

PRE-DENTISTRY

Students pursuing a career in dentistry should take special care to prepare. While most dental schools require the completion of a four-year degree from an accredited institution, the pre-dental coursework requirements vary from school to school. Every dental school has unique requirements which may include coursework, laboratory, volunteer, and healthcare experiences. Each school determines their own list of required and recommended pre-dental coursework. Students are encouraged to review curriculum outlines for years 1 and 2 of the professional programs to which they intend to apply and are encouraged to enroll in coursework that provides foundational knowledge to support their success when planning electives to complete their academic plan.

Pre-Professional Advising: Many students at UMKC are interested in career paths in healthcare. For students who plan to enter professional schools after finishing their undergraduate degree, we offer a variety of workshops, seminars, and pre-professional advising. Students are encouraged to select a major that matches their interests and provides the foundation necessary for success in their professional curriculum.

Students interested in preparing for a career in dentistry or other healthcare areas are encouraged to connect with a Pre-Professional Advisor early and often. Pre-professional programs can be found in RooGroups. Students with a declared plan of Pre-Dentistry will find the Pre-Professional Health Advisor in their Success Network under "Your Connections" in UMKC Connect and can schedule appointments there. All other students can contact Roo Advising at 816-235-1148 or rooadvising@umkc.edu for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Common Required Courses:

Common requirements for most dental schools include the courses listed below. UMKC Courses that will universally fulfill the requirements are listed along with alternative options. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that any alternative options selected are acceptable for satisfaction of the requirements for the schools to which they intend to apply.

Code	Title	Credits
One Year of Biology:		
BIOLOGY 108 & 108L	General Biology I and General Biology I Laboratory	4
BIOLOGY 109 & 109L	General Biology II and General Biology II Laboratory	4
Alternative courses may include (NOTE: most schools require biology courses to be completed with a lab):		
BIOLOGY 202	Cell Biology	3
BIOLOGY 206	Genetics	3
BIOLOGY 218	Introductory Anatomy	3
NURSE/HLSC 120	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
NURSE/HLSC 160	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
Code		
Title		
Credits		
One Year of English:		
ENGLISH 110 & ENGLISH 225	Introduction to Academic Prose and English II: Intermediate Academic Prose	6
Alternative courses may include:		
English Composition I		3
Any Writing Intensive (WI) Course		3
Code		
Title		
Credits		
Two Years of Chemistry (through Organic Chemistry):		
NOTE: Most schools require chemistry courses to be completed with a lab.		
CHEM 211 & 211L	General Chemistry I and Experimental General Chemistry I	5
CHEM 212R & CHEM 212LR	General Chemistry II and Experimental General Chemistry II	5
CHEM 321 & 321L	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry Laboratory I	4
CHEM 322R & CHEM 322L	Organic Chemistry II and Organic Chemistry Laboratory II	4

Code	Title	Credits
One Year of Physics:		
PHYSICS 210 & PHYSICS 220	General Physics I and General Physics II	8
OR		
PHYSICS 240 & PHYSICS 250	Physics For Scientists and Engineers I and Physics For Scientists and Engineers II	10

UMKC Dental School Specific Requirements:

Code	Title	Credits
Anatomy and Physiology (choose one of two options below):		
BIOLOGY 218 & 218L	Introductory Anatomy and Introductory Anatomy Laboratory	5
BIOLOGY 316 & BIOLOGY 217L	Principles of Physiology and Human Physiology Laboratory	4
OR		
NURSE 120	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
NURSE 160	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
Cell Biology and Biochemistry:		
BIOLOGY 202	Cell Biology	3
BIOLOGY 441	Biochemistry	3

Common Recommended Courses:

Students are encouraged to engage in academic or laboratory research opportunities as part of their preparation for dental school and related professions. Early exposure to scientific inquiry demonstrates interest and involvement in the creation of knowledge, improves critical thinking, and assists with writing and communication skills. Visit Undergraduate Research @ UMKC (<https://www.umkc.edu/searchsite/>) for more information.

The following courses are commonly recommended to students to ensure they have foundational knowledge in subjects that comprise curriculum in the first two years of the professional dental curriculum.

Code	Title	Credits
Science		
BIOLOGY 206	Genetics	3
BIOLOGY 306	From Bench to Bedside: Translational Research	3
BIOLOGY 313	Microbiology	3
BIOLOGY 319	Global Health: New and Emerging Infectious Diseases	3
BIOLOGY 328	Histology	3
BIOLOGY 409	Developmental Biology	3
BIOLOGY 435	Immunology	3
HLSC 125	Medical Terminology	1
HLSC 410	Epidemiology	3
Social Sciences		
ANTHRO 103	Introduction To Cultural Anthropology	3
HLSC 252	Human Growth and Development	3
HLSC 300	Diversity in Health	3
HLSC 404	Introduction to Social Justice	1
PBHL 158	Public Health Principles	3
PBHL 335	Historical and Contemporary Issues in Public Health	3
PBHL 358	Environmental Public Health	3
PSYCH 210	General Psychology	3
PSYCH 222	Child Psychology	3

PSYCH 433	Psychological Disorders	3
SOCIOL 201	Introduction To Social Psychology	3

Code	Title	Credits
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Humanities

ART-HIST 110	Introduction to the History of Art: Pyramids to Picasso	3
COMM-ST 277	Interpersonal Communication	3
COMM-ST 344	Organizational Communication	3
ENGLISH 304WI	Professional and Technical Writing	3
ENGLISH 306WI	Advanced Composition	3
PHILOS 210	Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHILOS 221	Contemporary Moral Issues	3
PHILOS 321	Ethics	3

Code	Title	Credits
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Statistics (choose one of the following):

BIOLOGY 304	Biostatistics 1	3
CJC 303	Introduction to Statistics in Sociology and Criminal Justice	3
PSYCH 316	Quantitative Methods In Psychology	3
SOCIOL 363	Introduction to Statistics in Sociology/Criminal Justice	3
STAT 115	Statistical Reasoning	3
STAT 235	Elementary Statistics	3

Students can utilize PlanMyDegree (<https://planmydegree.umkc.edu/>) to plan common admission course requirements

Students can learn more about preparing for a career in dentistry, including lists of U.S. and Canadian dental schools and their requirements through the American Dental Association (ADA) and American Dental Education Association (ADEA).

ADA: <https://www.ada.org/en> (<https://www.ada.org/en/>)

ADEA: <https://www.adea.org/godental> (<https://www.adea.org/godental/>)

In addition to specific admission requirements, all dental schools require students to take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) as part of a comprehensive admission process. Students can find more information about these exams, including subject components, scoring, and resources for preparation using the link below. Students planning to take the DAT are encouraged to complete coursework in the subject components to ensure they have a foundational understanding of the material for successful completion of the exam. Students preparing for the DAT should consider applying for the Dental Scholars program.

DAT: <https://www.ada.org/education/testing/exams/dental-admission-test-dat> (<https://www.ada.org/education/testing/exams/dental-admission-test-dat/>)

Dental Scholars (STAHR): <https://info.umkc.edu/stahr/scholars/dat-prep/>

Students applying for professional schools of dentistry do so through a centralized application service. Two such services are utilized for schools in the U.S. and Canada; the Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) and the Texas Medical and Dental School Application Service (TMDSAS). Students can learn more about the centralized application services including requirements for personal statements, letters of evaluation, timelines and fee assistance programs through the links below.

AADSAS: <https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Apply/>

TMDSAS: <https://www.tmdsas.com/>

Students interested in applying to the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) program through the UMKC School of Dentistry are encouraged to schedule a one-on-one meeting with an admissions advisor to meet to discuss the DDS program and tour the school. Students can email dds@umkc.edu for assistance scheduling this appointment. More information is available on their website including information about DDS Information Events, shadowing at the school, Dental Explorer's Post, the DAT Prep Program and STAHR Scholars Dentistry Program.

UMKC School of Dentistry: <https://dentistry.umkc.edu/>