Pre-Dentistry

What is the study of 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 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:
- Take Math Placement Test; begin appropriate math sequence to complete Calculus I: MATH 124.
- Begin General Chemistry series as soon as possible: CHEM 121, 122, 123.
- Begin General Biology series winter or spring quarter: BIOL 204, 205, 206.
- Work on GUR courses, including ENG 101.
- Begin prerequisite and co-requisite courses for possible major.
- Meet with Pre-Healthcare Advisors (OM 280) to develop a plan of study.

Sophomore year:
- Begin Physics sequence fall quarter: PHYS 114, 115, 116 or 161, 162, 163 (depending upon major).
- Take a second English Composition course: ENG 201 or 202.
- Declare or apply for major.
- Begin shadowing Dentists sophomore and/or junior year.

Junior year:
- Research dental schools and graduate programs.
- Prepare for the Dental Admission Test (DAT) to be taken the summer after junior year.
- Begin Biochemistry: CHEM 471, 472 (or take these in senior year).
- Take Microbiology with lab: BIOL 345 and 346 (or BIOL 245). {Upper-division coursework preferred}
- Take a third English composition course: ENG 301 or 302.
- Begin primary application to the Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS).
- Draft personal statement.
- Request letters of recommendation from professors and professionals.

Senior year:
- Prepare for possible dental school interview with a mock interview (or do spring of junior year).
- Complete major, GUR, WP, and other graduation requirements.
- Two quarters before graduation, meet with declared major advisor and apply for graduation.

Additionally:

NOTE:
- Advanced Placement may not be recognized by all dental schools as college-earned credit. Check with each school.
- Community college coursework is not universally accepted for prerequisites by all dental schools. Check with each school.

Join the advisors’ Pre-dentistry Listserv by sending an e-mail to Renee.Murray@wwu.edu with this information: Subject: pre-dentistry listserv, Last name, First name, student number, major and concentration (if declared).

Pre-Dentistry Club [Facebook: WWU Pre-Dental Club & Alumni]: Join this and other WWU Associated Students clubs at http://as.wwu.edu/clubs/.

WWU is an equal opportunity institution

2015-2016

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Old Main 280

Pre-Healthcare Professions Advising Website:
www.wwu.edu/careers/prehealth_dentistry.shtml

Advising for Pre-Healthcare Professions/Career Services Center, a unit of Academic and Career Development Services
Old Main 280 360.650.4240 Careers@wwu.edu

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

- One year General Chemistry with labs: CHEM 121¹, 122, 123 (5 credits, 5, 4)
- One year General Biology with labs: BIOL 204², 205, 206 (4, 5, 5)
- One year Physics with labs: PHYS 114³, 115, 116 (5, 5, 5) or PHYS 161³, 162, 163 (5, 5, 5)
- One year Organic Chemistry with labs: CHEM 351, 352, 353 (4, 4, 3); labs: 354 and 355 or 356 (3, 3 or 2)
- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology: CHEM 471, 472 (4, 4)
- Microbiology: BIOL 345, 346 (3, 2) or BIOL 245 (5) [Upper-division preferred]
- English Composition and Writing: Up to one year selected from ENG 101, 201, 202, 301, 302 (5, 5, 5, 5, 5)

¹CHEM 121 requires completion of MATH 114 or Math Placement into MATH 115 or higher.
²CHEM 121 is a prerequisite to BIOL 204.
³PHYS 114 requires MATH 115 or a suitable Math Placement score; PHYS 161 requires Math 124 or taken as a co-requisite.

NOTE: It is imperative that students begin chemistry as early in their program as possible.

DECLARING A MAJOR*: Refer to the department of your chosen major for prerequisites and GPA requirements for declaring.

*NOTE: To major in Biology requires a grade point average of 2.9 or better for CHEM 121, 122, 123, and BIOL 204, 205, and 206 in order to advance to Phase II of the Biology major. Admission to Phase II is required in order to take upper division Biology classes.

To major in Biochemistry requires a 3.0 grade average in CHEM 121, 122, 123, 351, 352 and BIOL 205 in order to move on to a Phase II Biochemistry major.

To major in Chemistry (BS) requires a grade point average of 3.0 in CHEM 121, 122, 123, 351, 352 and MATH 124 and 125 in order to move on to a Phase II Chemistry major.

ACCESS TO CLASSES: Due to high student demand for many upper-division courses, especially in the sciences, many departments must give enrollment priority to students for whom these courses are required for their major over those who want to take them for electives.

Registration details for these and other heavily impacted programs are posted at department websites:

Biology: https://cse.wwu.edu/biology/registration
Chemistry: https://cse.wwu.edu/chemistry/registration

REPEATING COURSES: is not viewed favorably by professional schools. An isolated case may be acceptable but may also require an explanation in application. Discuss your options first with a Pre-Healthcare Advisor.

The courses listed below apply to WWU GUR and may also apply toward pre-dentistry requirements of many schools.
ACOM: ENG 101; BCOM: ENG 202
QSR: MATH 124, 240
LSCI: BIOL 204, 205, 206; CHEM 121, 122, 123; PHYS 115, 116, 161, 162, 163; SCI: PHYS 114

Additional Resources
WWU Pre-health Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/wwuprehealth/
Explore Health Careers: www.explorehealthcareers.org
Application: The centralized dental school application is available at these sources:
  - Associated American Dental School Application Service (AADSAS), https://portal.aadsasweb.org
  - GoDental, www.GoDental.org
  - The American Dental Education Association (ADEA), www.adea.org
Dental Admission Test (DAT): www.ada.org/dat.aspx
  Scheduling to sit for the DAT is arranged by application with the American Dental Association (ADA) and Prometric Test Centers.
University of Washington School of Dentistry: http://dental.washington.edu; Email: askuwsod@uw.edu.
NOTE: The UW School of Dentistry requires 100 hours of dental volunteer/shadow/observation experience plus 100 hours community, extracurricular or leadership service. Manual dexterity is also considered.

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