

PRE-DENTAL PLANNING GUIDE

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name:	Email:
Major(s):	Minor(s):
GPA:	State of Residence:
Expected Graduation Date:	Expected Application Date:
Previous Degree(s):	Are you applying as an international student?

PART 1: IDENTIFY TARGET SCHOOLS.

Identify the dental schools to which you might be interested in applying. The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) publishes a [list of dental schools with links to their websites](#). Use this chart to record information about your target schools.

SCHOOL NAME	MINIMUM DAT	MINIMUM GPA	MINIMUM SCIENCE GPA	REQUIRED EXPERIENCES	NON-RES. INTL.*

*Use this column to record whether this school admits non-resident (of the state) and/or international students (if this applies to you).

PRE-DENTAL PLANNING GUIDE

PART 3: RECORD YOUR EXPERIENCES.

Record work, shadowing, volunteer, research, study abroad, student organization, and other experiences here. Copy this page as needed.

EXPERIENCE AND/OR POSITION TITLE	ORGANIZATION	SUPERVISOR NAME AND CONTACT INFO.	RESPONSIBILITIES	DATES

PRE-DENTAL PLANNING GUIDE

PART 4: PREPARE FOR AND TAKE THE DAT.

All dental schools in the U.S. and Canada require applicants to take the [Dental Admission Test](#) (DAT). You should take the DAT after you have completed your biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry prerequisite courses and at least one year before you want to go to dental school. Most students take the DAT after their third year of college.

I TOOK/PLAN TO TAKE THE DAT ON THE FOLLOWING DATE(S):			
PRACTICE TEST(S)	SCORE	DAT	SCORE
Perceptual Ability		Perceptual Ability	
Quantitative Reasoning		Quantitative Reasoning	
Reading Comprehension		Reading Comprehension	
Biology		Biology	
General Chemistry		General Chemistry	
Organic Chemistry		Organic Chemistry	
Total Science*		Total Science*	
Academic Average**		Academic Average**	

* The Total Science scale score is a standard score based on all 100 questions in the biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry tests.

** The Academic Average is the rounded average of a candidate's scale scores in Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Quantitative Reasoning, and Reading Comprehension.

PART 5: REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.

Identify three to five people who might be willing to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Check the requirements of the school(s) to which you are applying to find out how many and what kind of letters they require. The ADEA publishes a [guide to supporting materials, including letters of recommendation, for dental school applicants](#).

NAME	TITLE/POSITION	CONTACT INFORMATION	ASKED (DATE)	LETTER SUBMITTED

PART 6: PLAN AND WRITE YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT.

Your dental school application will contain a prompt for and space to write a personal statement that is 4,500 characters long. The personal statement prompt is usually some variation of the question, “Why do you want to be a dentist?”

As early as possible in your academic career, open a Google Doc to use as a space to collect your thoughts about this prompt. Jot down ideas about your statement whenever they occur to you. Don’t worry about grammar or structure at first. You can take care of those details later. When the time comes to write your essay, you will have some ideas with which to begin. The ADEA publishes a [helpful guide to writing your dental school personal statement](#).

PART 7: COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION.

You will submit your dental school application through the [American Dental Education Association Associated American Dental Schools Application Service](#) (ADEA AADSAS) approximately one year before you hope to begin dental school. This centralized application service allows you to complete one application to apply to each of the programs in which you are interested.