



DENTAL SCHOOL ADMISSION INFORMATION

Dentists diagnose and treat tooth and gum problems to prevent tooth decay and gum deterioration. Of the Dentists who deal with a wide variety of dental problems, such as disease prevention, tooth fillings, extraction and oral surgery, ninety percent are general practitioners. Admission to dental school is highly competitive. Generally speaking, a degree in dentistry requires four academic years of study. The first two years usually cover the basic sciences and the last two years, diagnosing oral disease, surgery, and clinical study. At the completion of the curriculum, students are awarded either a DMD (Doctor of Dental Medicine) or DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) degree.

LOWER DIVISION SUBJECTS REQUIRED BY MOST U.S. DENTAL SCHOOLS	
One year of English	English 110 & 111
One year of Biology	Biology 101, 102 & 103
One year of Inorganic (General) Chemistry	Chemistry 155 & 156
One year of Organic Chemistry	Chemistry 211 with 221 (lab) & Chemistry 212 with 222 (lab)
One semester of Biochemistry	SBCC does not offer this course
One year of Physics	Physics 110 & 111 Your undergraduate major may also determine your choice of Physics requirements.
Math	Please check with the dental school for more information. Your undergraduate major may also determine your choice of Math requirements.

LOWER DIVISION SUBJECTS RECOMMENDED BY MANY U.S. DENTAL SCHOOLS	
Humanities and Social Sciences	Dental schools like to see that you have taken a wide range of coursework and have a diverse educational background. It is recommended that you take several humanities and social science courses. See IGETC Area 3B & Area 4 for a list of courses offered at Santa Barbara City College.

* All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Pass/No Pass.

Choosing an Undergraduate Major

“Pre-dental” is **not** a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. Most dental schools do not require a specific degree in order to apply. Instead, they are looking for a well-rounded applicant who does well in the dental school admissions requirements. Students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary. The majority of entering dental students have a bachelor’s degree. However, students who have completed their junior year could be accepted.

Students applying to dental school need to plan carefully and complete not only the dental school admissions requirements, but also the requirements for their undergraduate major and the general education required by the undergraduate transfer institution.



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Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for its specific requirements and the most up-to-date information.

Dental School Selection Criteria

- Completion of the **prerequisite coursework** listed in front.
- **Bachelor's Degree** or 3 or more years of undergraduate coursework.
- **GPA** is a major factor in the selection process. Both overall college grades and science grades are considered.
- For most dental schools, the average "competitive" applicant has a cumulative grade point average of above a 3.40.
- Score on the Dental Admissions Test (**DAT**). This computerized test measures general academic ability, comprehension of scientific information and perceptual ability.
- **Community service/leadership**
- **Letters of recommendation** from science faculty, non-science faculty, and a supervisor from relevant clinical experience, research, or relevant work.
- **Interviews** with faculty at the institutions to where you apply.

Salary Information

In 2018, the California average annual wage was \$ 137,586 annually, or \$ 66.15 hourly. (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov).

Recommended Websites

American Dental Education Association	www.adea.org
American Dental Association	www.ada.org
American Student Dental Association	www.asdanet.org
Dental Admission Test	www.dat-prep.com/dat-scores-for-dental-schools
Dental Board of California	www.dbc.ca.gov
Union of American Physicians and Dentists	www.upad.com
2019 ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools	www.adea.org/publications/Pages/OfficialGuide.aspx

Select Dental School Websites

Loma Linda University	www.llu.edu/llu/dentistry
UCLA School of Dentistry	www.dentistry.ucla.edu
UC San Francisco	www.dentistry.ucsf.edu
University of Pacific	www.dental.pacific.edu
USC School of Dentistry	www.dentistry.usc.edu

Preparation Programs

Summer Medical and Dental Education Prep	www.smdep.org/start.htm
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