

# CLAS Academic Advising Center

Academic advising for students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Call Us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us On-line: [www.qvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.qvsu.edu/clasadvising)

## Dental School Fact Sheet

### What degree can I earn?

D.D.S.= Doctor of Dental Surgery      **OR**      D.M.D = Doctor of Dental Medicine  
(degrees are equivalent, degree awarded depends on the dental school you go to)

### What is the nature of this profession?

Dentists diagnose, prevent, and treat problems with teeth or mouth tissue. Many dentists own their own practice. Dentists also work in advanced dentistry, federal service and research. While the typical work schedule is 8 a.m.-5 p.m., schedules can vary to fit the desire of the dentist.

### Where can I find additional information about dentistry?

American Dental Association [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

### What major and pre-requisites are required for dental school?

**You can major in anything as long as you fulfill the pre-requisites for dental school.**

**The following courses are strongly recommended as preparation for the DAT and Dental School:**

BIO 120: General Biology I	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I
BMS 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II
BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver)	CHM 241: Organic Chem for Life Sciences I
BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab	CHM 242: Organic Chem for Life Sciences II
BMS 290/291: Human Physiology w/lab	CHM 461: Biochemistry I
PHY 220: General Physics I	PSY 101: Introductory Psychology
PHY 221: General Physics II	

*\*\*Please note that pre-requisites may vary from school to school. Do your research to make sure that you have met the pre-requisites for the dental schools to which you intend to apply. See your faculty advisor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center for assistance in choosing elective courses.*

### What entrance exam is required and what GPA do I need?

<b>DAT</b>	<b>GPA</b>
You will need to take The Dental Admissions Test (DAT). Traditionally, applicants plan to take the exam at least one year before starting dental school. The test is scored from 1-30.  The 2010 national average accepted DAT Score is 19-20.	To gain entrance to dental school, usually a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA of 3.0 is required. The 2010 national average for dental school admission was 3.5.

## What do I need to do to be a competitive applicant to dental school?

Besides a strong GPA and DAT score, dental schools look for the following:

- ✓ Dental-related Clinical Volunteer/Work Experience (i.e. dentist shadowing, volunteering or working at local hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes, etc.) as demonstration of your motivation for a career in dentistry
  - See <http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/dental-school-68.htm> for a list of dentists in the area
- ✓ Extracurricular activities [www.gvsu.edu/studentlife/stuey](http://www.gvsu.edu/studentlife/stuey)
  - Pre-Dental Club; other clubs of interest
- ✓ Community service [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service) (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates)
- ✓ Research experience [www.gvsu.edu/ours](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours); Departmental Websites: Listing of research by faculty member and discipline
- ✓ Strong letters of recommendation

\* Keep a journal of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application. Include dates, hours, supervisors, and what you took away from the experience. This can also include awards and honors. Remember that while participating in various activities, you are a GVSU ambassador and should act professionally. At all times and in all ways, make sure that you are proud to be a Laker and appropriately represent GVSU for both yourself and your fellow Lakers who will follow after you.

## Want more information?

- **Subscribe to the Pre-dental listserv to continue to receive helpful information while you are enrolled at GVSU**

To subscribe:

1. Email [listserv@listserv.gvsu.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.gvsu.edu)

2. In the body of the email (leave the subject line blank) write: *Subscribe dental20XX*

**(NOTE 1: there is no space in the address; NOTE 2: 20XX: Use the year you hope to begin dental school)**

3. Send the email. You will receive a response that includes a welcome message and instructions.

- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor
- Plan to attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center (workshops in Writing Personal Statements, the Application Process, getting Healthcare experience, etc.) to assist you through this process while at GVSU. Log on to your Blackboard site and click on CLAS Academic Advising Center under MyOrganizations

### Sample Dental School Curriculum

Years 1 & 2	Basic sciences, pre-clinical techniques, behavioral sciences
Years 3 & 4	Advanced basic science, clinical and practice management, clinical patient treatment Rotations: Pediatrics, oral surgery, electives

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