Western Carolina University | Pre-professional Pathways

Pre-Dental

In order to become an dentist, you must:

- complete a bachelor's degree (in any major) *WCU Undergraduate Major Options*
- take the appropriate prerequisite coursework *(see list of programs for details)*
- take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) *2021 DAT Guide*
- obtain shadowing or clinical experience *(optional but suggested)*
- apply through ADEA.org, some colleges may require additional applications *ADEA AADSAS*
- complete a doctorate in dentistry *List of programs*
- obtain a license from state of practice (may require board examination)

What should I major in?

While there is no prescribed major for admission into dental school, it is imperative that students complete all required courses for admission. Dentistry programs vary significantly in their requirements, and it is important for you to learn what coursework the schools that interest you require. Students should choose their major according to their strengths, interests and alternative career choices. The Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (ADEA AADSAS) is used by the majority of dentistry schools but individual schools may also require a separate application to their institution as well.

Minimally, a student should complete these courses at WCU for entrance into many dentistry programs:

BIOL 150, BIOL 151, BIOL/CHEM 361 (required for UNC-CH dental school)

General Bio. I, General Bio. II, Principles of Biochemistry

CHEM 139, CHEM 140, CHEM 241, CHEM 242

General Chemistry I, General Chemistry II, Organic Chemistry I, Organic Chemistry II

MATH 130 plus an additional math course (required for ECU dental school)

College Algebra

PHYS 130, PHYS 131

Introductory Physics I, Introductory Physics II

Advanced coursework in Biology and Chemistry including Biochemistry is highly recommended. A course or understanding in three dimensional structures is also recommended for greater success on the DAT.

WHO CAN HELP ME AT WCU?

For information on undergraduate program options and admission requirements for detistry schools, contact pre-professional advisors:

Pre-Professional Students:
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