

2009-2010

Pre-Dentistry

What Is Pre-Dentistry?

Pre-dentistry is not a major. Rather, it is a prescribed program of study in math and science that is required for admission to dental school. Students should work closely with their academic advisors in their major and the pre-dental advisors to assure that GUR, major and Pre-Dental requirements are incorporated into their overall plan of study.

Dentistry is a challenging, dynamic and rewarding profession. Admission to professional schools of dentistry is competitive, so a Pre-Dental program should be planned with care and every effort made to maintain high scholarship. Early in their undergraduate program, Pre-Dental students should review schools they may be interested in to determine specific application requirements.

Program Checkpoints:

Freshman year:

- Begin Chemistry Series (121, 122, 123), consult with advisor regarding appropriate time to begin this series.
- Begin Biology Series (204, 205, 206).
- Math placement test and appropriate math sequence to complete Math 124.
- Work on fulfilling GURs, including ENG 101.

Sophomore year:

- Begin Physics Series.
- Continue through next Chemistry Series (351, 352, 353, 354, 355).
- Declare or apply for major.
- Take ENG 202 or 203.

Junior year:

- BIOL 345, 346.
- BIOL/CHEM 471, 472 (or take these in senior year).
- Research careers and graduate schools.
- Prepare for the Dental Admission Test (DAT) to be taken the summer after junior year.
- Begin the primary application to Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS).
- Take a third English composition course.
- Request letters of recommendation from professors, administrators, and professionals.

Senior year:

- Prepare for possible dental school interview with a mock interview.
- Complete major requirements.
- Two quarters before graduation, meet with faculty advisor for major evaluation and apply for graduation.

Additionally:

Note: Advanced Placement is not recognized by professional schools as college-earned credit.

Students should join the pre-dental listserv by emailing Renee.Murray@wwu.edu with the following information: subject: pre-dental listserv, first name, last name, student number.

Contact Information:

**Pre-Healthcare Professions
Advising Website:**
<http://www.careers.wwu.edu/prehealth.shtml>

Pre-Dental Advisors:
George Kriz
OM 280M
360-650-3268
George.Kriz@wwu.edu

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Core Courses

Prerequisite courses for various dental schools may differ slightly; however, the following WWU courses are typical.

General Chemistry: CHEM 121*, 122, 123

General Biology: BIOL 204, 205, 206

General Physics: PHYS 114**, 115, 116 or PHYS 121**, 122, 123

Organic Chemistry: CHEM 351, 352, 353, 354, 355

Biochemistry &

Molecular Biology: CHEM 471, 472 or BIOL 471, 472

Microbiology: BIOL 345, 346

English Composition and Writing: 1 year

*Math placement into MATH 114 or higher is a prerequisite for CHEM 121.

**MATH 115 is a prerequisite to PHYS 114; MATH 124 is a co-requisite to PHYS 121.

Note: At WWU, general chemistry is prerequisite to general biology. It is imperative that pre-dental students begin general chemistry as early in their program as possible.

Additional Resources:

The AADSAS application is available from the WWU pre-dental advisors or directly from either of these sources:

The American Dental Education Association
1400 K Street NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 289-7201 www.adea.org

Or

Associated American Dental School Application Service (AADSAS)
1400 K Street NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 289-8123 or 800 353-2237 <https://portal.aadsasweb.org>

Information on the Dental Admission Test can be obtained from:

American Dental Association
Dental Admission Testing Program
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-2678
<http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp>

*DAT testing is arranged by application with ADA and Prometric Test Centers.

Information on the University of Washington School of Dentistry:

Office of Admissions, School of Dentistry
D323 Health Sciences Building
Box 356365
Seattle, WA 98195-6365
(206) 543-5840 www.dental.washington.edu

The websites listed above contain valuable and regularly updated information about the dental profession, dental schools and the dental application process. For example, the web sites of all ADEA dental schools are accessible from the ADEA site given above. Pre-dental students are encouraged to check these sites regularly.

These courses offered within this pre-professional area may be used to satisfy GUR or Writing Proficiency requirements.

BCOM: ENGL 202 or 203

LSCI: BIOL 204, 205, 206

CHEM 121, 122, 123

PHYS 115, 116 or 121, 122, 123

SCI: PHYS 114

WP: Three Writing Proficiency points are required for graduation (they are noted as WP1, WP2, and WP3). Check [Classfinder](#) or [Online Timetable](#) for departmental offerings each quarter.