

Pre-Dental Requirements

Introduction: This information is based on the general requirements of most (>50%) dental schools across the nation. It will be up to each student to research schools of interest and to finalize any remaining requirements.

- It is strongly advised that students take every course tested on the DAT (*marked with **).
- Dental schools do not require any particular major. Students should select a major based on academic strengths and interests.
- Each student should develop an academic plan based on: the core dental school requirements, requirements needed for their major, and requirements for graduation.
- A draft of your academic plan needs to be reviewed with your advisor from your major.

Required by MOST Dental Schools

Chemistry: 2 Semesters

*CHEM 1031 + CHEM 1033

*CHEM 1032 + CHEM 1034

Organic Chemistry: 2 Semesters

*CHEM 2201 + CHEM 2203

*CHEM 2202 + CHEM 2204

***Tested on the DAT**

Biology: 2 Semesters

*BIOL 1111

*BIOL 1112 or 2112

Physics: 2 Semesters

Physics requirement dictated by major.

PHYS 1021 (or 1061 or 2021)

PHYS 1022 (or 1062 or 2022)

(Note: although not on the DAT, it is recommended that physics be taken before applying)

To look up courses please navigate the [bulletin](#).

Required by SOME Dental Schools

Math: 2 Semesters

Math requirements vary greatly. Some schools recommend Calculus or Statistics while others need just 2 semesters of college-level math.

MATH 1041

MATH 1042

MATH 1044, PSY 1003, SOC 1167, BIOL 3312, EPBI 2219

Anatomy & Physiology: 2 Semesters

KINS 1223 (or BIOL 2233)

KINS 1224 (or BIOL 3334)

***Tested on the DAT**

English: 2 Semesters

Some schools consider any writing intensive course.

IH may not necessarily count as an English course for all programs. Please contact schools of interest for more information.

Upper Level Sciences:

Refer to schools of interest if any additional sciences are required. Possible courses listed below:

Microbiology: BIOL 2001 or BIOL 3317

Biochemistry: CHEM 3401, 4401 or BIOL 4375

Genetics: BIOL 2207+2297

Sample Timeline

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer
Year 1	Chemistry I	Chemistry II Biology I	<i>Exposure to Dentistry Community Service</i>
Year 2	Organic Chemistry I Biology II	Organic Chemistry II	<i>Continue Volunteering Research</i>
Year 3	Physics I <i>DAT Prep</i>	Physics II <i>DAT Prep</i>	DAT Exam by May/June Apply to Dental School by May/June <i>Secondary Applications</i>
Year 4	Any Additional Requirements <i>Dental School Interview</i>	Any Additional Requirements <i>Dental School Interview</i>	<i>Take a break before Dental School!</i>

This timeline is an example of how you may wish to take courses in a perfect world. **The timing of these courses may change due to placement exams or major requirements.** In addition to these courses, each student will fit in any classes required by their major. Develop an academic plan based on the sequence above that is tailored to your needs so that you and your advisor can discuss your plan.

Visit [Temple's bulletin](#) to view the availability and prerequisites of each course.

ePortfolio

ePortfolio is a tool that will help students stay organized for a professional school application. Through the ePortfolio process, students will set up a 'mock application' that includes GPAs and professional development experiences. **ePortfolio drafts are due to PPHA June 30th two years before students plan to enter professional school.** Competitive students who complete the ePortfolio are considered for an interview by the Pre-Professional Health Evaluation Committee. Interviewed students will be offered a committee letter of recommendation and may have additional letters sent from PPHA to professional schools as they apply.

The circle to the right represents four areas that are important for admission to professional school. As you embark on your journey to Dental school, think about ways to enhance each of these four sections.



Applying to Dental Schools

Application Process: A centralized application service is available through the Associated American Dental Schools Application Service ([AADSAS](#)) which is administered by the American Dental Education Association ([ADEA](#)). Applications are submitted one year before students expect to enter dental school and are available for submission in early June. Schools view applicants on a rolling basis – apply early when the application opens!

Undergraduate Major: There is no preferred major for dental school. Students should select a major that they find interesting and consider a strength.

GPA: Dental schools will consider both a student's overall and math/science GPA. Math/science GPA is calculated using scores from any course taken in the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math. **Both overall and math/science GPA of 3.5 or above is preferred. GPAs below 3.0 will need to consider Post-Baccalaureate coursework / programs before applying.**

Dental Admission Test (DAT): The following subjects are tested on the DAT. Any courses in these areas should be completed prior to taking the exam. This test is often taken the same summer in which the student applies to professional school (one year before walking through the doors of dental school). A test date in May would allow a student to see their scores before applying when the application opens in June. Remember, take time to prepare for the exam. The latest you should take it is by the first week of September of the year before you expect to enter dental school.

**Biology
Chemistry
Organic Chemistry**

**Critical Reasoning
Quantitative Reasoning
Perceptual Ability**

Professional Development: Dental schools will first review your numbers (Overall GPA, Math/Science GPA, DAT scores). If these are in a competitive range, they will then assess your extracurricular and volunteer experiences. Exposure to dentistry, community service, and research encompass an important part of your preparation for dental school. Demonstrated experiences in healthcare, clinical health settings in particular, need to be a part of your profile for future admission.

Letters of Recommendation: Dental schools will highly prefer a Committee Letter (Committee Letters from PPHA serve as a cover letter for your individual letters from faculty and mentors). A Committee Letter **will not replace** the need to have other recommendation letters. A Committee Letter will, however, better highlight your strengths as an applicant. Begin to consider letter writers early. Letters may be submitted to PPHA from letter writers directly by using the "[Letter of Recommendation Request Form](#)" on the PPHA Canvas site.

Additional Resources:

American Dental Education Association (AADSAS): www.adea.org | [ADEA Go Dental](#)

Please join the [PPHA Canvas page](#) for more information.