

**I. MAJOR**

There is no preferred or required major for students who wish to attend dental school. Dental schools seek to admit students from diverse educational backgrounds. All dental schools recognized the importance of a broad education which includes a strong foundation in natural sciences (biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics) and a solid background in social sciences (political science, psychology, sociology, anthropology) and humanities (literature, history, philosophy, aesthetics).

**II. REQUIRED COURSES**

Although one particular major is not required, each dental school has a set of courses which are required as part of the undergraduate preparation for dental education. The required courses vary by school but usually include: general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology and physics. They may also include biochemistry, anatomy, and physiology.

The Indiana University School of Dentistry requirements are listed below. Their website is: [www@www.iusd.iupui.edu](http://www@www.iusd.iupui.edu).

Requirements	Purdue Equivalents
A. Biology	BIOL 110 -111 or BIOL 131-132 and 231-232
B. General Chemistry	CHM 115-116
C. Organic Chemistry	CHM 255-255L or CHM 257-257L
D. Anatomy and Physiology	BIOL 301-302 and BIOL 455 or NURS 214
E. Biochemistry	CHM 333 or BCHM 307 or BCHM 561
F. Physics	PHYS 220-221
G. Psychology	PSY 120
H. English Composition	ENGL 101 or 103
I. Interpersonal Communication	COM 212

Suggested electives include: Art (i.e., 3-D Drawing or Jewelry Making), Introduction to Business, Genetics, Histology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology

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### **III. SELECTION VARIABLES**

Gaining admission to dental school involves a competitive screening process. Each year the number of individuals seeking admission exceeds the number of positions available in dental schools. Approximately fifty percent of those who apply will actually enroll in dental school. An applicant who wishes to assess his or her acceptability at a particular dental school should contact the school in question. Some of the selection variables applied by dental school admissions committees are listed below.

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### **SELECTION VARIABLES**

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- Undergraduate Grade Point Average
- Test scores on the Dental Admission Test
- Quality of degree granting institution
- Involvement in extra-curricular activities
- Familiarity with the dental profession
- Work experience in a dental office
- Breadth, difficulty, and amount of undergraduate coursework
- Comments from personal interview
- Letters of recommendation

### **IV. TIMING THE DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATION**

Many dental schools accept students after three years of undergraduate coursework. A few dental schools accept students with only two years of undergraduate coursework.

Approximately 74% of first year dental students complete a bachelors degree prior to beginning their dental education. Applicants who do not have very strong credentials should plan to complete their undergraduate degree prior to matriculation in dental school. The Council on Dental Education recommends a baccalaureate degree prior to dental school matriculation.

### **V. DENTAL ADMISSION TEST (DAT)**

The DAT is an instrument employed by dental schools to aid in the evaluation and comparison of dental school candidates from differing undergraduate institutions. The test attempts to measure general academic achievement, comprehension of scientific information, and perceptual ability.

Prior to taking the exam, students should complete one year of biology and general and organic chemistry. Most applicants will have completed two years of college coursework prior to taking the exam. Since scores are used to show an individual's relationship to all candidates participating in the exam, students who have completed only one year of college courses may be at a disadvantage. Most experts agree that the optimal time to take the exam is the spring test date, one year prior to entering dental school.

### **VI. AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL SCHOOLS APPLICATION SERVICE**

AADSAS, the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service, is a clearinghouse for dental school applications. Students who wish to apply to AADSAS participating schools (52 of the 54 U.S. dental schools participate) need to request application materials by mailing in a card that is available in the Biology Counseling Office, Room 1-123, Lilly Hall.

Once the application is completed and returned, AADSAS duplicates the information and forwards it to the dental schools selected by the student. Individual schools may then request more information and/or additional application fees.

This information is summarized from Admission Requirements of U.S. and Canadian Dental Schools, American Association of Dental Schools, and from the "Dental Admission Testing Program" pamphlet, ADA.