Health Careers Fact Sheet – Dentistry

Skilled dentists employ precision psychomotor skills with the aesthetic sense of an artist to maintain a healthy smile or treat diseases of the hard and soft tissue of the mouth. Because they treat people, not just mouths, a great dentist has strong interpersonal skills, including a desire to help patients and give back to the community.

Dental school will help you gain an understanding of the profession through rigorous coursework as well as clinical experiences that will put you on the path towards one of eight specialties including orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, endodontics, periodontics, pedodontics, prosthodontics, oral pathology, and dental public health.

Degree
D.D.S. or D.M.D.

Program Length
4 years

Professional Schools’ Organization
American Dental Education Association (ADEA)

Application Service
American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS)

Academic Admission Requirements
Minimum three years undergraduate; B.A. or B.S. preferred – review requirements for each dental school; One year each: Biology, General (Inorganic Chemistry), Organic Chemistry, Physics, English. Some schools may also require a full year of Calculus, it is recommended to discuss your math plans with the premedical advisor.

Other courses may be required or recommended depending on the specific medical school. This information is in the Dental Admission Requirements (DAR), published yearly by the ADEA.

Admission Exam
Dental Admission Test (DAT)

Recommendation Letters
Letters of recommendation should be submitted to the Premedical advising office along with the waiver form. It is encouraged to obtain letters from science faculty, a professional in the field, and employers.

Fee Assistance Program (FAP)
For information on how to apply for Fee Assistance visit the ADEA website