DENTAL SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Academic requirements for admission to dental schools vary. To be eligible for most U.S. programs, you are advised to complete the following (with a "C" or better in each course):

- 2 semesters of English composition
- 2 semesters of physics w/lab
- 2 semesters of general biology w/lab
- 2 semesters of inorganic chemistry w/lab
- 2 semesters of upper division biology w/lab (1 can be 2000 level but 3000/4000 level is best)
- 1 semester of biochemistry
- 1 semester of general psychology
- 2 semesters of organic chemistry w/lab

Additional requirements do exist and they must be met or the applicant will not be considered. (Attention: CLEP and/or AP hours are not always acceptable).

For example, academic requirements for admission to the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry include certain coursework, a minimum grade point average of 2.5 in all college work prior to application, a minimum 90 semester hours from an accredited college or university, and acceptable scores on the Dental Admission Test (DAT). The course requirements may be met by the following specific courses at UCO:

- Inorganic Chemistry
  - CHEM 1103 + 1112
  - CHEM 1223 + 1232
- Organic Chemistry
  - CHEM 3303 + 3312
  - CHEM 3323
- Biochemistry
  - CHEM 3403
- General Biology*
  - BIO 1204
  - BIO 1225
  - BIO -----4
- English
  - ENG 1113
  - ENG 1213
- Psychology
  - PSY 1103
- General Physics w/ 1 lab
  - PHY 1114 (Concurrent enrollment in PHY 1114L required)
  - PHY 1214 (Concurrent enrollment in PHY 1214L required)

* The University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry requires a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of biological science (with at least 1 lab), but encourages prospective students to take 20-24 hours in order to build a strong biology foundation and become better prepared to succeed in dental school. Suggested biology electives include: cell biology, genetics, microbiology, embryology, physiology, anatomy, and histology.

Students planning to apply to dental schools other than OU need to check the specific admission requirements of those schools by consulting their predental advisor.
PRE-DENTAL PROGRAM

CREDIT HOURS AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA): Enrollment at the OU College of Dentistry requires a minimum of 90 semester credit hours from an accredited college or university. If a student has completed at least 94 hours, the possibility exists that UCO will grant a bachelor’s degree in Biomedical Sciences after successful completion of the first year in dental school. This is an option requiring careful supervision by the predental advisor. About 98% of the entering dental students at the OU College of Dentistry have completed a bachelor’s degree or an equivalent number of credit hours. In addition to the minimum hours, applicants must present a minimum grade point average of 2.5 (A=4.0) with a minimum grade of “C” in each required course. The 2016 entering class at OU had an average cumulative GPA of 3.6. Applications with a GPA of 3.0+ may be considered as long as the DAT score is competitive.

DENTAL ADMISSION TEST (DAT): All applicants to dental school must take the Dental Admission Test. Students should complete most, if not all of the required courses before taking the test. Information about the DAT is available at: http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx The mean DAT Academic Average for the 2016 entering class at OU was 20, with a range from 17 to 25.

ADVISEMENT AT UCO: Advisement for students planning to enter the health professions is coordinated by a health professions advisor in the Biology Department. Graduation checks and curriculum planning are coordinated by your academic advisor; NUC 121. Since the prehealth advisor will prepare a letter summarizing the Prehealth Committee’s evaluation when students apply to dental school, wise students will visit regularly enough to be known personally and benefit from their knowledge of the application process. However, it is essential that predental students hold themselves responsible for knowing the requirements and deadlines.

SELECTION OF MAJOR: It should be emphasized that “predental” is not a major. It simply means that the student is meeting requirements for admission to dental school. Thus, in addition to satisfying these requirements, the student should be working toward a baccalaureate degree in some academic discipline. There is no recommended major for predental students. Dental schools encourage a broad general curriculum in the social sciences and humanities in addition to a high level of competence in the physical and biological sciences. Good communication skills are also important. Beyond this, the best advice for students is to select a major in a discipline that will offer satisfying challenges and provide a viable alternative to dental school if they are not admitted.

QUALITY OF CURRICULUM: Predental students should choose a curriculum that demonstrates a capacity to handle the rigors of dental school. If they choose the easiest curriculum they can manage, it will be obvious to the Admissions Committee that they have been protecting their GPA. It will certainly deprive them of the level of preparation they need for professional school.

DENTAL EXPERIENCE: Predental students should test the depth of their commitment to a career in dentistry by observing, volunteering, or working with dentists, visiting dental schools, and keeping abreast of new developments in the dental field. The number of shadowing hours required varies with each dental school. For OU College of Dentistry, at least 100 hours of shadowing/dental experience are required.

PRE-DENTAL SOCIETY: This organization meets on Fridays. It offers programs of speakers and films, volunteer experiences, visits to dental schools, and assistance in the application process. All prospective applicants are urged to attend and any student may join. Visit OrgSync for more information.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS CLUB: This organization meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in HOH Atrium. It offers programs of speakers and films, involvement in blood drives, volunteer experiences, visits to medical and dental schools, and assistance in the application process. All prospective applicants are urged to attend and any student may join.

PREDENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Caroline Bentley, Chairman  Biology, HOH 200
Robert Brennan  Biology, HOH 301
Gloria M. Caddell  Biology, HOH 208
Allyson Fenwick  Biology, HOH 200
Cheryl B Frech  Chemistry, HOH 314
Michelle L. Haynie  Biology, HOH 200
Hari S. Kotturi  Biology, HOH 200
Luis D. Montes  Chemistry, HOH 314
Dallas G. New  Chemistry, HOH 320
Dana Rundle  Chemistry, HOH 314
Paul A. Stone  Biology, HOH 401
Nikki Seagraves  Biology, HOH 200
Melville B. Vaughan  Biology, HOH 301

For more information about Dentists and Dental Programs: http://www.adea.org
For information from the University of Oklahoma: Ms. Heidi Martin, 405-271-3530 or Heidi-Martin@ouhsc.edu
OU College of Dentistry http://dentistry.ouhsc.edu
To apply to OU College of Dentistry, as well as others: https://portal.aadsasweb.org/

Revised 10/7/16