

PRE-DENTAL MAJOR:

Although many students major in Chemistry or Biology, a pre-dental student may major in any subject such as Anthropology, French, Mathematics, Sociology, etc. In fact, Dental Schools encourage a broad education and majoring in Biology or Chemistry will not provide an admission advantage. You should choose the major that you want or are interested in.

DENTAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:

The majority of Dental Schools require the following science courses in addition to other subjects normally taken by all students:

two semesters of English composition (ENGL 1013, 1023),

two semesters each of general chemistry (CHEM 1104, 1124)

and organic chemistry (not offered at NWACC),

two semesters of physics (PHYS 2014, 2034),

and one semester of introductory biology (BIOL 1544)

along one or two advanced biology courses (such as anatomy, physiology, microbiology).

Practicing dentists recommend business courses such as business law, economics and accounting.

DENTAL EXPERIENCE:

All schools require that you have some experience in the dental profession. As a guideline we can quote from the UMKC dental school: "It is strongly suggested that candidates observe in a minimum of five different dental offices such as general dentists (required by all schools) and specialists. Students should log a minimum of 80 to 100 hours of dental office observation."

ADVANCED ADMISSION:

Most students going on to Dental School earn either a B.A. or B.S. degree. Exceptional students have been infrequently *admitted after only 90 hours* of course work. Such students can earn a B.A. or B.S. degree from Fulbright College, University of Arkansas, by using their first year of Dental School as their major (this is called the 3/1 program). This pathway requires careful planning from the first semester of the freshman year. Because all University and College requirements must be met there are only six hours of electives in the B.S. program and B.A. students must take 94 hours. The most difficult requirement to meet is the advanced course requirements of the Fulbright College and, thus, all electives must be numbered 3000 or above. (This option has not been used in recent years because the dental schools have not accepted students without degrees).

WHEN TO APPLY TO DENTAL SCHOOL:

You will apply to dental school one year (12 months) prior to the time you wish to begin. If you are pursuing a degree you will begin the process of application the **August** of your senior year. If you are applying for advanced admission, you will begin the first steps in August of your junior year and have your applications sent in by early September. This is true despite the fact that the published deadlines are much later in the year.

WHEN TO TAKE THE D.A.T.:

All dental schools require you to take the Dental Aptitude Test. You should take the test during the spring semester of your junior year so that you have the opportunity to take it again in the summer before your senior year. Early admission applicants will take the test during the spring semester of their sophomore year. Further, The University of Missouri-Kansas City suggests that students should have taken the test prior to sending in their applications. On the application they ask you to mark the schools to which you wish to send your scores. Check off all the schools to which you might apply and also have them sent to your pre-dental advisor. This way there is a copy of your scores for emergencies.

WEB SITES THAT ARE USEFUL:

www.adea.org the American Dental Education Association has many links to sites about dental schools, application procedures, the AADSAS unified application process, testing, etc.

www.scholarware.com Provides materials used to prepare for the D.A.T.

www.ada.org The American Dental Association provides information about testing and admissions.

Podcasts:

Itunes provides a number of dentistry related podcasts available for download to your pc or portable mp3 player. Itunes can be downloaded for free at www.apple.com and is available for both PC and Mac formats. Information concerning the dental industry can be found under numerous categories such as management and marketing, medicine and health. Featured podcasts include:

The American Dental Association Podcast Network: Located within the medicine category, this podcast provides dental professionals with important information about running a practice, the industry in general, interviews and much more.

Dental Informatics (IT Boot camp): Located within the podcasting Category, this series of lectures is designed to help prepare faculty, students and staff to manage the myriad of tools and resources available for electronically enhanced teaching.

DENTAL SCHOOLS:

1. University of Louisville (ARHEG Slots: 1)

Dianne D. Foster, Director of Student Affairs
School of Dentistry
Room 231
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292
502-852-5081/800-334-8635; www.dental.louisville.edu
Fax: 502-852-1210

2. Louisiana State University (ARHEG slots: 4)

Dr. Jim Weir, Assistant Dean
Office of Admissions
Louisiana State University
School of Dentistry
1100 Florida Ave., Box 228
New Orleans, LA. 70119-2799
985-718-7369 (Dr. Weir)
504-941-8124 (Office of Admissions); www.lsusd.lsuhs.edu

3. Baylor College of Dentistry (ARHEG slots: 3)

Dr. Barbara Miller, Director
Office of Recruitment and Admissions
Baylor College of Dentistry
P.O. Box 660677
Dallas, TX. 75266-0677
214-828-8231; www.tambcd.edu

4. University of Missouri-Kansas City (ARHEG slots: 2)

Dr. John W. Killip, Assistant Dean for Student Programs
Office of Student Programs
School of Dentistry
University of Missouri-Kansas City
650 East 25th Street, Rm. 420
Kansas City, MO. 64108-2784
816-235-2100 (Dental School); 816-235-1111 (Admissions)
www.umkc.edu/dentistry/
dentistry@umkc.edu

5. University of Oklahoma (ARHEG slots: 1)

Randy P. Jones, Director
Admissions and Student Affairs
Office of Admissions and Records, Room 200
P.O. Box 26901
Oklahoma City, OK. 73190
405-271-3530; <http://dentistry.ouhsc.edu/>

6. University of Tennessee-Memphis (ARHEG slots: 18)

Dr. Wisdom F. Coleman, Jr., Associate Dean for Admissions
Office of Admissions and Student Affairs
875 Union Avenue
S-102 Dunn Bldg.
University of Tennessee-Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee 38163
901-488-6201
Johnnie Hart and Rose Hardin, Administrative Aides
Office of Admissions and Affairs
875 Union Avenue
S-102 Dunn Bldg.
University of Tennessee-Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee 38163
901-448-6200/800-788-0040
Fax: 901-448-1625

7. University of Alabama-Birmingham (ARHEG slots: 1)

Dr. Steve Filler, Director of Admissions
University of Alabama School of Dentistry
1530 3rd Ave. South
SDB 125
Birmingham, Alabama 35294-0007
205-934-3387; Fax :(205) 934-0209; dmdinfo@uab.edu
<http://dental.uab.edu/>

8. Meharry Medical College (ARHEG slots: 1)

Allen D. Mosely, Director of Admissions and Recruitment
Meharry Medical College
Admissions and Records
1005 Dr. D.B. Todd, Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, Tennessee 37208
615-327-6000, Fax: 615-327-6228; <http://www.mmc.edu/>

THE DENTAL SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS:

The Arkansas Health Education Grant Program (ARHEG), which is funded by the state of Arkansas, provides assistance for Arkansas residents attending certain out-of-state accredited health-dental professional schools that are unavailable in Arkansas. The ARHEG is administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) and assistance is provided pursuant to rules established under Act 1218 of 1999. Such assistance is currently available for attendance at certain accredited schools of dentistry.

CERTIFICATION AND APPLICATION:

To receive ARHEG funding assistance to study dentistry a prospective student must be “certified” as an Arkansas resident. Certification is a procedural process that is initiated by the student by completing the application and affidavit and submitting them to the ARHEG Coordinator at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Students may obtain information from the ADHE website (www.arkansashighered.com/arheg.html).

The prospective student also must apply to and be accepted by a school that is under contract with the State. **The total number of contract slots is limited by available funds, so it is important to apply and gain acceptance by the school at the earliest possible time.**