Applying to Dental School

This handout is designed to be informative about the dental school application but is not comprehensive. Please use the AADSAS/TMDSAS instructions while filling out your applications. Bookmark the instructions and use them for reference as you are filling out your applications. To quickly find a topic while filling out an application use the help feature on the site. Follow directions completely and precisely! Mistakes may delay your application from being processed.

HOW DO I APPLY?
There are two different application services, and although similar, both services have a different process and set of instructions. Here is information for these application services:

AADSAS
The Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) processes all dental school applications, except for Texas dental school applications. This application will be sent to all the schools that you are applying to. Applications and instructions are available on the AADSAS website. The application becomes available approximately in May for the next application year.

TMDSAS
The Texas Medical and Dental School Application Service (TMDSAS) processes medical and dental school applications for Texas schools. Applications and instructions are available on the TMDSAS website. The application becomes available in May for the next application year.

FAQS

HOW MANY SCHOOLS SHOULD I APPLY TO AND HOW DO I PICK SCHOOLS?
BYU applicants apply to an average of 10–14 schools. We suggest applying to a couple of dream schools, a few schools where you sit on the average, and then a couple of back-up schools where you are likely to be accepted. If you don’t know which schools to apply to, check the ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools, which lists dental schools and their specific requirements.

WHAT GOES INTO THE BCP SCIENCE GPA?
Courses in Biology (BIO, PDBIO, MMBIO, PWS, NEURO, etc.), Chemistry, and Physics (including astronomy). Research courses in these subjects (such as BIO 494R) may also be counted in your BCP.
Note: Your exercise science (EXSC), health sciences (HLTH), nutritional science (NDFS) courses do not qualify; however, only some of the Plant and Wildlife Science (PWS) courses qualify. Consult the application’s instructions on coursework for further clarification.

HOW DO I ENTER IN MY COURSEWORK?
Use a copy of your transcripts to fill out the coursework. Identify the courses, terms, grades, etc. exactly as they appear on your transcript. Do not worry if the semesters don’t appear in chronological order, since the application will order them according to the application service’s preferences.
Note: Spring and Summer terms should be labeled as semesters, not as quarters.

WHERE DO I LIST AP CREDITS?
Designate AP courses as AP under the first semester of your freshman year.

WHERE DO I LIST LANGUAGE TEST CREDITS?
Designate language exams as departmental exams under the first semester of your freshman year, or your first semester at BYU if you are a transfer student.
FROM WHOM CAN I GET SCIENCE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM?
Professors teaching any biology, chemistry, or physics course count as science professors. Exercise science, public health, and nutritional science professors do not count.

WHAT SHOULD I LIST FOR MY WORK AND ACTIVITIES SECTION?
Include significant experiences, awards, honors, research, service, hobbies, leadership, and extracurricular activities. To your best discretion choose the category in which to place each experience. There is limited space to describe the experience, so be concise.

WILL THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL ADVISEMENT CENTER SEND MY TRANSCRIPTS TO AADSAS/TMDSAS?
No. Transcripts must be electronically requested from BYU’s enrollment services. Send in your transcripts even before you submit your electronic application. If you want your spring term grades to be considered as part of your application, then you will need to wait until after spring grades are posted to submit your application and request your official transcripts. Once your transcripts are received and your online application is submitted they will process your application. Processing your application may take up to four weeks. You will need to submit an official transcript for all universities or colleges where you have received college credit.

HOW DO I REPORT MY DAT SCORES?
Official scores will be transmitted to the dental schools you have selected on the DAT application. Both AADSAS and TMDSAS dental schools are included. The scores will be available directly to the schools through the application services. To send scores to additional schools than initially selected on the DAT application, you will need to submit a Request Score Report and pay more money. For more information on additional reports see www.ada.org.

CAN I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION BEFORE I RECEIVE ALL MY LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION?
Yes! And we suggest that you do so the 30 day verification process of your application can begin. You do not need your letters of recommendation to have your application processed. Note the application is not considered complete until these letters are received, and waiting later than 30 days after you submit your application to turn in letters will likely slow down your application.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?
After you have submitted your application, some schools will send you secondary applications asking for pictures, essays, fees, etc. AADSAS lists each of the school’s requirements for secondaries when you are filling out the application. Some dental schools do not send a request for a secondary application, but will expect you to go to their website and download the secondary application form.