

Doctor of Dental Medicine Timeline and Checklist

1st Year

- Register for the Pre-Health Program.
- Attend the informational meetings for the Pre-Health Program.
- Make an appointment with the pre-health advisor to discuss how to sequence classes, experiences that will help you prepare for dental school, and the different resources on campus.
- Investigate career information to identify what it means to be a dentist and the admission requirements for dentistry.
- Start taking the core courses that need to be completed before taking the DAT entrance exam required by the AADSAS. Focus on academic coursework and how to be a successful college student.
- Look for meaningful opportunities to become involved in research, job shadowing, volunteering, clubs, and mentoring.
- Have a variety of dentistry exposure (clinical, oral surgery, orthodontia).
- Start to develop relationships with faculty, staff advisors and faculty mentors at DePaul.
- **SUMMER: Work, volunteer, research, or intern in the health field.**
- **SUMMER: Take summer courses if desired or necessary.**

2nd Year

- Attend the informational meetings for the Pre-Health Program.
- Meet with the pre-health advisor to make sure you're progressing through your requirements.
- Continue taking the core courses that need to be completed before taking the DAT entrance exam required by the dental programs. Focus on coursework and achieving a high GPA.
- Continue to investigate the career information to identify the admission requirements for Dental school.
- Look for opportunities to be involved in meaningful activities (volunteering, research, etc.) that will strengthen your application.
- Attend local graduate school fairs and open houses.
- Apply for research opportunities that you can participate in over the school year or summer.
- Once your general chemistry and biology sequence are complete with a C or above, and you are ready to apply within the next year to dental school, let the pre-health advisor know so you will be signed up for the Pre-Health Advising Committee.
- **SUMMER: Work or volunteer in the health field.**
- **SUMMER: Participate in summer enrichment, research, or internship program.**
- **SUMMER: Learn more about the DAT and research DAT prep courses opportunities**
- **SUMMER: Familiarize yourself with the American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS).**

3rd Year (or the year prior to applying)

- Meet with pre-health advisor and PAC faculty mentor to make sure all coursework is on track.
- Begin compiling a list of specific dental programs that will meet your professional objectives.
- Complete pre-dentistry coursework that will be covered on the DAT.
- Make sure you have established well maintained relationships with your staff advisors, professors, and PAC faculty mentor, and health care professionals. Start to consider from whom you can receive letters of recommendations.
- Look for opportunities to continue to be involved (volunteering, research, etc.) that will strengthen your application.
- Attend a personal statement writing workshop and begin writing your statement early. Be prepared to make multiple drafts as this statement is critical in the review of your application.
- If you are prepared and ready, register for the Dental Admissions Test (DAT)
- Take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT)
- Prepare a "plan b" if you are not admitted to the schools of your choice.
- **SUMMER: If you are intending to start your chosen program immediately following graduation, you should begin the application process, including requesting letters of recommendation from your professors and health care professionals. The AADSAS will open up early June.**
- **SUMMER: Double check dates and deadlines and review, edit, and submit AADSAS application early**
- **SUMMER: Submit transcripts, complete supplemental applications, and contact those who will be submitting LORs for you to check on progress.**

4th Year

- Prepare for interviews by participating in a mock interview.
- Meet with your PAC faculty mentor to discuss status of your application.
- Continue to maintain a strong GPA.
- If admitted, make final decisions about your choice of school and notify schools you will not be attending.
- If admitted to Dental school, apply for financial aid (FAFSA) by March 1st
- If admitted, pay seat deposit for the institution of your choice.
- Let the pre-health advisor know what schools you were admitted to and which school you will matriculate.

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- **1. RESEARCH** the dental schools you are interested in. The first step in preparing for dental school is finding out programs that you are interested in. A good place to start is the American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS). The AADSAS provides you with information about several dentistry programs, their requirements, and their timelines. <https://portal.aadsasweb.org/>
- **2. PREREQUISITES:** each school has different timelines and prerequisites. Research each school carefully to make sure you have met all the requirements for the application

REQUIRED		HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
Biology with lab (12 quarter hours)	Physics with lab (12 quarter hours)	Genetics (4 quarter hours)
General Chemistry with lab (12 quarter hours)	Physiology (4 quarter hours)	Histology (4 quarter hours)
Organic Chemistry with lab (12 quarter hours)	Biochemistry (4 quarter hours)	Cell Biology (4 quarter hours)
Anatomy (4 quarter hours)	English (9 quarter hours)	Molecular Biology (4 quarter hours)
Microbiology (4 quarter hours)	Psychology (4 quarter hours)	Immunology (4 quarter hours)

***This is a typical example of what a dental school may require – make sure you check each school for their specific requirements.**

- **3. REGISTER** for the Pre-Health Program, once you have completed the General Chemistry/General Biology sequence you and are ready to apply to dental school, sign up for the Pre-Health Advising Committee (PAC). This will allow you to have a faculty mentor that helps you in your junior/senior year prepare for the AADSAS application.
- **4.GPA:** The higher the GPA, the more competitive you will be. Plan on applying to at least 8-10 programs at minimum. The average GPA for Illinois programs is a 3.5. The higher your GPA the better chance of being admitted to a dental school.
- **5.KNOW** the applications start date and deadlines along with all prerequisites needed for each school you are interested in. The AADSAS opens early June.
- **6.EXPERIENCE:** Some dental programs require shadowing and health care hours. Check each school carefully for what their requirements are. Even if a school does not require hours it is vital that you get experience in the dental and health care field. Start early and get as much experience in dentistry, research, and health care as you can.
- **7.BE INVOLVED:** The more well-rounded your academic career the more competitive you will be. Be involved in activities such as research, community service, work, and extracurricular activities that are meaningful and unique.
- **8. RECOMMENDATIONS:** The majority of dental programs require a committee letter along with 2 or 3 other letters of recommendation. Line up 3-4 recommendations early on. The AADSAS will tell you which types of recommendation each school requires and accepts. If unsure contact the schools you are applying to directly to determine what types of references they prefer. Recommendations through AADSAS are electronic.
- **9. DAT:** Register for the DAT at least 3-4 months prior to taking the DAT and at least 3 months prior to the June 1st application opening. Please note in order to register you must have a DENTPIN: <http://www.ada.org/dentpin.aspx>. The average DAT score for schools dental schools in Illinois is a 19. However, the higher the DAT score the better chance of being accepted into a dental school.
- **10. COMPOSE:** Start to write your personal essay prior to the application in a word document. Each specific school may have a supplemental essay as well. Once you have completed your essay make sure you edit it carefully and have others edit it as well.
- **11. REQUEST** official transcripts to be sent to you to aid you in filling out the coursework one month prior to your application open date.
- **12. APPLY/DOUBLE CHECK/SUBMIT:** A lot of dental schools are on the AADSAS but not all of them. The earlier you apply the better. Some schools have rolling admission. Get all your application materials ready a month prior to the application open date, fill out the application, double/triple check for errors, and then submit.