

Dentistry

What is dentistry? Dentistry focuses on care of mouth, including teeth and gums. Dentists examine, evaluate, and treat problems; they work with patients to prevent diseases and disorders. Some perform surgery.

More details? For more detailed information, including salaries and job prospects, visit the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov/Healthcare

Can UWW help me prepare for an accredited dental school? UWW has helped many students prepare for dental school. There are only 56 accredited dental schools in the U.S., making entry into these schools very competitive. You will need to work hard and effectively, and you will need to plan your work with an academic advisor. Profiles of recent incoming classes of dental students may vary by age (22 to 32 being most common range) and gender (most schools are 50-50 male-female), but they are **all** very selective. The average student had a GPA of 3.50/4.00; 85 to 100% have a bachelor's degree; and the DAT scores are also high (academic average of 19, perceptual average of 18, total science average of 18.5).

What do I need to apply for admission to an accredited dental school?

Dental schools require incoming students to complete a minimum of 90 semester credits before being accepted into their programs; the coursework must be completed at an accredited college or university prior to beginning work in the advanced program. In reality, most students (85-100%) accepted into these programs will have completed a bachelor's degree. The degree can be in any subject; due to the substantial science course requirements, most students choose to complete a degree in biology or chemistry.

- 1) **Minimum coursework:** You will need a minimum of 90 semester hours before applying, but since entry is so competitive, completing a bachelor's degree is strongly recommended.
- 2) **Required courses:** Please check the specific requirements of the program you wish to attend – requirements are fundamentally the same (courses in biology, chemistry, math and physics), but each school has unique specifications – a foreign language may be required or recommended.

Requirement; Length/Credits (minimum)	UWW courses which meet the requirements
Chemistry: min 14-16 credit hours or two years; general (or inorganic) PLUS organic chemistry	General chemistry: Chem 102 and 104 Organic chemistry: Chem 251 and 252; many schools require one or both labs (261, 262)
Biology: min 6-8 semester hours, introductory courses with labs; Zoology and comparative anatomy preferred	General biology: Bio 141 and 142 Comp Anatomy: Bio 340
Physics: 6-8 semester hours (one year series)	Physics 140 and 141
English: 6 semester hours	English 101 and 102
Electives (general education, for a broad cultural background): If you complete a BS or BA at UWW, the courses recommended by the dental schools in general areas virtually all count toward your Gen Ed requirements here, and vice versa. These courses include general psychology (PSYCH 211), speech (COMM 110), art (3-D drawing or sculpture), and social	

sciences courses.

Science electives generally include at least half of the following: cell biology (Bio 253); genetics (Bio 251); microbiology (Bio 311); biochemistry (Bio/Chem 456); anatomy and physiology (Bio 361, 362); statistics (Bio 303 or Psych 215), math (precalc = Math 152); all of these courses would count toward a degree in Biology.

- 3) **Entrance exam:** Students need to take the Dental Aptitude Test (DAT).
- 4) **Previous experience of field:** Students need to have explored the real world of dentistry and healthcare. Experience may be obtained by job shadowing, internships, volunteer work, and other activities. Some students may also want to consider the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program. This is a FREE intense summer enrichment opportunity for freshmen and sophomores interested in a dental or medical career.

UWW Pre-Dental Student Advisor

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Dental Schools: Students interested in pursuing training in dentistry should visit the American Dental Association web site (<http://www.ada.org/index.asp>), which includes links to accredited dental schools (DDS/DMD) (http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/programs/search_ddsmd_us.asp) and information on the Dental Admissions Test (DAT –<http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp>). You may also want to visit the American Dental Education Association’s website “Go Dental” (<http://www.adea.org/GoDental/>). Go Dental’s mission is “to guide students through the process of becoming a dental professional”.

Training in this area: (WI, MN, IL, IA)

Wisconsin:

Marquette University School of Dentistry (Milwaukee, WI)

DDS program www.dental.mu.edu

Minnesota:

University of Minnesota School of Dentistry (Minneapolis, MN)

DDS program <http://www.dentistry.umn.edu>

Iowa:

University of Iowa College of Dentistry (Iowa City, IA)

DDS Program <http://www.dentistry.uiowa.edu>

Illinois:

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Dental School (Alton, IL)

DMD Program <http://www.siue.edu/dentalmedicine>

University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry (Chicago, IL)

DMD Program <http://dentistry.uic.edu>

Midwestern University (Downers Grove, IL)

DMD Program <http://www.midwestern.edu/programs-and-admission/il-dental-medicine.html>