

Applying to Dental School

Applying to dental school is often a stressful and difficult process. In this handout we have answered some commonly asked questions about applying to dental schools and provided information on where to find instructions for both the Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) and the Texas Medical and Dental School Application Service (TMDSAS). We hope that we can be of service to you in this very important step in your life.

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 one application will be sent to all the schools that you are applying to.

- ➔ Applications are available at: portal.aadsasweb.org/
- ➔ Instructions are found at: www.adea.org/dental_education_pathways/aadsas/Applicants/GenerallInstructions/Pages/default.aspx

You can contact AADSAS directly at aadsasinfo@aadsasweb.org or 617-612-2045. The application for entry year 2013 will be available to complete and submit around June 1st.

TMDSAS

The Texas Medical and Dental School Application Service (TMDSAS) processes medical and dental school applications for Texas schools.

- ➔ Applications are available at: www.tmdsas.com/
- ➔ Instructions are found at: www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/medical/application-instructions.html

You can also contact TMDSAS directly at tmdsas@utsystem.edu or 512-499-4785. The application for entry year 2013 will be available to complete and submit around May 2, 2011.

How do I find answers to my questions?

We ask that you **please read the entire set of instructions before filling out the application**. Bookmark the instructions on your computer 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.

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. The guide is available in our office and is on reserve in the library under StDev 229 or 439.

What goes into the BCP science GPA?

Courses in of biology (Bio, PDBio, MMBio, PWS, Neuro, etc.), chemistry, and physics (including astronomy). Research courses in these subjects (such as PDBio 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. However, professors of EXSC 362, 400, 463, or 464 can write a science letter of recommendation, but grades from these courses will **not** go towards the BCP science GPA.

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 (1-2 sentences), so be concise.

Will the Preprofessional Advisement Center send my transcripts to AADSAS/TMDSAS?

No. Transcripts must be requested from the BYU Records Office in B-150 ASB. Requests can also be mailed, or faxed using the form available on their website. You will need to print out a *transcript matching form* from the AADSAS/TMDSAS website to give to the BYU Records Office at the time of your request for transcripts. The Records Office will attach this form to your official transcripts and send it to AADSAS/TMDSAS. Send in your transcripts when you submit your electronic application, you may even send them two or three days before. However, do not send prior to the opening date of the application service. 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 start to process your application. This will take approximately 4 weeks, so be patient. You will need to submit and official transcript for all other universities or colleges you have attended.

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 \$25. For more information on additional reports see www.ada.org/dat.aspx Step 5.

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. 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.