The Application Process to Dental School



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| **1. Entrance Requirements** Biographic Information\* Parent and Family Information\* Secondary (High School) Information\* Colleges Attended \* Coursework\*    - Completed and In Progress Courses DAT scores    - You DO NOT need to have your DAT scores by the time you submit your application. HOWEVER, to have your application processed quicker, submit your DAT scores AS SOON AS POSSIBLE Background Information - Some personal questions\* Awards, Honors, Scholarships Dentistry Experience Extracurricular/Volunteer/Community Service Work Experience (including Military Service) Research Experience    **2. The Interview** After successfully submitting your application, a dental school will ask you to come in for an interview (if they were impressed by your application). The interview will help the admissions board learn more about you and,  more importantly, about your communication skills.  They want to know if you have the ability to interact  with patients and develop the dentist-patient r  elationship.  Below are a few very viable interview questions,  but please note that they can ask questions that follows on a previous answer.  **Example Qs** *1. What influenced your decision to pursue Dentistry?* *2. Are there any difficulties that you foresee in this profession?* *3. What kind of extracurricular activities were you involved in?* *4. Tell me about yourself?* *5. How did you first become interested in dentistry?* *6. What are some of your greatest achievements?* *7. Where do you see yourself in 5 years/10 years from now?* *8. What are your three greatest strengths and three greatest weaknesses? 9. Why do you what to go to this dental school?  10. Do you feel prepared for dental school?  11. What differentiates you from the rest of the applicants?  12. What type of dental program are you interested in?*    **3. Letters of Recommendation** There is a required minimum of 3 letters of  recommendation, 2 from science professors and 1  from a dentist. Although optional, it is recommended  that you get another letter from your pre-health advisor . It is up to you to develop relationships with professors and professionals. Attend all of their office hours every week and ask questions (even if it means asking questions you  already know the answer to).  **Things to bring:** *-Personal Statement (Essay)\*    - Essay is limited to 4,500 characters (including spaces)* *-Transcript* *-Resume* **Evaluators**    - Applicants may submit a MAXIMUM of FOUR Individual  Letters of Evaluation    - Letters of Evaluations maybe submitted either electronically or  by paper  Release Statements\* Dental Designations\*    - Approximately 55 Dental Schools in the Nation that use  AADSAS, make sure to check if the dental school you are applying  to requires AADSAS or DOESN’T require you to submit your  application via AADSAS.  *\*  Required sections* |
| **4. Personal Statement** This gives the admissions board a chance to learn about your  personality, strengths, experiences, and how those experiences  changed/influenced you. This is the only part of the application  where you can set yourself apart from other students because the  most competitive applicants will have identical GPA, and DAT  scores. Start by making an outline and keep the following questions  in mind: -Who are you?  -What is your experience?  -Why dentistry?  -What have you accomplished?  -Do you have family in dentistry? -What are your hobbies?  -What research have you been involved in? -Is there anything that you would like the admissions committee to  know about you that was not mentioned anywhere else in your  application?  Constructively relate all of these back to dentistry in an organized  format. Try and focus on a topic that will set you aside from the  crowd. It doesn’t have to be anything amazing just be sure it flows  and holds interest. If you need help, don't hesitate to contact your  officers!    **5. The Dental Admissions Test (DAT)** Since every college has different professors and material, the DAT  is a good way to for dental schools to compare students. The DAT  will be presented on a computer with the following subjects (in the  order of the actual test):  \* To learn more about the DAT [**click here**](http://www.ada.org/~/media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/dat_examinee_guide.ashx)  *Natural Sciences****:***90 minutes – 100 questions   1. Biology - ~40 questions – Cell and molecular biology,   physiology of plants and animals, and Ecology and Evolution.   1. General Chemistry – ~30 questions – Acids and bases,   atomic structure, periodic properties, gases, liquids and  solids, nuclear reactions.   1. Organic Chemistry – ~30 questions – Mechanisms,   organic analysis, properties of molecules, stereochemistry,  bonding, reactions, and nomenclature.  ***Perceptual Ability:***60 minutes – 90 questions   1. Keyholes – Given a 3D object and five openings,   determine which of the five openings the object can pass  (cannot be rotated)   1. Top-Front-End – You are presented two projections of   an object. Determine the third.   1. Angle Ranking - Given four angles, rank them in   increasing order   1. Hole Punching - A hole in punched through a   piece of paper folded 1, 2 or 3 times. Mentally  unfold the paper and determine where each hole  is located.   1. Cube Counting - A stack of several cubes is   presented to you. Each cube has been cemented  together. Imagine the stack of cubes being painted  on all sides. You are asked to determine how  many cubes have a particular number of sides  painted   1. Pattern Folding – Guessing how patterns f   old “into the board” and “away from the board.”  ***Reading Comprehension:*** 60 minutes – 50 questions   1. 3 passages with 16-17 questions   ***Quantitative Reasoning:*** 45 minutes – 40 questions (SAT-like)   1. Algebra 2. Geometry 3. Pre-Calculus 4. Quantitative Comparison 5. Graph Interpretation   Each section is scored on a scale of 1-30, 19-20 being  a very competitive score. Each school has their own  methods of determining the weight of each section.  Keep in mind that all competitive applicants will have  high scores in the natural sciences, math, and  perceptual ability sections so having a high reading  comprehension will definitely be a great advantage.    **6. Using AADSAS For Your Application** The Associated American Dental Schools Application  Service (AADSAS), a branch of the American Dental  Education Association (ADEA), simplifies the  application process by providing one standardized  form. It will have all of your personal and academic  information (Every class/grade and during which  quarter), your personal statement, and all of your  extracurricular activities. | |
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