REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS OF DENTISTRY

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS APPLICABLE FOR THE 2008 ENTERING CLASS

(Applying 2008 for Admission 2009)

OU Premedical Professions Advisory Office, Richards Hall, Room 209,

Ms. Nancy Blass, (405) 325-2457

Dr. William Ortiz-Leduc and Dr. James Thompson, Co-Directors

BASIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS TO OU COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

1. A minimum of 90 semester hours of course work from any accredited college or university.

2. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale for all college level work attempted.


4. Completion of the prerequisite courses listed below with a minimum grade of "C" or better in each prerequisite course.

Although these are minimum requirements for admission, the majority of the applicants ACCEPTED will have earned a considerably higher grade point average and most will have completed a Bachelor's Degree. The average overall GPA for the 2011 class was 3.63. The OU College of Dentistry accepts about 60 students each year. The class of 2011 had 756 applicants. Sixty students matriculated in 2007, with the majority having earned a Bachelor's degree or higher, had completed three years, or had completed four years with no degree.
PREREQUISITE COURSES: A grade of C or better is required in each course.

General Requirements Norman campus courses

1. **English** -- 6 hours minimum English 1113 and 1213

2. **Psychology** – 3 hours required Elements of Psychology 1113

3. **Biological Science** to include labs Any combination of courses with

   8 hours minimum labs in: Microbiology and/or Zoology. Examples: Microbiology 2815\textsuperscript{a} - Intro. to Micro.; Microbiology 3813 and 3812 lab – Fundamentals of Microbiology & lab(F/Sp); Zoology 1114 and 1121 - Intro. to Zoo & lab(S/F/Sp); Zoology 2204\textsuperscript{b} - Comparative Anatomy(F/Sp); Zoology 3103\textsuperscript{c} & 3101 - Principles of Physiology & lab(F); Zoology 4244\textsuperscript{d} - Animal Histology (Sp)

4. **Inorganic Chemistry** to include labs Chemistry 1315\textsuperscript{e} and 1415 -- 10 semester hours 8 hours minimum

5. **Organic Chemistry** to include labs Chemistry 3053\textsuperscript{f}, 3153 & 3152 -- 8 hours minimum semester hours

6. **Biochemistry** Chemistry 3653 Intro to Biochemistry (S/F) 3 hours with or without lab

7. **Physics** to include labs Physics 2414\textsuperscript{g}/1311 and 2424/1321, or Physics - 8 hours minimum 2514\textsuperscript{h}/1311

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PREREQUISITES FOR REQUIRED COURSES

a. One course in general chemistry.

b. Zoology 1114 and 1121.
c. 8 hours of Zoology; Pre or corequisite: Organic Chemistry and Physics.

d. Zoology 3103, 3113, or 3203 or permission

e. Math 1503 (Introduction to Elementary Functions)

f. Chemistry 1415.

g. Math 1523 (Elementary Functions) or 1643 (Pre-Calculus, Business/Social Sciences)

h. Enrollment in Math 1743 or 1823 (Calculus I) or the equivalent.

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

In addition to the courses required for admission, it is recommended that you choose elective courses complementing the dental curriculum. The dental profession requires an understanding of areas such as psychology, sociology, and economics. Additional courses in the biological sciences beyond the 8 hour minimum, such as Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy or Animal Histology are recommended. The individual student should select additional courses on the basis of interest and personal enrichment.

**DENTAL EXPERIENCE**

Applicants should observe in several dental offices seeking as much knowledge as possible regarding the profession. You should affirm your career decision by any or all of the following means: 1) Get a summer job in a dental practice; 2) Volunteer in a dental practice; 3) Observe in a dental practice; 4) Discuss your decision and the profession with a dentist. This will be extremely important at the time of your interview when you are asked about your motivation, maturity, and knowledge of the profession. **100 hours or more are required by the time you apply.**
WHAT IS THE "BEST" MAJOR FOR GETTING ACCEPTED TO DENTAL SCHOOL?

As applicant numbers increase each year, fewer students are accepted with only the minimum requirements. Since 1995 only 1 student has been accepted with the minimum 60 hours. Most have completed an undergraduate degree in the field of their choice. It should be emphasized that "Pre-Dent" is not a major. Thus, all predental students, in addition to satisfying the dental school admission requirements, should be working toward a bachelor's degree in some area. There is no recommended major for predental students. Dental schools encourage a broad general curriculum in both natural and social sciences (see information on additional recommendations). The best advice we can give is to select a major in an area you enjoy and can excel in that will provide a viable career option.

WHAT IS THE COMBINED CURRICULUM DEGREE PROGRAM?

Students in the College of Arts and Sciences who enter dental school before completing an undergraduate degree may be eligible for the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Sciences Degree through the Combined Curriculum with the College of Dentistry. See an Academic Counselor in the College of Arts & Sciences, Physical Sciences Building, for details. Page 67 in the OU general catalog lists the current requirements for the combined curriculum.

WHAT ARE THE GRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE OU COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY?

The minimum grade average required for application to the OU College of Dentistry is 2.0 on a 4.0 scale for all college level work attempted. The average GPA for those accepted to the 2007 class was 3.63 overall, with a science average of 3.54. Students with GPA's significantly below the average...
will be considered only if recent grades are substantially higher. The Admissions Board will seriously consider higher GPA's for later course work as evidence of developing maturity.

**WILL I HAVE TO TAKE AN ADMISSION TEST TO APPLY?**

The Dental Admission Test, or DAT, is required of all applicants to the College of Dentistry. The last written test was given in October 1998. Since 1999 the test has been computerized. DAT applications are available online. Once a DAT application is received in the Department of Testing Services and found acceptable, a notice will be sent to the candidate that he/she can schedule an appointment with the Sylvan Technology Test Centers in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Candidates may schedule for the computerized DAT on almost any date. There are no application deadlines; however, it may take three weeks to process the application. **Candidates must wait 90 days to be eligible for retesting.**

This procedure allows the applicant to retest up to 3 times for consideration for the dental school interviews that begin early in October. **However, one can take the DAT only 3 times IN YOUR LIFE (effective 2006), so the exam should be approached seriously and with adequate preparation.** All available test scores will be considered when the Admissions Board meets at the end of November to make the first offers of acceptance on December 1. The examination fee is $170.00 and includes submission of official transcripts of scores to five dental schools, a personal copy, and a copy to your Premedical Advisor.

**WHAT'S ON THE TEST AND HOW IS IT SCORED?**

The DAT includes four examination areas and requires one half day for administration. There are four examination areas. I. Survey of Natural Sciences: This examination is an achievement test covering the entire first year courses in biology, inorganic and organic chemistry. II. Perceptual Ability: Angle discrimination, form development, cubes, orthographic projections, apertures, and paper folding. III. Reading Comprehension: Ability to read, organize, analyze, and remember typical dental school material using three reading passages. IV. Quantitative Reasoning: Algebraic equations, fractions, conversions, percentages, exponential notation, probability and statistics, geometry, trigonometry, and applied mathematics problems.

The DAT Exam is scored on a 1-30 scale with a 15 being median score in each of the areas. The DAT scores are based on the number of correct answers; therefore, candidates are not penalized for guessing. Test results are reported to dental school in terms of standard scores rather than raw scores. Through the use of standard scores it is possible to compare the performance of one applicant with the performance of all applicants. There are no strict passing or failing scores; the standard score of
16 typically signifies average performance on a national basis. The average DAT score for those accepted into the 2007 beginning class at the OU Dental School was 19.51 for Academic Average.

Results of the DAT will be announced to the candidate immediately upon completion of the test battery. These results will be sent to dental schools within three weeks after the examination.

**HOW DO I APPLY TO DENTAL SCHOOLS?**

The University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry has applications available directly through their admissions office: 405-271-3530 for those applying only to their school. Applicants must complete this online application as well as that of the AADSAS if applying to more than the one school or are from out-of-state. All other dental schools may be applied to through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS). There is a non-refundable fee of $195 for the first school and $60 for each additional school. Applications are available online at [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org). In addition to the AADSAS application and other support material, a $65 non-refundable application fee must be sent directly to the OU College of Dentistry. Applications will be reviewed as early as mid-July of the year prior to the desired date of admission. Interviews at the Dental College are conducted from October through January. The application deadline is September 1 if from out-of-state or December 1 if in-state; however, interviews begin in October. No acceptances are made before December 1. Requirements for Dental School must be completed no later than the Spring semester prior to entering Dental School in the Fall. If you are not enrolled in these courses during that semester, the Dental School will not consider your application. Based on past experience, we strongly recommend that you retain a copy of your application and transcripts before electronic submittal. If any materials are mailed to the application service, mail by certified mail, return receipt requested.

**HOW DO I GET A PREPROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE INTERVIEW AND LETTER OF EVALUATION?**

The OU College of Dentistry will request all qualified Oklahoma applicants to submit a Letter of Evaluation from a Preprofessional Advisory Committee, or if your undergraduate campus does not
have such a Committee, then two letters from science instructors. Predental Committee interviews and Letters of Evaluation are available to OU students who meet the predental minimum requirements of a **3.0 GPA** and complete a Self Assessment form. Predental Committee interviews are usually scheduled in May and June. Sign up after completing a Self Assessment form in mid-March. Specific interview days are set aside for dental applicants. All students are asked to sign a waiver to release, or not release, their right of access to the information contained in the Letter of Evaluation. The necessity of this request is due to the passing of the Buckley Amendment, or the Right to Know Law. You are not required to waive your access as a condition of interview, but in order to insure a full and candid evaluation of your credentials; it would be in your best interest to do so. If requested, the Chair of the Premedical Professions Advisory Committee will provide you with feedback on your interview and make constructive suggestions if appropriate.

**HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT OTHER COLLEGES OF DENTISTRY?**

The American Dental Education Association publishes Admission Requirements of U.S. and Canadian Dental Schools. The Premedical Office has a recent copy for reference. You may obtain your own copy for $25.00 from the Publications Assistant, American Dental Education Association, 1400 K Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005. Web address: [http://www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org). Online links are also available at this web address.

**WHAT OTHER INFORMATION SHOULD I KNOW?**

It is very important that you keep the Dental School and the Premedical Advisory Office advised of any changes in your address or telephone number once you have submitted an application. The bulletin board by 208/209 Richards Hall will post notices, deadlines, etc., for those interested in medical and dental professions. There is an active Predental Professions Club on campus with membership open to all interested students. The club has a variety of programs throughout the year and you are encouraged to attend.