Did you know?

- Dentists are trained initially to be generalists; however some focus on specific interests 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. Total tuition and expenses range from $200,000 to $400,000.
- Some dental programs lead to a DDS degree, and others lead to a DMD. Despite their different names, these are equivalent degrees.
- There are 66 dental schools in the United States and 10 in Canada.

Dental School Application Preparation

- Completing the prerequisite courses is just one aspect of the process. Applicants 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.
- 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: healthprofessions.uoregon.edu
- American Dental Education Association: adea.org
- ADEA GoDental: adea.org/GoDental/
- American Association of Dental Schools Application Service: aadsas.liaisoncas.com
- Exploring Health Careers: explorehealthcareers.org

Campus Resources

- Student organizations (Pre-Dental club)
- Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement
- Tykeson College and Career Advising
- Duck Nest
- Global Education Oregon
- TAEC study support
- Holden Center
- HPP workshops
- University Career Center

Advising

Call 541-346-9200 and ask to schedule an appointment with an HPP advisor.
Or visit us in Tykeson Hall, 2nd floor, health@uoregon.edu
**Sample 4-Year Plan**

The chart below illustrates one way dental school prerequisites\(^i\) 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!

<table>
<thead>
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<th>First Year</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>CH 221 &amp; 227 MATH 112</td>
<td>CH 222 &amp; 228 MATH 251(^i)</td>
<td>CH 223 &amp; 229 HPHY 211(^i)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience</td>
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| Second Year |          |          |          |          |
| Classes     | CH 331 & 337 BI 211 | CH 335 & 338 BI 212 | CH 336 BI 213\(^iii\) HPHY 212\(^i\) |          |
| Experience  |          |          |          |          |

| Third Year  |          |          |          |          |
| Classes     | HPHY 321\(^iii\) HPHY 322\(^iii\) | HPHY 323\(^iii\) HPHY 324\(^iii\) | HPHY 325\(^iii\) \(BI 214\(^iii\) |          |
| Experience  |          |          |          |          |

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

\(^i\) **Prerequisites vary by school.** Research specific schools that interest you to be sure you meet any additional requirements.

\(^ii\) These courses are prerequisites for UO’s Anatomy & Physiology sequence. They are not typically prerequisites for dental school.

\(^iii\) Required for OHSU School of Dentistry.

\(^iv\) Helpful preparation for biochemistry (CH 360) and DAT