

## DENTISTRY

This handout is intended to help answer some of your questions about preparing for a career in dentistry at Miami University. For additional information about preparing for a career in dentistry, and/or for formal advising regarding this career pathway, please contact Ms. Tailyn Walborn, Chief Pre-Health Advisor (walborta@miamioh.edu).

### **Dental School Requirements:**

There are currently 66 Dental Schools in the United States. As a rough guide, the minimum course requirements for entrance into most of these Dental Schools are:

#### **DENTAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS    MIAMI EQUIVALENTS**

English	1 year or equivalent
Biology (1 year with lab)	BIO/MBI 115, 116
General Chemistry (1 year with lab)	CHM 141, 142 and CHM 144, 145
Organic Chemistry (1 year with lab)	CHM 241, 242 and CHM 244, 245 or CHM 251, 252 and CHM 254, 255
Physics (1 year with lab)	PHY 161, 162 or PHY 191, 192

**Additional Dental School Requirements:** Although most Dental Schools have similar minimum course requirements, some Dental Schools require, or strongly recommend, additional courses to help you prepare for the rigors of their curriculum. For example, if you intend to apply to The Ohio State University College of Dentistry, you must take the following additional courses.

Biochemistry	CHM 332 or 432 (preferred)
Human or Comparative Anatomy	BIO 201
Human or Animal Physiology	BIO 305 (preferred) or BIO 161
Microbiology	MBI 121 and 123, MBI 161, or MBI 201

As a result of the specific courses that may be required, you need to look up the course requirements for the individual dental schools to which you plan to apply to ensure you are taking all of their prerequisite coursework.

### **Extracurricular Activities:**

Participation in extracurricular activities while you are a student at Miami offers you a chance to grow in a myriad of ways. In addition, balancing an active life outside of academics is expected by Dental Schools. Involvement in clubs, service organizations, and social groups offers you the opportunity to develop your communication skills, demonstrate your leadership ability, enhance your creative thinking, and can lead to higher motivation and better class performance.

While there isn't a right or wrong campus organization you can choose to participate in as a Pre-Dental Student, one campus organization you could choose to join is Miami's Pre-Dental Club. Our Pre-Dental Club offers an excellent opportunity to learn more about the profession of dentistry, dental schools, the DAT, and how to apply to dental school.

### **The Dental Admission Test (DAT):**

The DAT is a computer-based, standardized test that is required by all Dental Schools. The DAT includes sections on natural sciences (biology, inorganic and organic chemistry), reading comprehension, quantitative reasoning, and perceptual ability (spatial relations). Since the DAT is an important factor in admissions, you must review the basic concepts in the natural sciences before taking the exam. While you can take the DAT up to 3 times, your goal should be to take the DAT only once. In addition, you should never take the DAT just to see what it is like (that is what practice tests are for).

### **Applying to Dental School:**

Applying to almost all U.S. Dental Schools is done using an online application service called AADSAS (Associated American Dental Schools Application Service). It takes one year to complete the dental school application process. As a result, most students apply to dental school after their third year of undergraduate work, with the goal of matriculating into dental school after their fourth year.

Interviews held at the dental schools are very important. This is a chance for the school to personally see you and for you to "sell yourself". Generally, the schools want an idea of your motivation and enthusiasm for a career in dentistry. It is also a good idea for you to have questions for them about living conditions, costs, courses, etc.

### **Letters of Recommendations:**

All dental schools require that you get letters of evaluation/recommendation as part of your application. These letters are typically written by university faculty and dentists. To help you get strong letters of recommendation from Miami faculty, you should actively participate in your classes. In addition, you should provide each evaluator with a 1-2 page resume of your academic, service, and other activities. In order to get letters of recommendation from dentists, you must shadow dentists. Shadowing dentists should start as early in your undergraduate years as possible.

### **Additional information:**

Additional information about dental education, dental applications, and the DAT can be found on-line at:

1. Dental Education and Application Information - American Dental Education Association (ADEA): <http://www.adea.org>
2. Dental Admission Testing Program (DAT): [www.ada.org/dat.aspx](http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx)