



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 pre-requisite 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" or better** are required to meet specific science (and math) pre-requisites for admission to dental school. Consult with your advisor before advancing to the next level course. Science pre-requisites 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

CHEM	1303	General Chemistry
CHEM	1113	Gen. Chem. Lab
BIOL	1301	Introductory Biology
BIOL	1101	Biology Lab
DISC	1312 (UC 2016)	Discernment and Discourse
WRTR	1312 (CC 2020)	Intro. to Academic Writing
MATH	1337	Calculus

1st Year Spring

CHEM	1304	General Chemistry
CHEM	1114	Gen. Chem. Lab
BIOL	1302	Introductory Biology
BIOL	1102	Biology Lab
DISC	1313 (UC 2016)	Discernment and Discourse
WRTR	1313 (CC 2020)	Writing & Critical Reasoning
STAT	2331	Statistics

2nd Year Fall

CHEM	3371	Organic Chemistry
CHEM	3117	Organic Chem. Lab
BIOL	3304	Genetics
PHYS	1307	General Physics I
PHYS	1105	Physics I Lab

2nd Year Spring

CHEM	3372	Organic Chemistry
CHEM	3118	Organic Chem. Lab
BIOL	3350	Cell Biology
PHYS	1308	General Physics II
PHYS	1106	Physics II Lab

3rd Year Fall

BIOL	4310	Biochemistry
BIOL	4306	Human Anatomy with Physiology
BIOL	3106	Physiology Lab
BIOL	3370	Microbiology
BIOL	3170	Microbiology Lab

3rd Year Spring

BIOL	BIOL 4364	Integrated Human Physiology with Endocrinology
BIOL	BIOL 4164	Functional Anatomy & Histology Lab
	DAT	→

Students can choose any major, however, the preferred major 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, Developmental Biology, 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 exam (Spring 3rd Year) is strongly recommended for additional preparation, however, some students begin studying for the DAT (and take the exam) after completing science courses in the second year of college.

Pre-Calculus (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 junior year or during the summer. Plan ahead by meeting with your academic or faculty 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 co-requisite) for PHYS 1304. **Physics lecture and lab can be moved to a later semester to better accommodate a student's schedule.**

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/or Physiology (up to 8-credit hours) are required by some dental programs and strongly recommended by others. Review the individual websites of each program.

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

Pre-dental students should plan to take the DAT no later than June of the year they intend to submit their application (usually April/May of the junior year). The DAT is offered multiple times during the year. See the Pre-Health Director for more information and visit: ADEA (American Dental Education Association) @ <https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Apply/> or ADA (American Dental Association) @ <http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx>.



Suggested Application Timeline Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental



First Year

- Attend “Pre-Health 101,” a workshop for first-year SMU students interested in Pre-Health programs, and other Pre-Health programs
- Explore academic areas of interest
- Join organizations (seek areas of interest, including Pre-Health) and become active members
- Get to know your professors
- Meet regularly with your pre-major academic advisor
- Get organized (create a resume – see Pre-Health website - 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 publications
- Participate in activities to serve the community
- Investigate research positions in a faculty lab (second semester)
- Review the Pre-Health Resumé (Pre-Health website) <https://www.smu.edu/prehealth>
- Apply for summer programs, work, or take summer courses.
- Finish the year strong

Second Year

- Attend “Pre-Health 201,” a workshop for second-year students, and other Pre-Health programs
- Meet with the Office of Pre-Health Advising (after attending Pre-Health 201)
- Stay on track academically.
- Correct any weaknesses in your academic skills (Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center)
- Continue reading (include topics related to medicine) to improve critical analysis and reasoning
- Continue getting to know your professors (letters of recommendation will be needed)
- Seek meaningful leadership positions
- Seek meaningful research opportunities
- Stay organized (build your resumé, journal experiences, set goals) & begin reflecting/recording experiences using the Pre-Health Resumé
- Join AED (Alpha Epsilon Delta, a health pre-professional honor society, 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.
- Apply for summer programs, work, or take summer courses
- Finish the year strong (applications may begin at the end of the third 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 their junior year** 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). Please contact the Office of Pre-Health Advising to learn more about the HPRC and all eligibility criteria.

Notes

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