Pre-Dentistry

Students interested in dentistry are encouraged to earn a bachelor’s degree and complete prerequisites and recommended courses in biology, chemistry, and physics that are required for dental school admission. Candidates are strongly recommended to talk with dental school admissions officers about financial aid resources and dental school requirements.

Requirements

Required prerequisites include:
- General Chemistry I and II with labs
- Organic Chemistry I and II with labs
- Physics - 1 semester
- Minimum of 4 biology courses with labs, more are recommended

Recommended biology courses:
- Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Histology
- Physiology

Preparation

UofL offers all the prerequisites for dental school and, while there is no pre-dentistry major, a major in biology will include them. Students enter dental school with a wide variety of majors, including biology, chemistry, engineering, and business.

Pre-dental students are strongly encouraged to join the UofL Pre-Dental Society (PDS), which is directly connected with the UofL School of Dentistry and offers great opportunities for its members to remain active, involved and engaged.

Dental school candidates should have a high understanding of science and mathematics for the Dental Admission Test (DAT). The prerequisite and recommended classes taken will help students prepare for the exam and for courses in dental school. The criteria used to evaluate applicants include: overall GPA, science GPA, DAT scores, letters of recommendation, onsite interview, and knowledge of general dentistry. Applicants applying to dental school should have a minimum of 40 hours of shadowing general dentists working in various clinical settings.

Careers

Over 80% of dentists are general practitioners while about 20% are dental specialists who limit their practices to one of the nine recognized specialty areas. Teaching, dental research, and dental industry comprise additional rewarding career options.

For More Information
Call: 502.852.5081
Visit: louisville.edu/dentistry

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