

PRE-DENTISTRY

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects faster than average growth in dentistry, particularly as more links are identified between oral health and overall health. Students can expect to spend four years in dental school after the completion of four years of college.

If you are considering dental school, UWM will provide you with a solid foundation to help you reach your goal. There are 72 dental schools in the United States, only one of which is in Wisconsin at Marquette University. The application process is competitive so it is important that pre-dental students begin careful planning of their academic career during the freshman year. Requirements vary among dental schools, making early planning in consultation with a pre-dental advisor vital.

Dental schools require a minimum of 90 completed college credits. It is possible, though highly rare, to enter dental school without earning a bachelor's degree. The vast majority of students complete their bachelor's degree before proceeding to dental school.

It is recommended that students obtain some hand-on exposure to the dental profession prior to dental school, either through volunteer or internship opportunities, or paid work at a dental practice or community dental clinic.

Pre-Dental is not a major, and students must still choose a major. Since most of the pre-requisites necessary for application to dental school are in the sciences, many students choose a science major, though it is not required. Our specialized pre-dental advisor works with students to ensure they understand all of the milestones that must be met in college in order to be a competitive applicant to dental school. A significant number of volunteer or work hours is often a requirement for application to dental school so it is important to work with this advisor beginning in freshman year in order to plan all needed activities into your college career.

A suggested timeline is also available from the advisor to help you plan preparatory activities throughout your four years in college.

Requirements

Most schools of dentistry require a minimum of three years of undergraduate work, however, it is becoming less common for students to leave college without finishing their bachelor's degree.

The 90 credits required for admission to most schools of dentistry include the following courses:

- 1 year of English;
- 2-2.5 years of chemistry, including inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, and biochemistry;
- 1 year of biology (more is advised); and
- 1 year of physics.

Most dental schools require mathematics at least through pre-calculus. All science courses must include laboratory work. In addition, students are advised to take elective credits to ensure a broad liberal arts education.

Students must achieve satisfactory scores on the Dental Admission Test (DAT) to be a competitive applicant for dental school. The Pre-Dental Advisor can provide information regarding the administration of this test.

Science Courses That Satisfy Dental School Admission Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Biological Sciences		
BIO SCI 150	Foundations of Biological Sciences I	4
BIO SCI 152	Foundations of Biological Sciences II	4
Select one of the following:		3-4
BIO SCI 315	Cell Biology	
BIO SCI 325	Genetics	
BIO SCI 383	General Microbiology	
Chemistry		
CHEM 102	General Chemistry	5
CHEM 104	General Chemistry and Qualitative Analysis	5
CHEM 343	Organic Chemistry	3
CHEM 344	Organic Chemistry Laboratory	2
CHEM 345	Organic Chemistry	3
CHEM 501	Introduction to Biochemistry	3
Physics		
Select one of the following options:		10
Option 1:		
PHYSICS 120 & PHYSICS 121	General Physics I (Non-Calculus Treatment) and General Physics Laboratory I (Non-Calculus Treatment)	
PHYSICS 122 & PHYSICS 123	General Physics II (Non-Calculus Treatment) and General Physics Laboratory II (Non-Calculus Treatment)	
Option 2:		
PHYSICS 209 & PHYSICS 214	Physics I (Calculus Treatment) and Lab Physics I (Calculus Treatment)	
PHYSICS 210 & PHYSICS 215	Physics II (Calculus Treatment) and Lab Physics II (Calculus Treatment)	
Option 3:		
PHYSICS 219	Physics I: Calculus-Based, Studio Format	
PHYSICS 220	Physics II: Calculus-Based, Studio Format	
Total Credits		42-43