

Pre-Health Information for Dental Medicine (DDS/DMD)



Dentists who have a DMD or DDS have the similar education. Both degrees use the same curriculum requirements set by the American Dental Association and the type of degree awarded is determined by the university.

Profession web site(s): www.ada.org , www.adea.org
Application web site: www.adea.org/aadsas or for Texas schools: www.tmdsas.com
Admission/Entrance exam: – DAT (Dental Admission Test)
Transcripts: Official transcripts from <u>ALL</u> institutions attended, including Marquette University, must be sent directly from the institution to the central application service. If you completed study abroad courses at a U.S. sponsored program abroad, you must send transcripts. If you studied abroad and the courses and grades do not appear on a U.S. transcript, then you need to have transcripts sent to AADSAS from the foreign school or an evaluation service.
Course prerequisites: Course prerequisites vary by program. Typical prerequisites include Biology 1001, 1002, a separate lab course such as Biology 2001, a biochemistry course, Chemistry 1001, 1002, 2111, 2112, Physics 1001 and 1002. Different course numbers for majors (e.g., Chemistry 1014 for Majors) will be accepted. Physics is required for dental school but not for the DAT. Many dental schools require courses such as Biochemistry, Anatomy, Physiology and/or Microbiology, Psychology, Sociology and other upper level biology or science courses. Students should research schools to which they will apply early enough to ensure they can complete all necessary pre-requisite courses.
Observation hours/experience: Dental schools like to see well-rounded applications and look for quality and depth of experiences rather than requiring a specific number of hours. Direct exposure to dentistry, either volunteer or paid, shadowing, leadership, service to others, and research are all recommended experiences.
Minimum requirements to apply: The average GPA for acceptance to U.S. dental schools is a 3.55. At Marquette, we find that students with about a 3.4 gpa or higher are academically competitive. DAT scores are also important, as well as activities, experiences, and other factors. Please keep in mind that grades earned in all college level courses must be reported, including repeated attempts of the same course. All grades for repeated attempts are typically used in GPA calculations, so <u>the GPA calculated for your application may not match your Marquette GPA.</u>
Letters of Reference (LOR): Letters of recommendation packets can be sent from the letter of recommendation service provided in the pre-health advising office. Requirements vary by school, but in general, we recommend obtaining letters from two science professors whom you have had for class, one non-science professor whom you have had for class, and one to two non-academic letters that discuss your experiences, character, interest in dentistry, etc. Check with each school to which you are applying for information on additional letters needed.
Personal Statement: A personal statement is a written reflection on why you want to be a dentist and why you think you would be a good one. Character limits can be found on the AADSAS website, but the limit is typically about one page single-spaced.
Interview: Competitive applicants may be invited to participate in an interview process. Interviews may include faculty members, current students of the program, and/or physicians. Interviews may be used to assess oral communication skills, professional behaviors; attitude; knowledge of the profession and/or of health care overall; problem-solving skills; passion for pursuing dentistry, etc. Go to your interviews with prepared questions about the school/program that show your interest in what the school has to offer (other than being close to home or low tuition).
Deadlines: Timing is critical with dental school admission. Most dental schools interview students on a rolling basis, so the earlier your AADSAS application and supplemental application (if required) are in, the earlier you may be invited to interview. Students should complete their AADSAS application in early to mid-June. Keep in mind that processing of an application by the centralized application system may take four to six weeks once all materials have been submitted. Once the primary AADSAS application is completed and processed, students will then need to research whether the schools to which they have applied require supplemental applications, and if so, complete those by mid-August. Admission offers occur around December 1.
Pre-Dental Scholars: Marquette University has a an accelerated program where students can complete a bachelor’s degree in one of three majors and a dental degree in seven years rather than the eight years normally required. Students can apply from high school, and the application is usually due in mid-February. There are limited spots available for qualified freshmen to apply to transfer into the program. Any questions about this program can be directed to MU’s Office of Undergraduate Admissions.
Data for Accepted Students (2012 Application Cycle): Average UG GPA: overall 3.55 ; science courses 3.47 (on a 4.0 scale) Average Scores: Academic Average:19.9 ; Perceptual Ability: 20.1 ; Total Science: 19.8

