.com

Required Courses & GPA Expectations

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.

The numbers matter and so do grade trends. If you wish to enter a dental program, you will need to have a strong science and overall GPA. Admissions committees also look for trends on transcripts—so all is not lost if you stumble in your first semester or two, but then show substantial improvement each subsequent year. However, they will also notice negative trends such as if you consistently withdraw from or perform poorly in hard science courses or if you take many courses away from UGA. While an instance or two is not a deal-breaker, a pattern of behavior should be avoided. You must demonstrate the ability to handle difficult scientific content.

ADEA AADSAS Science v. BCP GPA Calculations

BCP GPA: all grades in biology, chemistry, and physics courses.

Science GPA: all BCP grades plus additional course work in the sciences, including math courses.

Typical Dental Pre-Requisites

Biology BIOL 1107/L & BIOL 1108/L

General Chemistry CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L

Organic Chemistry CHEM 2211/L & 2212/L

Physics PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212

Calculus MATH 2250 (at some schools)

Biochemistry BCMB 3100

Microbiology MIBO 2500/L or 3500 & 3500L/ 3510L

Psychology PSYC 1101 (at some schools)

ppao.uga.edu

Shadowing, Volunteering & Research

As a prospective dental student, you are expected to spend time **shadowing** a general dentist. While you can spend some time shadowing specialists, the bulk of your shadowing must be with a general dentist. The idea behind shadowing is to learn the nuances of patient care. Outside of interacting with and treating patients, dentists have many responsibilities that may include running a business, teaching, or doing research. Some dental schools require a specific number of shadowing or observation hours. For example, the Dental College of Georgia is looking for students to have around 300 hours with three different general dentists. You will want to check the individual websites of the schools to which you plan to apply for these numbers.

Volunteering is an important part of the application that you should not neglect. Dental schools want to see depth of commitment and substantial involvement and leadership in the community. They 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. Students should volunteer as much as possible, but not at the expense of academic coursework.

There are many benefits to getting involved in **undergraduate research** even though it is not required for admission into most schools. If you want to pursue research, look for opportunities as early as your freshman and sophomore years. Plan to dedicate at least a year to a specific project or lab and make it a quality experience.

Letters of Evaluation

Individual dental schools may expect letters from faculty in specific disciplines. If the schools that interest you don't give you any guidance about the letters they expect, the "model" typically followed by our successful applicants is two science letters, one letter from a general dentist and one additional professional letter. Professional letters may come from whomever will write you the most compelling letter (research mentor, employer, volunteer coordinator, another faculty, etc.) Research mentors do not always count for the science letter, as some schools draw a distinction between mentorship and classroom instruction. At UGA, it can be difficult to build a close relationship with faculty since the introductory science courses are usually large lecture classes. Students must be mindful of this and do their best to foster a good enough relationship to be able to request a letter.

Dental School Application Information

Timing in the application process. Applying early minimizes the chances of available interview slots being depleted. Completing and submitting your application the first week of June enhances your chances of admission. By agreement between dental schools, no school may issue an acceptance before December 1st of each year.

Freshman & Sophomore Year

Build credentials for dental school: shadow, volunteer, do research, build relationships with faculty, etc.
Do **not** wait until junior year to begin!

Junior Year

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| Fall | Continue shadowing, doing research, volunteering, etc. Draft your personal statement. Study for the DAT |
| December - May | Register for DENTPIN Take DAT |
| Feb/March/April | Ask for Letters of Evaluation (give letter writers at least a month to compose) |
| May | Begin completing AADSAS Application |

Summer

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| June | Submit AADSAS (submit as soon as possible – even if DAT score or LOEs are not in) |
| June/July | Prepare for secondary applications (look online for previous year's questions) |
| July/August | Complete secondary applications (within 2 weeks of receiving them) |

Senior Year

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| Fall | Interview (beginning late August/early September through Spring) Continue shadowing, doing research, volunteering, etc. |
| Spring | Graduate |