Dental School Admission

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The following courses meet requirements for most dental schools, though individual school requirements may vary. Complete all required courses before taking the DAT and applying for admission. Take all required courses during the fall and/or spring semesters at URI (not summer or on-line).

CHEMISTRY
General Chemistry, two semesters with lab:
- CHM 101 & 102 Lab (3+1 credits)
- CHM 112 & 114 Lab (3+1 credits)

Organic Chemistry, two semesters with lab:
- CHM 227 (3 credits)
- CHM 228 & 226 Lab (3+2 credits)

PHYSICS
Two semesters with lab:
- PHY 111 & 185 lab (3+1 credits)
- PHY 112 & 186 lab (3+1 credits)

The three course sequence, PHYS 203(H)-204(H)-205(H) with labs may be substituted.

STATISTICS & MATH
Not all programs stipulate a calculus requirement, but the most competitive candidates complete some calculus and statistics.
- MTH 131 or 141
- STA 307, 308, 409, or 411

BIOLOGY
8-12 credits (including two lab courses) meet requirements at most dental schools. Some schools may have additional requirements:
- BIO 101 Principles of Biology & 103 Lab (3+1 credits)
- BIO 341 Cell Biology (3 credits) and/or BIO 352 Genetics (4 credits)

SOME DENTAL SCHOOLS ALSO REQUIRE

ENGLISH
Two semesters (6-8 credits).

Most English, Writing, and Literature Courses fulfill this requirement, with the exception of Poetry.

Selected Honors courses (HPR 112/125/325/326) also fulfill the requirement. Upper-level coursework is recommended when possible.

BIOCHEMISTRY
- CMB 311 or 311H (3 credits)

MICROBIOLOGY
- CMB 211 Microbiology (3+1 credits)

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY
- BIO 121 (4 credits)
- BIO 242 with 244 lab (3+1 credits)

Other Academic Considerations

**Major.** "Pre-Health/Pre-Dental" is not a major at URI, and dental schools do not require or prefer any particular major. Students from any major can pursue the pre-dental curriculum in conjunction with their major and general education requirements.

**Breadth.** Your studies at URI should expose you to subjects beyond the sciences while building your writing and quantitative skills.

**Honors Program.** Pre-dental students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Honors Program.

**Course Load.** Take a reasonable course schedule each semester that you can successfully manage.

**Grades.** Successful applicants generally achieve a grade point average in the sciences of 3.45 or higher, and cumulative GPA of 3.54.
EXPERIENTIAL EXPECTATIONS

In addition to completing academic requirements, successful applicants to dental school participate in a variety of activities related to the competencies students are expected to have gained through their college studies and experiences. The American Dental Education Association lists common experiential expectations on their website at:

http://www.adea.org/godental

The following chart gives examples of different types of activities that can help you develop one or more of the competencies dental school admission committees are looking for. The chart is intended as a guide, not a checklist:

**GAINING EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD**
Applicants are expected to have learned about dentistry by spending time in a clinical setting and learning about the profession in other ways. Common activities include (but are not limited to):

- Paid or volunteer work in a dental practice.
- Volunteer work at a free clinic.
- Attending a special pre-dental program (e.g., the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program, or Rutgers’ Gateway to Dentistry)

**SERVICE**
Because dentistry is fundamentally a service profession, dental schools look for applicants who have demonstrated a commitment to serving people. Common activities include (but are not limited to):

- Community service projects, clubs, and organizations.
- Volunteer teaching or tutoring on campus or in the community.
- Assisting individuals with disabilities.
- Volunteering or working for a nonprofit organization domestically or abroad.

**LEADERSHIP**
Dental schools are especially interested in candidates who have demonstrated leadership in a variety of ways, and who have the interpersonal skills to work effectively with diverse people. Common activities include (but are not limited to):

- Serving as an officer in a student club or organization.
- Initiating significant group projects within a class or organization.
- Serving as captain of a varsity or club sports team.
- Promotion to a leadership position on a paid job.
- Working as a course or laboratory teaching assistant.

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**
Dentistry is based on relationships and connecting with diverse people, including patients, families, and communities. Dentists work closely with individual and intimately with patients and make them comfortable during treatment. Common activities include (but are not limited to):

- Courses or research that focus on minority groups, cross-cultural issues, or social equity/inequality.
- Courses or research on cross-cultural issues in health care or health care inequality.
- Providing direct service through activities such as teaching and tutoring.
- Learning a language other than English.

**MANUAL DEXTERITY**
Dentists practice with precision tools and must be adept at working carefully with their hands on a small scale. Common ways to develop manual dexterity include (but are not limited to):

- Drawing and/or painting
- Woodcarving
- Creating 3-D artwork, e.g. jewelry, sculpture, or ceramics.
- Learning a musical instrument.

**RESEARCH**
Dentistry, like all the health professions, is based on science and constant assimilation of new knowledge in to clinical practice. Research activities often integrate knowledge you have learned in your various classes while giving you the opportunity to work closely with a faculty researcher/scholar. Common activities include (but are not limited to):

- Laboratory “bench” research.
- Clinical research.
- Quantitative or qualitative public health research.
- Scholarship in disciplines not related to medicine or science.
- A thesis project.