



**DENTISTRY (DDS)**  
**Austin College Health Professions Advising Guide**

**WHAT DOES A DENTIST DO?**

Dentistry offers many career opportunities, although most graduates choose to engage in private practice as dentists. Other graduates may pursue their profession in one or more of the following areas: hospital clinics, industrial clinics, public health agencies, federal government agencies, consultantships, commercial companies, or research. A dentist may also choose to specialize in one of 10 clinical areas: general dentistry, dental public health, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, and prosthodontics.

**DENTAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Dental school programs include a four-year professional curriculum. If one chooses a career in general dentistry, in most states (including Texas) you can enter practice without a residency. If you choose to specialize, the length of each program varies with the specialty area, but is generally 1 to 3 years (oral and maxillofacial surgery – 4 to 6 years).

**TEXAS DENTAL SCHOOLS (Offering DDS degree)**

There are currently three dental schools in Texas offering the DDS degree, all of which you can apply to with a single application to the Texas Medical & Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) [www.tmdsas.com](http://www.tmdsas.com).

Texas Dental Schools	Website
The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston*	<a href="https://dentistry.uth.edu/students/doctor-of-dental-surgery/index.htm">https://dentistry.uth.edu/students/doctor-of-dental-surgery/index.htm</a>
The University of Texas School of Dentistry at San Antonio*	<a href="http://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/dental">http://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/dental</a>
Texas A&M Health Science Center, College of Dentistry	<a href="https://dentistry.tamhsc.edu">https://dentistry.tamhsc.edu</a>
Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine – TTUHSC	<a href="https://el Paso.ttuhsc.edu/sdm">https://el Paso.ttuhsc.edu/sdm</a>

\*These dental schools will only review and consider for admission applicants who are U.S. citizens or legal Permanent Residents of the U.S.

**OUT OF STATE DENTAL SCHOOLS**

If you are interested in applying to out of state dental schools in the United States, you are encouraged to visit the American Dental Education Association, where you can find links to dental schools throughout the US ([http://www.adea.org/GoDental/Application\\_Prep/The\\_Application\\_to\\_Dental\\_School\\_ADEA\\_AADSAS/Deciding\\_where\\_to\\_apply.aspx](http://www.adea.org/GoDental/Application_Prep/The_Application_to_Dental_School_ADEA_AADSAS/Deciding_where_to_apply.aspx)). Typically, you will apply to these dental schools through the ADEA AADSAS application service (<https://portal.aadsasweb.org>).

## TEXAS DENTAL SCHOOL COURSE PREREQUISITES

Below are the general prerequisite course requirements for admission to dental schools in Texas. Most dental schools in the U.S. have similar requirements but it is encouraged that you check the actual requirements on the institution's website.

General Prerequisites	Austin College Courses
General chemistry – 1 year	CHEM 111 (or CHEM 211) & CHEM 112
Organic chemistry – 1 year	CHEM 221 & CHEM 222
Biochemistry – 1 semester	CHEM 351
General Biology – 1 year	BIOL 115, BIOL 116 (Biol 230, Biol 234, & Biol 352)
Upper level Biology*	Generally, Biol 230, Biol 234, & Biol 252
General Physics – 1 year	PHY 105 & PHY 106
Statistics – 1 semester	MATH 120 or PUBH 120 or PSY 120 or PSCI 271 or SSCI 120
English – 1 year (Texas A&M requires 1 writing course)	Any 2 ENG courses (ENG 114 is a writing course)

\* UT School of Dentistry at Houston, Texas A&M School of Dentistry, and The Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine require Microbiology (Biol 230) as one of the upper level biology courses. Texas A&M School of Dentistry also requires an anatomy course and a physiology course (or two semesters of A&P); at AC you can take Biol 234 and Biol 352 (offered spring in even years) to fulfill this requirement.

Spanish is recommended for students intending to stay in Texas.

### DAT EXAM

The Dental Admission Test (DAT) is a standardized designed to test knowledge and ability in four areas: natural sciences, perceptual ability, reading comprehension, and quantitative reasoning. More information concerning this test is available on the American Dental Association website (<http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test>). The DAT is administered through Prometric Centers and appointments are available year-round. Most students take the DAT exam sometime between January and April of their junior year.

### HOW ARE YOU EVALUATED FOR ADMISSION TO DENTAL SCHOOL?

1. GPA – both cumulative (average GPA of matriculants ~3.55) and BCPM (Biology Chemistry Physics Math) (average GPA of matriculants ~3.45)
2. DAT score (average score of matriculants ~20 for both academic and perceptual)
3. Your ability to show your understanding and commitment to a dental career
4. Your ability to show a pattern of commitment to service

For more information, contact [Kelly Reed](#) or [Chris Goldsmith](#)

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