Pre-Dental Advisement Worksheet
University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry
2020-2021

University of Central Oklahoma
Health Professions Advisor
Department of Biology
200 Howell Hall
(405) 974-5733

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

**Biology with 1 Lab:** 16 credits (the following are highly recommended)
- BIO 1204  Biology for Majors: Principles (This course does not have a lab so BIO 1225 must be taken)
- BIO 1225  Biology for Majors: Diversity and Lab
- BIO 2203  Cell Biology
- BIO 3303  Genetics
Recommended: Mammalian Physiology 1 (BIO 3803), Mammalian Physiology 2 (BIO 3813), Methods of Human Dissection (BIO 4622). Check prerequisites for these courses.

**General Chemistry:** (inorganic) 8 credits
- CHEM 1103  General Chemistry I
- CHEM 1112  General Chemistry I Lab (Lab is a corequisite)
- CHEM 1223  General Chemistry II
- CHEM 1232  General Chemistry II Lab (Lab is a corequisite)

**Organic Chemistry with 1 Lab:** 8 credits
- CHEM 3303  Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 3323  Organic Chemistry II
- CHEM 3312  Organic Chemistry I Lab
- CHEM 3332  Organic Chemistry II Lab

**Biochemistry:** 3 credits
- CHEM 3403  Biochemistry

**Physics with Lab:** 8 credits
- PHY 1114  General Physics I
- PHY 1114L  General Physics I Laboratory (Lab is a corequisite)
- PHY 1214  General Physics II
- PHY 1214L  General Physics II Laboratory (Lab is a corequisite)

**English:** 6 credits
- ENG 1113  English Composition
- ENG 1213  English Composition and Research

**General Psychology:** 3 credits
- PSY 1113  General Psychology

**Business:** At least one course is recommended (BADM 1103 Introduction to Business and/or MGMT 3103 Principles of Management).

A minimum of 90 college credit hours are required. It is also highly recommended to take above the minimum credits of upper division Biology and Chemistry course work and a full course load (15-16 hrs) each semester to demonstrate the ability to handle a rigorous science course load. Other requirements include: a minimum grade point average of 2.5, a letter grade of C or better in prerequisite.

*Students planning to apply to dental schools other than those in Oklahoma need to check their specific admission requirements.*

Revised 9/30/2020
Pre-Dental Program

CREDIT HOURS AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA): Enrollment at the OU College of Dentistry requires a minimum of 90 semester credits hours from an accredited college or university and a minimum of 75 hours prior to application. The vast majority of entering dental students at the OU College of Dentistry have completed a bachelor’s degree or an equivalent number of credit hours. In addition to the minimum hours, applicants must present a minimum grade point average of 2.5 (a=4.0) with a minimum grade of “C” in each required course. The recent entering class at OU had an average cumulative GPA of 3.6 and a science GPA of 3.5. Applications with a GPA of 3.0+ may be considered as long as the DAT score is competitive.

DENTAL ADMISSION TEST (DAT): All applicants to dental school must take the Dental Admission Test. Students should complete most if not all of the required courses before taking the test. Information about the DAT is available at https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test. The mean DAT Academic Average for the 2020 entering class at OU was 19.96 with a Science DAT of 18.

ADVICEMENT AT UCO: Advisement for students planning to enter the health professions is coordinated by the Health Professions Advisor in the Biology Department. Graduation checks and curriculum planning are coordinated by your academic advisor; NUC 121. Since the Pre Health advisor will prepare a letter summarizing the Health Professions Committee’s evaluation when students apply to dental school, wise students will visit regularly enough to be known personally and benefit from their knowledge of the application process. However, it is essential that pre-dental students hold themselves responsible for knowing the requirements and deadlines.

SELECTION OF MAJOR: It should be emphasized that “pre-dental” is not a major. It simply means that the student is meeting requirements for admission to dental school. Thus, in addition to satisfying these requirements, the student should be working toward a baccalaureate degree in some academic discipline. There is no recommended major for pre-dental students. Dental schools encourage a broad general curriculum in the social sciences and humanities in addition to a high level of competence in the physical and biological sciences. Good communication skills are also important. Beyond this, the best advice for students is to select a major in a discipline that will offer satisfying challenges and provide a viable alternative to dental school if they are not admitted.

QUALITY OF CURRICULUM: Pre-dental students should choose a curriculum that demonstrates a capacity to handle the rigors of dental school. If they choose the easiest curriculum they can manage, it will be obvious to the Admissions Committee that they have been protecting their GPA. It will certainly deprive them of the level of preparation they need for professional school.

DENTAL EXPERIENCE: Pre-dental students should test the depth of their commitment to a career in dentistry by observing, volunteering, or working with dentists, visiting dental schools, and keeping abreast of new developments in the dental field. The number of shadowing hours required varied with each dental school. For OU College of Dentistry, at least 100 hours of shadowing/dental experience are required, the majority with a general dentist, but students should be familiar with various specialties as well as all aspects of the dental office.

PRE-DENTAL SOCIETY: This organization meets on Thursday evenings. It offers programs of speakers and films, volunteer experiences, visits to dental schools, and assistance in the application process. All prospective applicants are urged to attend and any student may join. Visit OrgSync or contact Dr. Bentley for more information.

PRE-HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Caroline Bentley, Chair  Biology  HOH 200
Robert Brennan  Biology  HOH 200
Glória Caddell  Biology  HOH 208
Allyson Fenwick  Biology  STEM 217
Cheryl Frech  Chemistry  HOH 314
Michelle Haynie  Biology  STEM 216
Luis Montes  Chemistry  HOH 314
Dallas New  Chemistry  HOH 320B
Dana Rundle  Chemistry  HOH 320
Nikki Seagraves  Biology  STEM 205
Melville Vaughan  Biology  STEM 215
James Creecy  Biology/FSI  FSI 110 D
Lillian Chooback  Chemistry  STEM 235
Amanda Waters  Chemistry  HOH 320A
Wayne Lord  Biology  FSI 110 E
Matthew Parks  Biology  STEM 234

*To use the committee process for an UCO Pre-Health Committee Letter of Recommendation, please contact Dr. Bentley (cbentley3@uco.edu) regarding MCAT and DAT deadlines and minimum scores.

For more information about Dentists and Dental Programs: http://www.adea.org

For information from the University of Oklahoma: Ms. Heidi Martin, 405-271-3530 or COD-Admissions@ouhsc.edu
OU College of Dentistry: https://dentistry.ouhsc.edu/Prospective-Students/Programs-Offered/General-Dentistry

To apply to the OU College of Dentistry, as well as others: https://www.adea.org/AADSAS/ The application deadline is October 1st.