A degree in Dentistry is a four-year professional degree. Students attend dental school after they have completed an undergraduate degree or a minimum of 90 semester hours toward a degree. Occasionally, those who enter after three years complete an undergraduate degree by applying their first year of dental schoolwork as 30 s.h. of elective credit toward an undergraduate degree.

**Sample Pre-Dentistry Four-Year Academic Plans**

**Plan A: Starting with General Chemistry and Trigonometry or Pre-Calculus***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1:</th>
<th>Year 2:</th>
<th>Year 3:</th>
<th>Year 4:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math through Trig. or Pre-Calculus*</td>
<td>CHEM:2210 Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td>CHEM:2410 Organic Chem.Lab</td>
<td>PHYS:1512 College Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIOL:1411 Foundations of Biology</td>
<td>Physiology or anatomy if desired</td>
<td>Physiology or anatomy course if desired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take <strong>DAT</strong> in winter or spring***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Apply to</strong> dental school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Denotes course required for dental school admission. **Major requirements. ***Recommended for dental school admission.
Plan B: Starting with Principles of Chemistry and Calculus*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1:</th>
<th>Year 2:</th>
<th>Year 3:***</th>
<th>Year 4:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1460 Calc. for Bio. Sciences</td>
<td>CHEM:2220 Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td>Anatomy or physiology if desired</td>
<td>PHYS:1512 College Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if desired or needed for major*</td>
<td>BIOL:1412 Diversity of Form Function</td>
<td>Take DAT winter or spring**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIOL:1411 Foundations of Biology I</td>
<td>Summer: Apply</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIOL:1412 Diversity of Form Function</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The UI College of Dentistry requirements are 16sh of coursework in Chemistry, 8sh of which must be Organic Chemistry courses; 8sh of Biology courses with lab, 8sh of Physics with lab.

**While the UI College of Dentistry has no formal math requirement, it strongly recommends a semester of calculus. Minimally, math through trigonometry is needed for College Physics I-II.

***The DAT may be taken as early as after the completion of two to three weeks of Organic Chemistry II. It is recommended that you schedule after completing the entire Organic sequence. Physics is not included in the DAT.

Academic Guidelines
An overall GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) is the preferred GPA for consideration for admission at the UI College of Dentistry. The average GPA for the fall 2021 class was 3.65. The science GPA average was 3.55; this GPA includes grades in biology, chemistry, physics, math, statistics and computer science courses.

UI College of Dentistry Admissions Profile 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>863 applicants</th>
<th>82 enrolled</th>
<th>GPA Averages: Cum 3.65, Science 3.55</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95 residents</td>
<td>55 residents</td>
<td>DAT Averages: 21 Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>768 nonresidents</td>
<td>27 nonresidents</td>
<td>22 Perceptual Ability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pre-Professional Development
Visit the College of Dentistry: Any student who wants to assess dentistry as a potential career is encouraged to visit the UI clinics. Contact the Office of Admissions, N311 DSB, 335-7163 or dentistry.uiowa.edu/admissions-visit-us to make arrangements. Dress professionally for the visit.

University of Iowa Pre-Dental Club
This is an active campus group that provides dental activities, information on the application process, and leadership opportunities. The club meets once a month, has an active listserv, and a club newsletter.
Website: https://www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/education-predental-club
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/765519133593810.
**Undergraduate Research:** Students wanting to do dental research are encouraged to visit the clinics first and to express interest while making the visit. Credit for research can be arranged through Science Education (course number SIED:4115 Directed Study) or for honors students through the Blank Honors Center (HONR:3200 Honors Research Practicum).

**Shadowing/Volunteering:** While there is no formula for hours spent volunteering, working, or shadowing in a dentistry clinic, any exploration of the field helps students make more informed decisions regarding their suitability for a career in dentistry. The University of Iowa College of Dentistry does not have a minimum shadowing requirement. They want to see evidence of diverse shadowing experiences. The more practitioners you are able to observe, the more exposure you will have to a variety of philosophies on running a business, patient interaction, specialty arenas, etc. Community service is encouraged.

**Diversity in Dentistry**
ADEA has stated that the number of graduates of dental and allied dental programs should reflect their representation in the population and the communities in which they will serve, and that recruitment, retention and graduation of practitioners from disadvantaged groups are goals that are important for the public’s health (from the ADEA website).

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry participates in a summer enrichment program, Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), [https://medicine.uiowa.edu/shpep/](https://medicine.uiowa.edu/shpep/). This program focuses on improving access to information and resources for college students interested in the health professions. SHPEP’s goal is to strengthen the academic proficiency and career development of students underrepresented in the health professions. Students who complete the SHPEP program are guaranteed an interview at the College of Dentistry.

**Citizenship/International Students**
Dental schools vary as to whether they accept non-U.S. citizens. Some schools that do accept non-citizens, including the UI College of Dentistry, require a substantial financial commitment up front. Since not all schools accept non-citizens and since the financial commitment of those that do may be substantial, students should thoroughly research and carefully consider such a decision and discuss it with their pre-dental advisors early in their undergraduate years.

**The Application Process**
All dental schools use the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) for initiating an application. ADEA sponsors the online Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS): [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org). For students applying to the UI College of Dentistry, the deadline for a complete application to arrive at AADSAS is October 1st. However, submitting a complete application by June is highly recommended. Students should check the ADEA [Official Guide to Dental Schools](http://www.adea.org) for deadlines at other schools and should apply well before listed deadlines.

**Entrance Examination Requirement (DAT)**
All U.S. dental schools require applicants to take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). It is preferred that the DAT is taken no later than August of the calendar year preceding the year in which the applicant wishes to enroll in the Dental College. Students register online at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org). The test consists of four sections: a Survey of Natural Sciences (biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry), Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Reasoning, and Perceptual Ability. Two summary scores are reported, one on academic subjects and one for perceptual ability, as well as scores on individual sections. The scoring range is from 1 to 30. The average score for students accepted into
the UI program is 20-21 for each subtest. The current national average for admitted applicants is 18-20.

**Letters of Evaluation/Recommendation**
Letters of evaluation will be required of applicants. Letters from a faculty member, dentist or physician, academic advisor, or employer would be appropriate. *Information about the non-academic character of a student would be most useful as academic information is already in the application.* Students should have their evaluation letters submitted directly through AADSAS.

**Interviews**
Most schools screen applicants with some form of personal interview. Please consult with the Pomerantz Career Center for resources and preparation: [https://careers.uiowa.edu/students/mock-interviews](https://careers.uiowa.edu/students/mock-interviews)

**Admission**
Admission is based on GPA, DAT scores, research interest or experience, community involvement, leadership qualities, the interview, the essay, and letters of recommendation. The Admissions Committee consists of faculty, two dental students, and a private practitioner (all voting members), as well as three ex-officio members.

**Criminal Background Checks**
A prerequisite for enrollment in the UI College of Dentistry is giving consent for an external background check. This check includes, but is not limited to, past criminal offenses and registry information. If there is evidence of arrest for a crime(s), conviction for a crime(s), presence on an abuse registry, or other information which reasonably suggests that patient safety might be compromised, the student will be asked to provide additional information.

**Websites**
American Dental Education Association: [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)
American Dental Association: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)
UI College of Dentistry: [www.dentistry.uiowa.edu](http://www.dentistry.uiowa.edu)

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Academic Advising Center, 2021-2022
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