

Doctor of Dental Medicine Timeline

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.