

# Pre-Dentistry

The William J. and Marian A. Klish  
Health Careers Center  
*Connecting students to possibilities*

University of Wisconsin  
**Eau Claire**

Pre-Dentistry is a program of study, not an academic major. Dental school admissions committees consider applicants from a wide variety of academic backgrounds, as long as, they have completed the core group of pre-dent courses, including the basic preparatory work for the Dental Admission Test (DAT). A student's major should be one that the student enjoys and will support an alternative career. There are 65 dental schools in the United States, that award advanced professional degrees of either Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Medical Dentistry (DMD). Although there is not a specific required major for pre-dentistry students, many students choose one of the following majors:

- Biology standard major and chemistry OR pre-professional health science minor
- Biology comprehensive major in Microbiology
- Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Comprehensive Major
- Chemistry Comprehensive Major

## Admission Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree with any major from an accredited institution is required by most
- Completion of all prerequisite courses
- Competitive overall and science GPAs (3.4 overall average for those accepted)
- Competitive Dental Admission Test (DAT) score
- Experience in a dental/oral health office or clinic
- Letters of recommendation
- Completed application with American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) (for some programs)
- Face-to-face interview

**Required Pre-Dentistry Courses:** (Admission requirements and prerequisites may differ from school to school, so it is important to check with schools for specific requirements.)

Courses	Required Credits Marquette University	Required Credits University of MN	Suggested UWEC Courses
English	6	8	WRIT 116 (5cr) + an addl ENGL course
Mathematics	-	3	MATH 109 [+ MATH 112 or 113 & 114] to complete BS/Biol requirement (4+cr)
Inorganic chemistry	8	8	CHEM 105 & CHEM 106 & CHEM 109 (8-9cr) or CHEM 115* (6cr)
Organic chemistry	8	8	CHEM 325 & 326 (8cr)
Biochemistry	3	3	CHEM 352 (4cr) or CHEM 452 (3cr)
Physics	8	8	PHYS 211 & 212 (9cr) or PHYS 231 & 232 (10cr)
Biology	8	8	BIOL 221 & 222 & 223 (9cr)
Psychology	-	3	PSYC 100 (3cr)

\*CHEM 115 requires a strong background in high school math and chemistry

**Recommended Courses:** Many students find the following courses to be helpful in dental school courses and in achieving competitive scores on the DAT:

Biol 323 Genetics and Biol 324 Lab	Biol 361 Biology of Microorganisms	Phil 306 Ethics of Health Care
Biol 306 Infectious Disease Ecology	Biol 402 Topics in Virology & Immunology	Psychology courses (Psyc 331 or 332)
Biol 317 Animal Physiology	Biol 470 Neurobiology	Art courses in drawing or sculpture
Biol 354 Advanced Nutrition	Math 246 Statistics	

**Dental Admission Test (DAT):** This standardized exam is required for admission into dental school. The exam

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consists of 4 parts: (1) natural sciences (biology & chemistry), (2) reading comprehension, (3) quantitative reasoning (math), and (4) perceptual ability. The test is offered by computer at Prometric Learning Centers at various locations around the country (<https://www.prometric.com/>). It is often taken in the spring semester of the junior year. There is a 90-day waiting period before the test can be taken a second time. Go to: <http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx> for more information on the DAT.

**Non-Academic Considerations:** Applicants are required to obtain experience in the dental profession. This should include experiences with a variety of dental specialties and is typically done through several dentists or dental care providers. These healthcare professionals can provide important recommendations to support your application to dental school. Seek out health related experiences, job shadowing and volunteering opportunities early!

### Suggested Pre-Dentistry Curriculum:

The following program is suggested for a student with a biology major and is designed to take the Dental Admission Test (DAT) in the junior year. It is important that students work with a pre-dent advisor each semester.

<b>Freshman year – Fall</b> Biol 221 Chem 105+106 or 115 * Math 109, 112, 113, or 114 ** LE course or Writ 116	<b>Freshman year – Spring</b> Biol 222/223 Chem 109 or 115* Math 112, 113, or 114**
<b>Sophomore year – Fall</b> Biol 300-level Chem 325 LE course or additional math LE course or Wellness course	<b>Sophomore year – Spring</b> Biol 300-level Chem 326 LE courses
<b>Junior year – Fall</b> Biol 300- level Biol 300-level Physics 211 Engl elective	<b>Junior year– Spring</b> Biol 300- level Chem 352 Physics 212 LE course (Take DAT In Spring and complete AADSAS application in May-June)
<b>Senior year– Fall</b> Complete Major/Minor/LE Additional recommended/required courses (Retake DAT in early fall if necessary)	<b>Senior year – Spring</b> Complete Major/Minor/LE requirements Additional recommended/required courses

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\*\* Beginning course in mathematics depends on UWEC Mathematics Placement Exam score

### UWEC Pre-Dentistry Advisors:

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Dr. Julie Anderson ([anderju@uwec.edu](mailto:anderju@uwec.edu))

See a Life & Health Science Advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center

### More Information:

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Visit the **Health Careers Center in Schofield Hall 30**

or go to [uwec.ly/hcc](http://uwec.ly/hcc).

Join the **Pre-Professional Health Club** to learn more about healthcare, professional school applications, and pre-dentistry opportunities.

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