



SMU PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Suggested Pre-Dental Plan

Note: Some science courses may be completed in summer terms.



Individual program requirements may change at any time, and this plan may not reflect the most current information. It is the student's responsibility to review, understand, follow, and remain [up-to-date](#) with the policies, guidelines, and requirements (including prerequisite coursework) of each individual dental program and application service.

This plan may vary depending on the major chosen. Consult your advisor and check individual degree plans for suggested sequencing of courses. **Grades of C (not C-) or better** are required to meet specific science (and math) prerequisites for dental school admission. **Consult with your advisor before advancing to the next level course.** Science prerequisites include courses coded as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math (including Statistics). *Subjects in italics will appear as content on the DAT*, while additional courses are recommended for better preparation. See additional notes below.

1st Year Fall

1st Year Spring

CHEM	1303	General Chemistry I		CHEM	1304	General Chemistry II
CHEM	1113	Gen. Chem. I Lab		CHEM	1114	Gen. Chem. II Lab
BIOL	1301	Introductory Biology I		BIOL	1302	Introductory Biology II
BIOL	1101	Biology I Lab		BIOL	1102	Biology II Lab
WRTR	1312	Intro. to Academic Writing		WRTR	1313	Writing & Critical Reasoning
MATH	1337	Calculus		STAT	2331	Statistics

2nd Year Fall

2nd Year Spring

CHEM	3371	Organic Chemistry I		CHEM	3372	Organic Chemistry II
CHEM	3117	Organic Chem. I Lab		CHEM	3118	Organic Chem. II Lab
BIOL	3304	Genetics		BIOL	3350	Cell Biology
PHYS	1307	General Physics I		PHYS	1308	General Physics II
PHYS	1105	Physics I Lab		PHYS	1106	Physics II Lab

3rd Year Fall

3rd Year Spring

BIOL	4310	Biochemistry I		BIOL	4364	Integrated Human Physiology with Endocrinology
BIOL	4306	Human Anatomy with Physiology		BIOL	4164	Functional Anatomy & Histology Lab
BIOL	3106	Physiology Lab				
BIOL	4376	Microbiology				
BIOL	3176	Microbiology Lab	DAT			

Students can choose any major, however; **the preferred major by some programs is Biological Sciences.** Most successful applicants to dental school have taken significantly more than the minimum number of Biology courses. Additional recommended courses include **Histology, Virology, Immunology, Molecular Biology, and Neuroscience.** **Courses in behavioral science (Psychology/Sociology) are also recommended (and required) by some programs.** Completing upper-level science courses **before** taking the DAT (Dental Aptitude Test) in spring of year of application (Year 3 of this plan) is strongly recommended for additional preparation. However, some students begin studying for the DAT (and take the exam) after completing science courses in Year 2 of this plan.

Precalculus (MATH 1304) may be required prior to Calculus (MATH 1337). Statistics can be moved to a later semester to complete CALC. Pre-dental students may incorporate study abroad in their college plan, usually before the spring of Year 3 of this plan or during the summer. Plan ahead by meeting with your academic advisor.

Students may complete PHYS 1303/1105 & PHYS 1304/1106 instead of PHYS 1307/1105 & PHYS 1308/1106. *Note: MATH 1338 is a prerequisite (or corequisite) for PHYS 1304.* **Physics lecture and lab can be moved to a later semester to better accommodate a student's schedule. Some students have found Year 2 to be especially challenging and moving Physics is a feasible option.**

Although three hours of Biochemistry are recommended (and by some schools, required), most programs only require ONE semester. Enrollment in BIOL 4311 (Biochemistry: Metabolism) is recommended for additional preparation. **BIOL 4310 and/or BIOL 4311 can be moved to the senior year to better accommodate a student's schedule.** Anatomy and Physiology (up to 8-credit hours) are required by some dental programs and strongly recommended by others.

Pre-dental students should plan to take the DAT no later than June of the year (usually by April/May of the 3rd year) they intend to apply. **The DAT is offered multiple times during the year and requires a 60-waiting period to retest.** Review **ADEA** (American Dental Education Association), **ASDA** (American Student Dental Association), and **ADA** (American Dental Association) for more information.

Manual dexterity and superior hand-eye coordination are extremely important in the dental profession. Students should choose experiences (drawing, painting, sculpting, crafting, and musical instruments) to develop or refine fine-motor skills.



Suggested Application Timeline

Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental

First Year

- ☐ Attend “Pre-Health 101,” a workshop designed for first year (and transfer) SMU students interested in graduate-level health professions programs.
- ☐ Join the [Pre-Health Listserv](#).
- ☐ Join organizations (seek areas of interest, including Pre-Health) and become active members.
- ☐ Get to know professors.
- ☐ Meet regularly with your academic advisor and science faculty members.
- ☐ Get organized, create a [Pre-Health Resumé](#), and begin journaling experiences.
- ☐ Establish good study habits and find balance (academic and social).
- ☐ Learn more about the medical/dental professions: volunteer in hospitals or clinics, shadow doctors or dentists, read medical/dental articles, journals, and other publications, participate in health fairs.
- ☐ Participate in activities to serve the community.
- ☐ Investigate research positions in a faculty lab (second semester) or in the summer near home.
- ☐ Apply for summer programs, work, or enroll in summer courses.
- ☐ Stay focused and finish the year strong.

Second Year

- ☐ Attend “Pre-Health 201,” a workshop designed for second-year Pre-Health students.
- ☐ Join the Office of Pre-Health Advising Canvas course.
- ☐ Meet with the Office of Pre-Health Advising (*after attending Pre-Health 201*) and declaring major.
- ☐ Stay on track academically.
- ☐ Correct any weaknesses in your academic skills (Learning Enhancement Center).
- ☐ Continue reading (include topics related to medicine/dentistry) to improve critical analysis and reasoning.
- ☐ Continue getting to know professors (letters of recommendation will be needed).
- ☐ Seek at least one meaningful leadership position.
- ☐ Seek meaningful research opportunities.
- ☐ Stay organized (build your resumé, journal experiences, set goals).
- ☐ Join AED (Alpha Epsilon Delta), a health pre-professional honor society, in the second semester.
- ☐ Participate in healthcare-related activities (shadowing, volunteering, employment).
- ☐ Attend the Health Professions Panel (spring semester) to learn about different professions.
- ☐ Investigate professional schools and various healthcare programs of interest.
- ☐ Apply for summer programs, work, enroll in summer courses, or gain clinical experience.
- ☐ Finish the year strong (applications begin at the end of Year 3 without a gap year).

Third & Fourth Years

- ☐ Students **MUST** meet with the Office of Pre-Health Advising (Dedman Life Sciences Building, Room 135), **no later than the fall of Year 3** to review academic and extracurricular progress **AND** to receive additional, important, and timely information. **MANDATORY ATTENDANCE at an application workshop** is one of the requirements to be eligible to interview with the Health Professions Recommendation Committee (HPRC). Review [additional requirements](#) on the Pre-Health website.

Notes

- These are *general guidelines* to prepare for professional school in medicine and dentistry.
- Other professional programs such as Optometry, Physician Assistant, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine require similar experiences with similar timelines. Consult with your academic advisor or the Office of Pre-Health Advising (declared majors) for more information.