

Pre-Dental Advisement Worksheet
University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry
2023

University of Central Oklahoma

Department of Biology
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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 1211 must be taken)
BIO 1224 Biology for Majors: Diversity and Lab
BIO 2203 Cell Biology
BIO 3303 Genetics

Recommended: Mammalian Physiology 1 (BIO 3803), Mammalian Physiology 2 (BIO 3813), Advanced Human Anatomy (BIO 4910). Check prerequisites for these courses.

General Chemistry: (inorganic) 8 credits

CHEM 1103 General Chemistry I *and*
CHEM 1112 General Chemistry I Lab (Lab is a corequisite)
CHEM 1223 General Chemistry II *and*
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
and
CHEM 3312 Organic Chemistry I Lab
or
CHEM 3332 Organic Chemistry II Lab

Biochemistry: 3 credits

CHEM 3403 Biochemistry

Physics with Lab: 8 credits

PHY 1114 General Physics I *and*
PHY 1114L General Physics I Laboratory (Lab is a corequisite)
PHY 1214 General Physics II *and*
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, and a minimum of 75 credit hours completed at the time of application. 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.

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 3.72 and a science GPA of 3.66. 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 most recent entering class at OU was 20.23 with no lower than a 16 in any subject.**

ADVISEMENT 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. As well as 100 hours of community service.**

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 UCORE or contact Dr. Bentley for more information.

PRE-HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Caroline Bentley, Chair	Biology	HOH 200
Robert Brennan	Biology	HOH 200
Allyson Fenwick	Biology	STEM 217
Michelle Haynie	Biology	STEM 216
Luis Montes	Chemistry	HOH 314
Dallas New	Chemistry	HOH 320B
Melville Vaughan	Biology	STEM 215
James Creecy	Biology/FSI	FSI 110 D
Christopher Goodchild	Biology	HOH 200
Amanda Waters	Chemistry	HOH 320A
Matthew Parks	Biology	STEM 234
Shawna Ellis	Chemistry	HOH 314F
Eric Eitheim	Chemistry	HOH 320D

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

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

For information from the University of Oklahoma: Heidi Martin, Student Program Coordinator, 405-271-3530 or Heidi-Martin@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: **The application to dental school: ADEA AADSAS** The application deadline is September 30, but it's advised to submit your application to AADSAS by the first week of September to allow for the AADSAS processing time.