

Pre-Dental Program at Messiah College

Messiah College has a proud tradition of preparing students for careers in Dentistry. While the academic and experiential requirements *may* vary by institution, most of them have similar requirements. Prospective applicants are encouraged to research the schools to which they may apply to best plan their curriculum. The purpose of this document is to present a brief outline of what is generally expected of successful applicants to Dental School, and how Messiah College prepares its students to meet and often exceed these requirements. You will note that at Messiah we have a Pre-Dental **Program**. Our program is best thought of as an overlay of courses that can be scheduled as part of most majors, with the exception of engineering and nursing.

Preparing for a Career in Dentistry

Description of the Profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Labor <i>Occupational Outlook Handbook</i> www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm • www.explorehealthcareers.org
Course Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year general biology • 1 year general chemistry • 1 year organic chemistry • 1 year general physics • Some schools may also require additional biology, English, math and/or social sciences (check the <i>Official Guide to Dental Schools</i>; www.adea.org)
Application Timeline	Dental school directly after Messiah College: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required courses completed by end of junior year • Apply during summer between junior and senior years
Standardized Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental Admission Test (DAT) • Given virtually daily at computer test centers • Take after general biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry are completed (usually end of junior year) • Register on-line (www.ada.org) • Length 4.25 h • 4 sections : survey of natural sciences (general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry), perceptual ability, reading comprehension, quantitative reasoning • Receive scores immediately • DAT Program Examinee Guide (www.ada.org)
Application Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) (www.adea.org) • Available ≈ May 15 • APPLY EARLY!!!

Admissions Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall and science GPA (check <i>Official Guide</i> for #'s) • DAT (check <i>Official Guide</i> for #'s) • Letters of evaluation (committee letter) • The type of letter written on behalf of the applicant may vary. For myriad reasons that will be discussed at the time of application, applicants may have a Committee Letter of Recommendation or a Committee Packet of Information sent on their behalf. • Interview • Extracurricular activities • Health-related experience
Length of Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental school: 4 years • Specialties require additional education after dental school
Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) • Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) • (The two degrees are entirely equivalent.)
Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Student Dental Association (ASDA) (www.asdanet.org) • <i>Getting into Dental School: ASDA's Guide for Predental Students</i> (www.asdanet.org/publication) • American Dental Association (www.ada.org) • American Dental Education Association (www.adea.org)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Health Professions Committee interviews students during the spring semester to facilitate writing committee letter of evaluation