Medical and Dental Schools

OPSA can advise you realistically on whether your credentials show promise for admission to medical or dental school, but only you can decide if that is what you truly want to do. One way to explore your interest is to volunteer at a local hospital or dental office. You can also observe or shadow a physician/dentist or talk to professionals in the field. Another way is to read information about professional schools and medicine/dentistry as a career. Be sure to join one of the campus pre-health organizations.

WHAT TYPE OF MAJOR LOOKS BEST?
Many applicants believe that medical/dental schools want science majors or that certain programs prefer liberal arts majors. In actuality, medical/dental schools have no preference for what your major is as long as you do well and meet the basic entrance requirements. We suggest that you choose a major that leads to what you would select as an alternative career for these reasons: you generally do best at what you enjoy the most; this is another way to determine whether medicine is the right choice; and an alternative career provides good insurance if you should happen to change direction or postpone entry. Texas A&M University offers extensive and exciting majors to choose from in ten diverse colleges.

If your chosen major does not include the prerequisite courses in its curriculum, you must complete the required courses mentioned below either as science credit hours or elective credit hours. Since many higher level courses build upon each other, freshman biology and chemistry are good courses to complete during your freshman year.

WHAT COURSES ARE REQUIRED FOR MEDICAL/DENTAL SCHOOL?
The minimum entrance requirements for both medical and dental school are as follows, each of which must be completed with a grade of "C" or better:

**TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOLS**
- 2 semesters of English* (6 hrs)
  (ENGL 104 & any literature or technical writing)
- 1 semester of Statistics* (3 hrs)
  (STAT 201, 211, 301, 302, 303 or INFO 303 or PSYC 203)
- 2 semesters of Introductory Biology with lab* (8 hrs) (BIOL 111, 112)
- 2 semesters of upperlevel Biology*(6 hrs)
  (see note below for some selections)
- 2 semesters of Inorganic Chemistry with lab* (8 hrs) (CHEM 101/111 and 102/112)
- 2 semesters of Organic Chemistry with lab* (8 hrs) (CHEM 227/237 and 228/238)
- 2 semesters of Physics with lab* (8 hrs) (PHYS 201 and 202)
- 1 semester of biochemistry (BICH 410) required for UT-San Antonio Medical School, Texas Tech HSC Medical School & Texas A&M HSC Medical School (3 hrs)

**TEXAS DENTAL SCHOOL**
- 2 semesters of English* (6 hrs)
  (ENGL 104 & any literature or technical writing)
- 1 semester of Statistics (3 hrs)
  (STAT 201, 211, 301, 302, 303 or INFO 303 or PSYC 203)
- 2 semesters of Introductory Biology with lab* (8 hrs) (BIOL 111, 112)
- 1 semester of upperlevel Biology* (3-4 hrs)
- 1 semester of Microbiology (BIOL 351 or VTPB 405)
- 2 semesters of Inorganic Chemistry with lab* (8 hrs) (CHEM 101/111 and 102/112)
- 2 semesters of Organic Chemistry with lab* (8 hrs) (CHEM 227/237 and 228/238)
- 2 semesters of Physics with lab* (8 hrs) (PHYS 201 and 202)
- 1 semester of biochemistry (3 hrs) (BICH 410)

* Some out of state medical/dental schools require additional courses. Others do not accept AP credits for prerequisite course work. Always check with the medical programs in which you are interested before you begin your undergraduate coursework. Upper level biology courses can be chosen from VIBS 305, 343, 450; BIOL 213, 214, 318, 319, 320, 335, 351, 352, 388, 405, 406, 413, 438, 445, 454, 456; VTPB 409, 405, 408, 438; GENE 301, 302 310, 320, 405, 406, 421, 431, 452; VTPP 423, 425, 429, 434, 435. Check with an OPSA advisor for approval of any other courses. Biochemistry 410 and 411 at A&M do not count as upper-level biology for all Texas medical and dental schools.
WHAT IS THE MCAT/DAT AND WHEN SHOULD I TAKE IT?

MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST (MCAT)
The MCAT is a computerized 5 hour exam and there are 28 examinations throughout the year. Currently, the MCAT fee is $270. You can register online to take the exam at www.aamc.org/MCAT. Medical schools consider each score, so prepare early and thoroughly the first time. NEVER take the actual MCAT for practice. Registration for the MCAT will open about four to five months prior to the actual test date. Registration is done online at https://services.aamc.org/20/mcat/. You may only take the MCAT up to 3 times a year. Texas testing locations: http://www.mcat-test-centers.com/Texas.html

DENTAL ADMISSION TEST (DAT)
The DAT is a computerized 5 hour exam. Students can register for the exam online at www.ada.org after obtaining a DENTPIN at ada.org/dentpin.aspx. The test is given at Sylvan Learning Center locations throughout the country by Prometric. The cost of this exam is $385. You will receive your scores upon completion of the exam. If you decide to retake the exam, you must wait ninety days before taking another test. Students are encouraged to take the DAT prior to July 1 of the year they are submitting their application.

Both tests are offered on the TAMU campus at Measurement and Research Services.

HOW FAST CAN I GET INTO MEDICAL/DENTAL SCHOOL?

Of all those accepted to medical/dental school, at least 98% will have attained a bachelor's degree before they enter. The disadvantages of not earning a bachelor's degree are that you miss out on the best parts of college (the social interactions and unrelated courses that provide depth and lifelong memories) and, again, you have no insurance should something go awry. It is extremely rare that a student will have competitive enough grades, MCAT/DAT scores, extracurricular activities, and maturity to be admitted to medical school with only 90 credit hours and to dental school with only 60 credit hours. We strongly recommend that you take your time. Go slowly and strive for good grades and for becoming a well-rounded and well-educated individual. Medical and dental schools give much more credibility to this type of record.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY TO MEDICAL/DENTAL SCHOOL?

Starting in the Fall of your Junior year, the timeline below can help you plan for the next 2 years:

| MEDICAL |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sept-Dec | Jan-Mar | April-May | June-July | Aug-Dec | Jan-Apr | July-Aug |
| Attend OPSA File Workshop | Work on OPSA file! | Complete OPSA file by April deadline. | Submit apps by June 1 | Interviews | Medical Match Preference Submission Deadline for TMDAS (mid January) | Enter Medical School! |
| Start OPSA File Workshop | Follow up on evaluations at https://opsa.tamu.edu/opsadb | Applications available online (May 1) | Request OPSA to send evaluations | Rolling Admissions begin for TMDAS medical schools- Nov 15- Dec 31". | TMDSAS Match Results Announced (early February) |
| Study and prepare for MCAT | Study and prepare for MCAT | Study and prepare for MCAT | Interviews in late July for medical. | MCAT dates available in Aug. and Sept. | Complete financial aid forms ASAP |
| MCAT test dates in late Jan. | MCAT test dates in March, April and May. | MCAT dates available in mid June and July. | Attend OPSA Application Workshop | Attend OPSA Interview Workshop | |
DENTAL

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<td>Attend OPSA File Workshop</td>
<td>Work on OPSA file!</td>
<td>Complete OPSA file by April deadline.</td>
<td>Submit apps by June 1</td>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>Complete financial aid forms ASAP</td>
<td>Enter Dental School!</td>
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<td>Start OPSA file</td>
<td>Follow up on evaluations at <a href="https://opsa.tamu.edu/opsarb">https://opsa.tamu.edu/opsarb</a></td>
<td>Applications available online (May 1)</td>
<td>Request OPSA to send evaluations</td>
<td>Rolling Admissions begin</td>
<td>Acceptances Continue</td>
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<td>Study and prepare for DAT</td>
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<td>Interviews begin in August for dental.</td>
<td>Dental Acceptance letters begin (Dec 1)</td>
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WHAT ELSE IS REQUIRED BEYOND GOOD GRADES AND THE MCAT/DAT:
- **Supportive letters of evaluation** - 3 letters if premedical and 4 letters if predental (2 of which are from professors you have had in class)
- **Well-rounded interests and participation outside of the classroom, leadership**
- **Exposure to medical or dental environment as well as research experience can be valuable**
- **Solid interviewing and communication skills**

Admission to medical and dental school is extremely competitive. Schools will examine your grade point average for both science and non-science courses. These grades and MCAT/DAT scores are generally the criteria used to make initial selections from the applicant pool, so it is important to develop good study habits in your first year. Once invited to interview, selection is based on overall characteristics including motivation, experience and communication skills.

**STATISTICS:**

**2013 Medical**
- 63% of the class of 2013 were accepted.
- Top 4 Majors with highest % acceptance rate: (those which had more than 10 applicants)
  - Biomedical Engineering 70%
  - Biochemistry 63%
  - Biomedical Science 59%
  - Biology 50%
- Medical schools Aggies went to:
  - Baylor 14
  - UT Houston 37
  - UTMB Galveston 19
  - UT San Antonio 22
  - UT Southwestern 12
  - Texas Tech 14
  - Texas Tech El Paso 3
  - Texas A&M HSC 42
  - TCOM 24
  - Out of State 27
- 92% of Aggies who had a 3.6 or above and a 27 or above on the MCAT were accepted.
- Top Departments with highest % acceptance rate: (those which had more than 10 applicants in 2012 class)
  - Agriculture 77%
  - Engineering 72%
  - Veterinary Medicine 71%
  - Science 68%

**2013 Dental**
- 55% of the class of 2013 were accepted.
- 67% of Aggies with a 3.5 or above were accepted.
- Dental schools Aggies went to:
  - Texas:
    - Texas A&M Baylor 10
    - UT Houston 14
    - UT San Antonio 7
  - Out of State:
    - Meharry Medical College
    - Tufts University
    - University of New England
    - University of Southern California
    - University of Kentucky
    - Roseman University
TEXAS APPLICATION SERVICE

Texas Medical and Dental School Application Services (TMDSAS)
210 W. 6th Street
Room #B.140E
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 499-4785
www.tmdsas.com
info@tmdsas.com

TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Baylor College of Medicine
Office of Admissions
One Baylor Plaza
Houston, TX 77030
(713) 798-4842
http://www.bcm.edu

Texas A&M Health Science Center
College of Medicine
8447 State Highway 47
Bryan, TX 77807-3200
(979) 436-0237
http://medicine.tamhsc.edu

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
School of Medicine
3601 Fourth Street, MS 6216
Lubbock, TX 79430
(806) 743-2297
http://www.ttuhsc.edu

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center – El Paso
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
4800 Alberta Ave
El Paso, TX 79905
(915) 215-4410
http://elpaso.ttuhsc.edu/fostersom

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75390-9162
(214) 648-5617
http://www.utsouthwestern.edu

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
1.208, Ashbel Smith Building
301 University Blvd.
School of Medicine
Galveston, TX 77555-1307
(409) 772-6958
http://www.som.utmb.edu

University of Texas – Houston Medical School
6431 Fannin Street; MSB G.420
Houston, TX 77030
(713) 500-5116
http://www.med.uth.edu

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, TX 78229-3900
(210) 567-6080
http://som.uthscsa.edu

University of North Texas Health Science Center
Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM)
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Ft. Worth, TX 76107-2699
(817) 735-2204; (800) 535-8266
http://web.unthsc.edu/education/tcom

TEXAS DENTAL SCHOOLS

Texas A&M University
Baylor College of Dentistry
3302 Gaston Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75246-2013
(214) 828-8231
http://bcd.tamhsc.edu

University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston
7500 Cambridge St., Suite 4120
Houston, Texas 77054
(713) 486-4151
http://www.db.uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental Branch
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78229-7702
(210) 567-2667

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