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Requirements for Pre-Dental Professionals

Choosing a Major:

- See an Advisor
Pre-Dental students must choose a major (pre-dentistry is not a major).
Commonly chosen majors include biology, chemistry, biochemistry, biomedical engineering or physics. However, any major is acceptable, so long as students complete the pre-dental requirements.

Qualities of Professional School Applicants:

- A high GPA in science and non-science courses – a competitive GPA is above a 3.4
High Scores on the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) – a competitive score is 20 on both the Total Science and the Academic Average.
Active in volunteer/work experience/extracurricular events – join a pre-health student society (FIU Pre-Dental Society, MEDS, AED).
Has significant clinical experience – shadowing & volunteer work are essential!
Well known by professors.
Great letters of recommendation and evaluations.
Have a strong, working relationship with the Pre-Health Advising Office!

Common Pre-requisites for Admission to Dental Schools:

Biology

BSC 1010, 1010L (General Bio I & Lab)

BSC 1011, 1011L (General Bio II & Lab)

General Chemistry

CHM 1045, 1045L (Gen. Chem. I & Lab)

CHM 1046, 1046L (Gen. Chem. II & Lab)

Organic Chemistry

CHM 2210, 2210L (Org. Chem. I & Lab)

CHM 2211, 2211L (Org. Chem. II & Lab)

Physics I

PHY 2053, 2048L (Gen. Physics I w/out Calc) OR

PHY 2048, 2048L (Gen. Physics I with Calc)

Physics II

PHY 2054, 2049L (Gen. Physics II w/out Calc) OR

PHY 2049, 2049L (Gen. Physics II with Calc)

Mathematics

MAC 2311 (Calculus)

-OR- STA 3111 (Statistics I) & STA 3112 (Statistics II)

Pre-Dental Students Must Take:

BCH 3033, BCH 3033L (General Biochemistry & Lab)

-OR- CHM 4304, 4304L (Biological Chemistry & Lab)

MCB 3020, MCB 3020L (General Microbiology & Lab)

PCB 3063, 3063L (Genetics & Lab) \*

Recommended Courses (Not required):

PSY 2012 (Intro. To Psychology) \*

Business related courses (economics, management, accounting)

Art (drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics)

Anatomy & Physiology

\* Required by select schools.

**Requirements for professional schools may vary** (i.e. math courses, social sciences). Students should consult specific websites for information on requirements for desired schools.

#### AP Credits

- Not all dental schools will accept AP credit for science courses.
- Contact the school(s) you are interested in to find out if they accept AP credits.
- If a school accepts AP credits, they will usually require additional courses taken in that subject area

#### GPA Calculation

- ADEA AADSAS reports: overall GPA (undergraduate, graduate and combined); and these undergraduate GPA's: biology-chemistry-physics GPA (BCP); science GPA (all science courses including math, natural sciences and BCP; non-science GPA.
- AP credits are **NOT** computed into your GPA.
- ALL post-secondary coursework will be used to compute your GPA for admission.
  - ✓ Dual-enrollment and transfer courses **DO** count toward your GPA for admission.
- Dental schools **DO NOT** use “forgiveness” policies in calculating your GPA.
- DR grades do not count in your GPA. However, avoid DR grades. Dental schools expect students to carry a consistent, full-time course load.

#### Application Cycle

- The application cycle begins in early June for fall enrollment the following year.
- Applicants are encouraged to apply EARLY!
- Admissions offers can be extended starting December 1<sup>st</sup> for the next year's entering class.

#### Professional Experience

- Experience must involve dentist/patient observation (typical students have >120 hours).
- Students should have at least one year of experience through volunteer or paid positions.
- Students must demonstrate a knowledge of their chosen profession when applying to dental school
  - **NOTE:** Many otherwise well-qualified applicants are not accepted because they lack sufficient experience and or knowledge of their chosen profession

#### **\*\*Academic Advising\*\***

All lower-division, Pre-Health students must see an advisor in their Major Department in addition to an advisor in the Office of Pre-Health Professions Advising prior to registration each semester!