Dental School Preparation at the University of Oregon

Did you know?

- Some dental programs lead to a DDS degree, and others lead to a DMD. Despite their different names, these are equivalent degrees.
- You don’t have to pursue a specialty area in dentistry, but you may decide to focus on a specific interest such as endodontics, pathology, radiology, pediatric dentistry, surgery, and prosthodontics.
- A general dental education typically takes 4 years to complete. Specialization may require postdoctoral education for 2-3 more years. Tuition and expenses range from $140,000 to $260,000.

Dental School Application Preparation

- Completing the prerequisite courses is just one aspect of the process. You must also have a well-rounded application consisting of experience (shadowing, volunteer work, undergraduate research, life experience, etc.), letters of recommendation, DAT scores, and a strong admissions essay.
- Dental schools look for students who chose meaningful experiences that they are able to reflect upon during the application process.
- The Dental Admission Test (DAT) covers four areas: Natural Sciences, Quantitative Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, and Perceptual Ability. Physics and Anatomy & Physiology are not on the test.
- Applying to dental school is a year-long process. Students applying in their final year at UO will have a gap year before starting dental school. Students can work, take courses, travel, etc. during the year. Keep in mind, the average age of a first-year dental student is 24.

Online Resources

- Health Professions Program Website: http://healthprofessions.uoregon.edu
- American Dental Education Association: http://www.adea.org
- ADEA GoDental: http://info.adea.org/godental/
- Exploring Health Careers: http://explorehealthcareers.org

Campus Resources

- Student Organizations (Pre-Dental Club and others)
- Holden Center
- Service Learning Program
- Peer Health Education
- Global Education Oregon
- Career Center
- Academic departments
- Undergraduate research
- TLC study support
- HPP workshops

Advising

For more information and individualized academic planning, call or visit the Teaching and Learning Center (541-346-3226, 68 PLC) to schedule an appointment with a health professions advisor.
Sample 4-Year Plan

The chart below illustrates one way dental school prerequisites can fit into a 4-year plan. Keep in mind that a good graduation plan is as unique as the student following it. Math placement, major, transfer credits, application timeline, and other factors will help shape your own decisions, and health professions advisors are here to help along the way!

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<th>First Year</th>
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| Fall       | CH 221 & 227  
MATH 111 | CH 222 & 228  
MATH 112 | CH 223 & 229  
HPHY 211  
MATH 251 |     |
| Winter     | CH 222 & 228  
MATH 112 | CH 223 & 229  
HPHY 211  
MATH 251 |     |
| Spring     | CH 223 & 229  
HPHY 211  
MATH 251 |     |     |
| Summer     |     |     |     |     |

| Second Year |     |     |     |

| Classes     | CH 331 & 337  
BI 211 | CH 335 & 338  
BI 212 | CH 336  
BI 213  
HPHY 212 |     |
| Experience  |     |     |     |

| Third Year |     |     |     |

| Classes     | BI 214  
HPHY 321  
HPHY 322 | HPHY 323  
HPHY 324 | HPHY 325 |     |
| Experience  |     |     |     |

| Fourth Year |     |     |     |

| Classes     | PHYS 201 & 204  
CH 360 | PHYS 202 & 205 | PHYS 203 & 206 |     |
| Experience  |     |     |     |

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1 Prerequisites vary by school. Research specific schools that interest you to be sure you meet any additional requirements.

2 These courses are prerequisites for UO’s Anatomy & Physiology sequence. They are not typically prerequisites for dental school.

3 Anatomy and physiology are usually only recommended courses, however, OHSU requires the sequence.