



DENTAL MEDICINE

A brief educational and career guide prepared by:

The UNH Pre-Professional Health Programs Advising Office
Hood House, room 102.

Phone: 862-2064, E-mail: Premed.Advising@unh.edu

Web: <http://www.unh.edu/premed-advising>



What is a Doctor of Dental Medicine/Surgery?

Dentists are concerned with the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of problems associated with the hard and soft tissue of the mouth. They examine teeth, mouth, and associated tissues, diagnose and treat diseases, restore defective teeth and tissue, and replace missing teeth. Most dental students enter a practice after receiving their professional degree, either a Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) or a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.). The two degrees are entirely equivalent in terms of the program completed and the rights conferred to practice. Most dentists are self-employed and establish a private practice alone or in partnership with other dentists. Employment opportunities also exist in the public health service, as teachers and researchers in dental education, commissioned officers in the armed services and researchers or practitioners in industry. In addition, some dentists enter advanced education programs for training in a dental specialty.

Programs

The D.M.D. / D.D.S. curriculum requires at least 11 academic semesters over four calendar years. The curriculum initially emphasizes the basic sciences with an expanding emphasis on the clinical sciences. The student's knowledge and familiarity with the basic sciences is reinforced with applied courses in each discipline. Dental specialties require additional training after the D.D.S. or D.M.D.

Admissions Requirements

Typically, D.D.S. / D.M.D. programs expect a BA or BS with the following undergraduate curriculum:

- 1 year Biology with lab (BIOL 411-412)
- 1 year Chemistry with lab (CHEM 403-404)
- 1 year Physics with lab (PHYS 401-402 or PHYS 407-408)
- 1 year Organic Chemistry (CHEM 651-654 or CHEM 547-550)
- 1 semester of General Biochemistry (BCHM 658/659)
- 1 year English
- 1 semester Calculus (MATH 424a, 424b, or 425) and Statistics (PSYC/SOC/BIOL)

OVER

Admissions Requirements (cont.)

An applicant's undergraduate major is not a factor in dental school admission, so students may complete these prerequisites as major requirements, general education requirements, or as electives. Admissions requirements do vary somewhat from school to school, so students should consult the *Official Guide to Dental Schools* directory, available at the Health Professions Advising Office and at www.adea.org/student-applicant/default.htm, to determine the specific requirements of the programs that they are interested in.

Observing in the office of a general dentist is the best way to learn about dentistry, and the Student Admissions and Recruitment Committee of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) recommends that applicants make arrangements to observe in the offices of one or more general dentists. While observing in a dentist's office is not a requirement for admission, it is seen by the admissions committee as one measure of an applicant's interest in dentistry as a career.

All dental programs require that applicants take the Dental Admission Test (DAT). All applicants for admission must have taken the Dental Admission Test (DAT) within three years of application.

The Application Process

The application process for UNH students applying to dental programs begins a full two years before matriculation. Therefore, a student who wishes to begin a program the September after graduation from UNH needs to contact the Premedical/Pre dental Advising office no later than September of their junior year to begin the process.

Further Information

A valuable source of information is the American Dental Education Association (ADEA). Contact them at:

American Dental Education Association
1625 Massachusetts Avenue, NW,
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-2212
Tel: 202-667-9433
Fax: 202-667-0642
www.ADEA.org

Source s: Most of the information in this brochure was taken from ADEA literature.