

# Pre-Dent Quick Facts



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**  
Pre-Health Advising Office

Students prepare for a career in dentistry by building credentials in scholarship, leadership, humanitarian/community service, and shadowing (largely with a general dentist) in the various settings of the profession. There is **no "best" major** for pre-dental students nor are there majors that will make a student "stand out." Students are encouraged to pursue majors in which they are most interested. You **MUST** become a **general dentist** before you can become a **specialist**. Dentistry is ranked #1 in The 100 Best Jobs for 2017 by U.S. News and World Report.

## Average Matriculant Numbers

- Overall GPA: 3.60
  - Science GPA: 3.51
  - DAT: 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile
- AA: 20  
PAT: 20

## Dental Admission Test (DAT)

### Required Pre-DAT

**Biology:** BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L

**General Chemistry:** CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L

**Organic Chemistry:** CHEM 2211/L & CHEM 2212/L

### Recommended Pre-DAT

**Physiology:** VPHY 3100, PMCY 3000, CBIO 3710

**Genetics:** GENE 3200

**Biochemistry:** BCMB 3100

**Art Courses:** Helpful for Perceptual Ability

### Not Necessary Pre-DAT

**Microbiology:** MIBO 3500 or 3000/L or 2500/L

**Physics:** PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212

**Psychology:** PSYC 1101

**Calculus:** MATH 2250

The DAT is required for admission into dental school and is offered multiple times per year at a cost of \$445. Before you can register for the DAT you must secure a **DENTPIN**. It is computer based and over 4 hours in length. The test is multiple choice and includes the following 6 areas: **Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Reading Comprehension, Perceptual Ability and Quantitative Reasoning.**

Students should plan on taking the exam only once. Retakes are possible if a desired score is not achieved on the first attempt, but they are limited. Further, you must wait 90 days between test attempts. It may take 3-4 weeks from the date that you take the DAT for scores to be reported to and verified by the American Dental Association, and for scores to be transmitted to AADSAS.

If students have time in their schedules, they should consider taking some of the recommended pre-DAT courses. However, students should not significantly alter their graduation plans to complete these courses prior to taking the DAT.

Commercial prep courses are not required to perform well on the DAT, but they can provide structure for studying.

### Join the Pre-Dental Society of AED

[www.facebook.com/groups/ugapredentalsociety/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ugapredentalsociety/)

Contact by email: [ugadental@gmail.com](mailto:ugadental@gmail.com)

## Required Courses

**DISCLAIMER:** This is not a definitive list of the classes you will need for every school. Always check with the individual schools to see their specific requirements. For example, **Dental College of Georgia** says Organic Chemistry I and Biochemistry are sufficient without Organic Chemistry II. Most other schools require 2 semesters of organic chemistry and may also require or recommend biochemistry.

### Typical Dental Pre-Requisites

**General Biology** (2 semesters w/labs) BIOL 1107/L & BIOL 1108/L

**General Chemistry** (2 semesters w/labs) CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L

**Organic Chemistry** (2 semesters w/labs) CHEM 2211/L & 2212/L

\*\*Organic Chemistry II is required for most dental schools.

**General Physics** (2 semesters w/lab) PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212

**Calculus** (1 semester) MATH 2250

**Biochemistry** (1 semester) BCMB 3100

**Microbiology:** MIBO 3500 or 3000/L or 2500/L

**Psychology** (1 semester) PSYC 1101

**Recommended Art courses,** GENE 3200, CBIO 3400, (VPHY 3100, PMCY 3000, CBIO 3710), CBIO 3010/L

[prehealth.uga.edu](http://prehealth.uga.edu)

## GPA Expectations

**ADEA AADSAS calculates GPA and reports it in a number of ways:**

- **BCP GPA:** All undergraduate, graduate and cumulative courses identified on transcripts as biology, chemistry or physics.
- **Science GPA:** All undergraduate, graduate and cumulative courses identified on the transcript as biology, chemistry, physics or other science.
- **Non-science GPA:** All undergraduate, graduate and cumulative courses not used in calculating the science GPA.
- **Undergraduate GPA:** All courses for which undergraduate credit is received.
- **Graduate GPA:** All courses for which graduate credit is received.
- **Overall GPA:** Includes undergraduate and graduate courses. For most dental school applicants who have not completed graduate courses, the overall GPA is the same as the undergraduate GPA.
- **College/University GPAs:** GPAs are reported for each college/university attended.

**The numbers matter and so do grade trends.** Students who wish to enter a dental program will require strong science and overall GPAs. Admissions committees also look for trends on a student's transcript—so all is not lost if a student stumbles in their first semester or two, but then shows substantial improvement each subsequent year. However, they will also notice negative trends such as if a student is consistently withdrawing from or performing poorly in hard sciences or is completing them away from their home institution. While an instance or two is not a deal-breaker, a pattern of behavior will be. Students must demonstrate the ability to handle difficult scientific content.

## Letters of Evaluation

**Selecting your evaluators:** Individual dental schools may expect letters from faculty in specific disciplines. If the schools that interest you don't give you any guidance about the letters they expect, the "model" typically followed by our successful applicants is two science letters, one non-science and one letter from a dentist. Research mentors do not always count for the science letter, as some schools draw a distinction between mentorship and classroom instruction. At UGA, it can be difficult to build a close relationship with faculty since the introductory science courses are usually large lecture classes. Students must be mindful of this and do their best to foster a good enough relationship to be able to request a letter.

## Application Information

**Timing in the application process.** Applying early minimizes the chances of available interview slots being depleted. Completion and submission of all materials in June or early July enhances the chance of admission for each student. By agreement between dental schools, no school may issue an acceptance before December 1st of each year.

## Dental School Application Timeline

Junior Year	
Fall	Shadow/Volunteer
Spring	Register for DENTPIN Register and study for DAT (will need DENTPIN to register) Write Personal Statement Ask for Letters of Evaluation
Summer	
April/May/June	Take DAT
June	Complete and submit AADSAS Application (submit as early as possible)
July	Prepare for Secondary Applications (look online for previous year's questions)
August	Complete Secondary Applications (within 2 weeks of receiving each application)
Senior Year	
Fall	Interview Shadow/Volunteer
Spring	Graduate