

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 (if possible, avoid summer or on-line courses).

BIOLOGY

8-12 credits (including two lab courses) meet requirements at most dental schools. Some schools may have additional requirements:

- BIO 101 or 110 & BIO 103 Lab (3+1 credits). **And either**
- BIO 341 Cell Biology (3 credits)
Pre-reqs: one semester of biology and one semester of organic chem
- OR**
- BIO 352 Genetics (4 credits)
Pre-reqs: BIO 101 and BIO 102

CHEMISTRY

General Chemistry, two semesters with lab:

- CHM 101 & 102 Lab (3+1 credits)
- CHM 112 & 114 Lab (3+1 credits)

CHM191 & 192 also satisfies this requirement

Organic Chemistry, two semesters with lab:

- CHM 227 (3 credits)
- CHM 228 & 226 Lab (3+2 credits)

CHM 291 & 292 also satisfies this requirement

PHYSICS

Two semesters with lab:

- PHY 111 & 185 lab (3+1 credits)
- PHY 112 & 186 lab (3+1 credits)

PHY 203-204-205 with labs may be substituted

BIOCHEMISTRY

- CMB 311 (3 credits)
Pre-req: CHM 124 or equivalent

ENGLISH

Two semesters (6-8 credits).

Most English (ENG), Writing (WRT), and Literature Courses fulfill this requirement, with the exception of creative writing.

STATISTICS & MATH

Not all programs require calculus, but the most competitive candidates complete some calculus and statistics.

- MTH 131 or 141 (3-4 credits)
- And
- STA 307, 308, 409, or 411 (3-4 credits)

SOME DENTAL SCHOOLS ALSO REQUIRE AND/OR RECOMMEND

Anatomy & Physiology

- BIO 220 & 221 Lab (3+1 credits)
- BIO 222 & 223 Lab (3+1 credits)

Microbiology

- CMB 211--for CELS, Chemical Engineering, and Nutrition Majors only, OR CMB 201--for all other majors (both courses are 4 credits)
Pre-reqs for both: one semester of biology & one year of chemistry

Other Academic Considerations

AP Credits. Students with AP credit equivalent to required courses should take upper-level courses in the same subject. Consult with a pre-health advisor before taking upper-level courses.

Grades. The mean GPA of admitted dental students from URI is 3.52 cumulative and 3.46 in the sciences.

Major. "Pre-Health/Pre-Dental" is not a major at URI. 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.

EXPERIENTIAL EXPECTATIONS

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/Application_Prep/Preparing_for_Dental_School.aspx

The following chart gives examples of work and activities in which dental school applicants from URI have been involved. **NOTE: this chart is intended as a guide, not a checklist:**

EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD

- Dental lab technician
- Dental office assistant
- Dental impressions day, Tufts Dental School
- Rhode Island Mission of Mercy
- Shadowing (general dentist and specialists)
- Special pre-dental programs (e.g., the Summer Health Professions Education Program, Rutgers Gateway to Dentistry)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Childhood hunger program
- Clothing drive
- Community event organizer
- Dental hygiene educator
- Youth sports referee
- Tutor for Sprout & Stem
- Campus chapters of national or international service organizations
- Assisting individuals with disabilities

LEADERSHIP & BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

- Pre-dental club officer
- DEM officer
- Peer mentor, athletics
- Pre-dental club officer
- Pre-health ambassador
- Resident assistant in URI residence hall
- Course TA at URI
- Substitute teacher

DIVERSITY AND CULTURE

- Courses or research on healthcare disparities
- Courses or research on race, gender, class
- Learning a foreign language
- Muslim Student Association
- Research abroad
- Seeds of Success
- Study abroad
- Women in STEM

MANUAL DEXTERITY

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

RESEARCH

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