Dental School
Dentistry – D.D.S. or D.M.D.

Information below is for pre-health advisement only. Students are responsible for verifying admissions information for their programs of interest. All information is subject to change.

Career Description:
Dentists identify, diagnose and treat medical issues in patients’ teeth, gums, and related parts of the mouth. They perform clinical procedures such as exams, fillings, crowns, implants, extractions, and corrective surgeries. They provide advice and instruction to patients on how to properly care for their teeth and gums, as well as how diet and outside factors such as smoking can affect overall oral health. Dentists use a variety of equipment, including x-ray machines, drills, forceps, and scalpels, as well as digital tools such as lasers, digital scanners, and other computer technologies. In addition, dentists in private practice oversee a variety of administrative tasks, including bookkeeping and buying equipment and supplies. They also employ and supervise dental hygienists, dental assistants, dental laboratory technicians, and receptionists.

Basic Education Path to Career:

4 year undergraduate degree → 4 year doctorate degree → 0-6 year residency program *

* Residency is not required to practice as general dentist but required for specialists such as orthodontics

Matriculant Statistics:
- Average overall GPA of matriculants in 2015: 3.57 overall / 3.47 science
- Exam Required: DAT (Dental Admission Test)
- Average Exam Score of matriculants for 2015: 20.0
- To be competitive for this career, schools want to see at least 2 years of pre-health semesters, which include multiple 3000/4000 level science courses before applying.
  - Pre-dental semester are: semesters consisting of minimum 14-16 credit hours, with 8-11 hours of science courses. Science courses consist of biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics.

Required extra-curricular activities:
1) Extensive dental/clinical shadowing (recommend 500+ hours)
2) Volunteering and/or employment in clinical/healthcare settings
3) Academic Enrichment Programs: Research experience, scholars programs, participation in dental associations and organizations, etc.
4) Community involvement and volunteering

Recommended extra-curricular activities:
1) Leadership experience
2) Teaching/tutoring experience
3) Related employment
4) Global involvement through international service or study abroad
5) Unique experiences or attributes
6) Awards, honors, scholarships
7) Experiences that exhibit dexterity and physical stamina. Dentists must be good at working with their hands, manipulating tools in a limited area, and may work for long periods of time with patients who need special attention.

Resources:
- ADEA: http://www.adea.org/
- ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS): https://portal.aadsasweb.org/
- For more information please contact the USF Division of Health Professions Advising at healthprofadvise@usf.edu

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