

Preparing for Dental School: Coursework

Mapping Your Coursework and Preparation

We recommend that you first go to your college's advisement center for an outline of classes required for your major. The Preprofessional Advisement Center will then be able to assist you in planning out specific prerequisite courses and other pre dental preparation.

Below is a list of BYU coursework that, generally, fulfills most dental school prerequisites. This is not a comprehensive list, we strongly encourage you to utilize our office services to help you, as well as consulting with the American Dental Education Association's "ADEA" Official Guide to Dental Schools (available in our office, on course reserve at BYU's Library, or for purchase online) and with individual schools' websites for specific requirements. (Most dental schools will not accept high school AP credits to meet science prerequisites.)

Courses Required for Dental Schools & Recommended for DAT Preparation

General Chemistry

CHEM 105	General College Chemistry	4 credits
CHEM 106	General College Chemistry	3 credits
CHEM 107	General College Chemistry Lab	1 credit
(CHEM 111, 112, & 113, if required by your major)		

Organic Chemistry

CHEM 351	Organic Chemistry	3 credits
CHEM 352	Organic Chemistry	3 credits
CHEM 353	Organic Chemistry Lab	2 credits
(CHEM 354, if required by your major)		

Biology

PDBIO 120	Science of Biology	3 credits
(BIO 130, if required by your major)		
MMBIO 221	Microbiology	3 credits
MMBIO 222	Microbiology Lab	1 credit
PDBIO 305	Physiology	4 credits
(PDBIO 362, 363, if required by your major or need a physiology lab credit)		
PWS 340	Genetics	3 credits

Courses Required Before Dental School Matriculation

Physics

PHSCS 105	Introduction to Physics	3 credits
PHSCS 107	Introduction to Physics Lab	1 credit
(PHSCS 121, if required by your major)		
PHSCS 106	Introduction to Physics	3 credits
PHSCS 108	Introduction to Physics Lab	1 credit
(PHSCS 123, if required by your major)		

Biochemistry (required or highly recommended by most schools)

CHEM 481

Biochemistry

3 credits

English (at least two classes, usually fulfilled by your major and GE requirements, consult the schools you're applying to and/or the ADEA official guide)

Math (requirements vary, consult the schools you are planning on applying to and/or the ADEA guide)

Humanities/Social Sciences (requirements vary, consult the schools you are planning on applying to and/or the ADEA official guide)

Helpful Predental Classes

STDEV 170: Intro to Health Professions

1 credit

Seminar style overview of health careers with a variety of guest lecturers (medical doctor, dentist, physician assistant, pharmacist, dentist, physical therapist, etc.).

ST DEV 214R: Interprofessional Education

1 credit

Discussion of values for interprofessional collaboration and complexities surrounding patient safety and advocacy

ST DEV 271: Preview of Dentistry

1 credit

Seminar style overview of the dental profession with lectures from prehealth advisors, local dental professionals, and dental school admissions officers.

ST DEV 375: Dental School Prep Lab Experience

1 credit

Lecture and laboratory class covering basics of dental anatomy, terminology, tooth carving, and dental practice taught by a local dental professional.

STDEV 399R Health Professions Internship

1-3 credits

Students are invited to set up shadowing experiences with different dentists and receive course credit for the experience.

ST DEV 470: Medical and Dental School Application

2 credits

For premedical and predental students, provides an overview of the application process.

Other Prehealth Classes

BIO 370: Bioethics

2 credits

Discussion of major ethical theories and their application to current issues in medicine and biology.

SOC 329: Medical Sociology

3 credits

Discussion of social epidemiology, the role of the sick, sociocultural definitions and responses to illness, and the organization of the medical-health delivery systems.