



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
College of Dentistry

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## Questions & Answers About D.D.S. Admission

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### Who should you consult about a career in dentistry?

The predoctoral advisor on your university campus, Admission Offices of Dental Schools, the family dentist, other dentists in general practice and those involved in the various fields of dentistry such as public health, dental research, etc. Observation in the office of a general dentist is required. Information is also available from the American Dental Association website ([www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)), and the American Dental Education Association website ([www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)).

### Can high school students begin to prepare for a career in dentistry?

Yes. These students should take courses that will prepare them for admission to the predoctoral college of their choice. In general, high school courses should include Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, English and courses that involve the development of hand skills.

### Which university should a predoctoral student attend?

We do not recommend specific colleges or universities. The college must be accredited and those having an active prehealth advisory committee and predoctoral society are helpful.

### What specific college courses must an applicant take?

Texas A&M College of Dentistry requires a minimum of ninety semester hours; however, we recommend completing a degree before beginning the program. An applicant must include in the required hours:

- Three semester hours of statistics (*from Math or Statistics Dept*)
- Six semester hours of English
- Eight semester hours of General Chemistry
- Eight semester hours of Organic Chemistry
- Three semester hours of Biochemistry
- Eight semester hours of Physics
- Eighteen semester hours of Biology (minimum)
  - 15 hours of lecture and 3 hours of formal laboratory

The Science Majors Biology hours must include:

- Anatomy with lab\* 4 sem hrs
- Physiology\* 3 sem hrs
- Microbiology 3 sem hrs

*\*Note: The Anatomy and Physiology requirements can be satisfied by either individual courses or the combined A&P1 and A&P2, (with both labs) for Science Majors.*

A grade of "C" or better is needed for all required courses. No course should be planned for Summer Session 2 of year of entry, as it conflicts with our start date.

### What additional courses are recommended?

Histology, Immunology, Biochemistry II, Neuroscience, Cellular and Molecular Biology are suggested to strengthen the student's science background.

### What major fields of study are preferred?

The majority of successful applicants have majored in Biological or Biomedical Sciences. Taking more than the minimum number of biology

courses, and performing well in them, will make the applicant better prepared and therefore, more successful in gaining admission.

### When should the Dental Admission Test be taken?

Take the DAT by the end of the summer of the application year (about one year prior to matriculation). The DAT is offered at Prometric Testing Centers with locations throughout the country. An applicant with below average scores on the test may wish to retake the test in order to become more competitive. A 90-day waiting period before re-testing is required.

Dental Admissions Testing Program -

[www.ada.org/dat.asp](http://www.ada.org/dat.asp)

### Application Procedures

The College of Dentistry participates in the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS), which allows the applicant to apply to any or all of the dental schools in Texas. The College of Dentistry participates in the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) for out-of-state students only. Texas residents MUST apply through the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS).

- Access full information and the on-line application at the website for [www.tmdsas.com](http://www.tmdsas.com)

Texas A&M College of Dentistry requires the submission of a secondary application. This application can be accessed from links on the College of Dentistry website or at the following web address: <https://bamf.tamhsc.edu/2/>

**THE APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL THE SECONDARY APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED.**

Out-of-state applicants have three options. They may apply through the TMDSAS, through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org) or with the College of Dentistry application available on-line. <http://dentistry.tamhsc.edu/admissions/applications..>

Please note: Out-of-state applicants who apply through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) MUST also submit the College of Dentistry application.

- Timetable for filing application:

Earliest date: May 1, year prior to desired admission

Latest date: Application Deadline is September 30 in year prior to desired admission. It is to the applicants advantage to apply as early as possible.

### Is a campus visit possible?

Yes, scheduled tour days are held during the spring. Please call or email to book a tour. Also, the College of Dentistry gladly provides complete information and counseling for all prospective students by email or phone.

## On what basis are students accepted?

The quality of academic achievement is the first point of consideration. The grade point average (GPA) and the Dental Admission Test (DAT) are the primary factors used in this evaluation. The interview with the Admissions Committee gives the opportunity for evaluation of noncognitive factors. Preference is given to residents of Texas and the surrounding states which do not have a college of dentistry. Consideration of any factors that may have impacted academic or personal history is important in interview selection and final acceptance decisions. Applicants seeking to enter the dental school must be able to perform the essential functions required to complete the curriculum successfully.

## What can one do to improve chances for admission?

The application for admission to Texas A&M College of Dentistry may be strengthened by the following:

- keep the GPA as high as possible
- make above average scores in all areas of the DAT
- upper division biological science courses similar to those taken by the first-year dental students
- give careful attention to details in filing the application - apply early
- assure your personal statement explains your motivation for pursuing dentistry, including personal and academic achievements, hardships overcome and other factors that affected personal or academic progress
- observation in a general practice dental office is required
- participate in activities to improve manual dexterity
- take advantage of opportunities for community service
- evaluate and be able to articulate your skills, abilities, attitudes, etc. to determine if you are motivated to make the commitment required for a career in dentistry

## What does the Admissions Committee look for when they do a 'whole-file review' of an application?

A comprehensive (whole-file) review of the application is performed to reveal characteristics critical to the practice of dentistry, factors that indicate success in the dental curriculum that are not evident from academic history or standardized test performance, and potential for future contributions to the dental profession. They include:

- Motivation to pursue a career in dentistry.
- Involvement in community service.
- Observation or involvement in a dental office or clinic.
- Involvement in a summer pre-dental preparatory program.
- Letters of evaluation.
- Communication capabilities including writing (as evidenced in personal statement) and conversational English proficiency.
- The applicant's ability to contribute to the diversity of the class (broadly defined) including their race or ethnicity, socioeconomic background, talents, life skills and experiences and special attributes.
- Region in Texas, in which applicant resides. Ideally, all regions are represented by the student body.
- Employment while attending college.
- Residence in Texas county designated as underserved by dental health professionals.
- Preparation to attend and succeed in post-secondary education.
- Applicant is first college attendee in his/her immediate family.
- History of extreme hardship.
- Leadership positions held in societies or organizations.
- Evidence of diverse cultural experience.
- Multilingual capabilities.

## How can a re-applicant become more competitive?

- All re-applicants must be enrolled in coursework to be considered as a well-prepared candidate. We recommend taking post bac coursework in the biological sciences or a one-year Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences to further prepare for the dental school curriculum, keep current with study skills and prove to the Admissions Committee the

applicant's motivation and preparedness. (for example: anatomy, physiology, biochemistry II, microbiology, histology, neuroscience, cell & molecular biology, immunology)

- Re-applicants need to critically review their applications for areas that may need further work: biological science coursework, DAT scores, GPA, community service and volunteer work, general dental office shadowing experience.
- Re-applicants should continue to participate in shadowing and on-going volunteer activities during the application cycle.
- Re-applicants who follow this advice to improve their academic background and general application will be more successful than those with little change from year to year.
- Working in a dental office alone will not improve the applicant's preparedness.

## What is the cost to attend Texas A&M College of Dentistry?

The tuition and fees for the student in the college are recommended by the administration and are approved by the Board of Regents.

### Estimated Education Expenses: (Estimates 2019-2020)

Tuition & Fees, Books & Supplies, Loan Fees (does not include living & other personal expenses)

| DDS TEXAS RESIDENT   |                              | DDS OUT OF STATE             |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CLASS                | ESTIMATED EDUCATION EXPENSES | ESTIMATED EDUCATION EXPENSES |
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> YEAR | \$31,456                     | \$42,256                     |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> YEAR | \$32,159                     | \$42,959                     |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> YEAR | \$31,395                     | \$42,195                     |
| 4 <sup>TH</sup> YEAR | \$29,388                     | \$40,188                     |

Tuition refund policy is available on request and is published in our catalog.

For a complete listing of tuition and fees, see the Health Science Center Catalog available on the web site at [www.tamhsc.edu](http://www.tamhsc.edu).

To view the Cost of Attendance (COA) estimate provided by the Financial Aid Office please visit the website <http://financialaid.tamu.edu/professional/cost-of-attendance>. Select cost of attendance and select the College of Dentistry.

Dental students are discouraged from employment which may be detrimental to the pursuit of their education. In no case may a student accept a position which conflicts with regularly scheduled school hours. When scholastic progress is questionable, students may be asked to discontinue outside work.

## Are loan funds available?

Yes, the College of Dentistry participates in several types of loan and scholarship programs. Students are classified as independent for consideration in professional school. Students complete FAFSA and submit requests for aid to the Office of Student Aid.

## What is the attrition rate?

Because of the intense efforts in selecting only highly qualified students, few students fail to complete our programs.

## Are there summer pre-dental programs available?

A Summer Predental Enrichment Program exists to introduce the profession of dentistry, strengthen academic background, improve in study skills and increase preparedness for admission to dental school. For information contact the Office of Student Development.

Web address -

[www.dentistry.tamhsc.edu/student-development/](http://www.dentistry.tamhsc.edu/student-development/)

## What opportunities exist beyond general practice?

Most D.D.S. graduates are in the private practice of dentistry. There is also a need for dentists who are interested in scientific research and teaching. Specialty areas in dentistry include Dental Public Health, Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, and Prosthodontics. Competition for admission to these graduate programs is high. Dentists also serve in public health agencies, educational institutions, the military and dental industry.