

# HOW TO GET INTO DENTAL SCHOOL

JOSHUA LEE AND CHRISTIAN SOCCI



# SEMINAR OUTLINE

SLIDES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE SOS WEBSITE

- **Dental Aptitude Test (DAT)**
- **Canadian Dental Schools - Requirements**
- **Dental School Interviews**

# BECOMING A DENTIST

## **STEP 1**

Work Towards an Undergraduate Degree



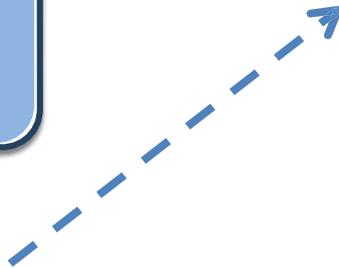
## **STEP 2**

Gain Admission to an accredited Dental School



## **STEP 3**

Write Licensing Exams



## **OPTIONAL**

Specialize Further & Pass appropriate Licensing Exam



**PRACTICE DENTISTRY**

YOU ARE NOW A DENTIST!

# LIFE OF A DENTIST

# LETS WATCH A VIDEO!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY9xDxLg5aE>

# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST

- Standardized exam taken by potential dental school students
- Can write DAT unlimited number of times
- Following reported on official DAT transcript:
  - Results of most recent DAT written
  - Total number of times DAT written
- **More info:** Canadian Dental Association (CDA) website
  - <http://www.cda-adc.ca>



# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FORMAT

SECTIONS	FORMAT	SAMPLE TOPICS
<b>Natural Sciences</b> (Biology & Chemistry)		
<b>Perceptual Ability</b>		
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>		
<b>Manual Dexterity</b>		

# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FORMAT

SECTIONS	FORMAT	SAMPLE TOPICS
<b>Natural Sciences</b> (Biology & Chemistry)	60 Minutes 40 Biology and 30 General Chem. Questions	- Cell metabolism - Physiology - Genetics - Atomic and Molecular Structure
<b>Perceptual Ability</b>		
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>		
<b>Manual Dexterity</b>		

# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FORMAT

SECTIONS	FORMAT	SAMPLE TOPICS
<b>Natural Sciences</b> (Biology & Chemistry)	60 Minutes 40 Biology and 30 General Chem. Questions	- Cell metabolism - Physiology - Genetics - Atomic and Molecular Structure
<b>Perceptual Ability</b>	60 Minutes 90 Questions	-Angle discrimination -Form development -Cubes -Orthographic projections -Apertures
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>		
<b>Manual Dexterity</b>		

# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FORMAT

SECTIONS	FORMAT	SAMPLE TOPICS
<b>Natural Sciences</b> (Biology & Chemistry)	60 Minutes 40 Biology and 30 General Chem. Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cell metabolism</li> <li>- Physiology</li> <li>- Genetics</li> <li>- Atomic and Molecular Structure</li> </ul>
<b>Perceptual Ability</b>	60 Minutes 90 Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Angle discrimination</li> <li>-Form development</li> <li>-Cubes</li> <li>-Orthographic projections</li> <li>-Apertures</li> </ul>
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	50 Minutes 50 Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Answer ques. based on passages</li> <li>- Read, organize, and analyze new information</li> </ul>
<b>Manual Dexterity</b>		

# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FORMAT

SECTIONS	FORMAT	SAMPLE TOPICS
<b>Natural Sciences</b> (Biology & Chemistry)	60 Minutes 40 Biology and 30 General Chem. Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cell metabolism</li> <li>- Physiology</li> <li>- Genetics</li> <li>- Atomic and Molecular Structure</li> </ul>
<b>Perceptual Ability</b>	60 Minutes 90 Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Angle discrimination</li> <li>-Form development</li> <li>-Cubes</li> <li>-Orthographic projections</li> <li>-Apertures</li> </ul>
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	50 Minutes 50 Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Answer ques. based on passages</li> <li>- Read, organize, and analyze new information</li> </ul>
<b>Manual Dexterity</b>	30 Minutes	Carving a specified model out of bar of soap

# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST SCORING

- Total of 210 questions on English DAT
- Also scores Academic Average
  - INCLUDES: Natural Sciences and Reading Comprehension scores
- Often dental schools look at:
  - Academic Average (AA)
  - Perceptual Ability Test (PAT) score
  - Reading Comprehension (RC) score
- Not all dental schools look at Manual Dexterity (MDT)



# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST REGISTRATION

- DAT is **held twice a year** [November 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 & February 24<sup>th</sup> 2018]
  - Registration begins in July
  - Registration deadline for Nov DAT- Sept 15<sup>th</sup> (expired)
  - Registration deadline for Feb DAT- Jan 15<sup>th</sup>
- **Register online** on CDA website
  - <http://www.cda-adc.ca>

# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FEE

- **DAT Total: \$365**

- Written Test Portion: \$295
- Manual Dexterity Test Portion: \$70

**\*\*Note: Manual Dexterity Portion is *optional*\*\***

- Because not all Canadian dental schools require Manual Dexterity Test (MDT)
- Strongly consider taking the MDT if planning to applying out of province



# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST

## FEE

■ **DAT Total: \$365**

- **Written Test Portion: \$295**
- **Manual Dexterity Test Portion: \$70**
  - **Additional administration fee : \$30 + tax**
    - List of all dental schools that have been sent your DAT scores
    - Verification that the DAT Office has received your registration form
    - Verification that the DAT Office has received your fax requesting DAT material, DAT scores, etc.

**\*\* Note: Manual Dexterity Portion is *optional* \*\***

### Following schools don't require MDT Portion

- **University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario, University of British Columbia, Dalhousie University, McGill University**

### ■ **DAT Fee covers:**

- **A scheduled DAT**
- **An official student transcript**
- **5 official transcripts mailed directly to Canadian dental schools indicated on the registration form**

# DENTAL APTITUDE TEST

## AMERICAN vs. CANADIAN

- American DAT:
  - Has no Manual Dexterity Test (carving) Portion
  - Includes Quantitative Reasoning (math) Portion
  - Includes Organic Chemistry
  
- American DAT **NOT** accepted for entry into **all** Canadian Schools
  
- Canadian version **IS** accepted by American Schools

# CANADIAN DENTAL SCHOOLS

- University of Toronto
- University of Western Ontario
- University of Alberta
- University of British Columbia University of Manitoba
- Dalhousie University
- McGill University
- University of Saskatchewan

# DEGREE GRANTED BY DENTAL SCHOOLS

D.D.S OR D.M.D

- Upon graduation from an accredited dental school, you earn:
  - Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) ; or
  - Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)
- Training and education received for either degree is similar
- Difference is only in the name
  - Some dental schools award the DMD degree while others award the DDS degree.



# How to calculate your GPA: <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/students/gpa.html>

Undergraduate Grading System  
Conversion Table

## OMSAS 2012

Échelles de notation  
au premier cycle

Type Scale Échelle	Numeric/Numérique		Percentage/Pourcentage				Alpha/Alpha			OMSAS Value Valeur OMSAS
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
4.00	9	8	90–100	93–100	94–100	94–100	A+	A	A+	4.00
3.90			85–89	84–92	87–93	85–93	A			3.90
3.80									A	3.80
3.70	8	7	80–84	75–83	80–86	80–84	A-	A-		3.70
3.30	7	6	77–79	72–74	75–79	75–79	B+	B+	B+	3.30
3.00			73–76	69–71	70–74	70–74	B	B	B	3.00
2.70	6	5	70–72	66–68	65–69	65–69	B-	B-		2.70
2.30	5	4	67–69	64–65	60–64	60–64	C+	C+	C+	2.30
2.00			63–66	62–63	55–59	55–59	C	C	C	2.00
1.70	4	3	60–62	60–61	50–54		C-	C-		1.70
1.30		2	57–59	56–59			D+	D+	D+	1.30
1.00			53–56	53–55		50–54	D	D	D	1.00
0.70			50–52	50–52			D-	D-		0.70
0.00	3	1	≤ 49	≤ 49	≤ 49	≤ 49	E/F	E/F	E/F	0.00

Algoma	3	Guelph	3	Mt. Allison	7	Royal Roads	7	Trinity Western	7
Acadia	7	Lakehead	3	Mt. St. Vincent	7	Ryerson	7	UBC	7
Alberta	7	Laurentian	3	New Brunswick	7	Saskatchewan	3	UOIT	7
Athabasca	7	Laval	7	Nipissing	3	Sherbrooke	7	Victoria	7
Bishop's	3	Lethbridge	7	Northern B.C.	7	Simon Fraser	7	Waterloo	3,7
Brandon	7	Manitoba	9	Ottawa	7	St. Francis Xavier	3	Western	3
Brock	3	McGill	8	Prince Edward Island	3	St. Mary's	7	Wilfrid Laurier	7
Calgary	7	McMaster	7	Quebec	7	St. Thomas	7	Windsor	7
Carleton	7	Memorial	6	Queen's	3,7	Ste-Anne	7	Winnipeg	7
Concordia	7	Moncton	7	Regina	3	Toronto	3,7	York	9
Dalhousie	3,7	Montreal	7	RMC/CMR	4,7	Trent	3		

Please note: The above scales are applicable only to current grading schemes.

# SCHOOLS IN WEST CANADA PREREQUISITES

Schools	Prerequisites 6=full year equivalent 3=half year equivalent
Alberta (Alberta)	Biology 6, Chemistry 6, Physics 6, Organic Chemistry 6, Biochemistry 3, English 6, Statistics 3
UBC (British Columbia)	Biology 6, Chemistry 6, Organic Chemistry 6, Biochemistry 6, English 6
Manitoba (Manitoba)	Biology 6, Chemistry 6, Physics 6, Organic Chemistry 6, Biochemistry 6, English 6, Humanities/Social Science 6

## SCHOOLS IN EAST CANADA PREREQUISITES

Schools	Prerequisites 6=full year equivalent 3=half year equivalent
Dalhousie (Nova Scotia)	Biology w/ labs 6, Chemistry w/ labs 3, Physics w/ labs 6, Organic Chemistry w/ labs 3, Biochemistry 3, Microbiology 3, Vertebrate physiology 6, Writing course 6, Humanities/Social Science 12
Toronto (Ontario)	Biochemistry 6, Human/Mammalian Physiology 6, Life Sciences 12, Humanities/Social Science 6
Western (Ontario)	Organic Chemistry w/ labs 3, Biochemistry w/ labs 3, Human/Mammalian Physiology 6 (or with challenge exam)
McGill (Quebec)	Biology w/ labs 6, Chemistry w/ labs 3, Physics w/ labs 6, Organic Chemistry w/ labs 3, Recommended Biochemistry 3, Physiology 6

# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ONTARIO

## Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)

### REQUIREMENTS:

- At least 3 years of undergrad

### GPA:

- Minimum 3.0 overall
- Average GPA of those invited for interview: 3.85
- Summer courses include in GPA calculation
- Courses completed after [MAY 31 of entry yr] not considered
- Worst academic year dropped from GPA calculation if:
  - Completed 4 or more years; &
  - It's not the most recent year

# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ONTARIO

**DAT:** If written more than once, then highest score used, must have been taken within 2 calendar years prior to application

American DAT is accepted

Academic Average (AA): 22

Perceptual Ability Test (PAT): 21

**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** DECEMBER 1st

# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## ONTARIO

- **175-190 domestic applicants invited for an interview**
- **It graduates approximately 70 qualified dentists each year**
- **Full course load not required each year**
- **No reference letters required in application package**

# UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO ONTARIO

## Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Be in final year or completed undergraduate degree

### GPA:

- Summer courses
  - not counted as part of F/W session
  - may be taken for pre-req credits
  - marks not included in GPA calculation
- Years with less than 24 credits not included in GPA
- Years with less than 30 credits counted but w/ a penalty

# UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

## ONTARIO

- **Effective the application cycle beginning October 1, 2017, the two best undergraduate years used for admission consideration must have a full course load of 5.0 full or equivalent courses (30 credit hours) taken between September and April, with at least 3.0 full course equivalents whose published level is at or above the year level of study.**
- **In your 1st year of study 3 of 5 full course equivalents must be at the 1st year-level or above**
- **In your 2nd year of study 3 of 5 full course equivalents must be at the 2nd year-level or above**
- **In your 3rd year of study 3 of 5 full course equivalents must be at the 3rd year-level or above**
- **In your 4th year of study 3 of 5 full course equivalents must be at the 3rd year-level or above. Note: *A mix of 3rd and 4th year courses to make up the 3 full course equivalents is acceptable in the fourth year***

# UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO ONTARIO

- **Effective the application cycle beginning October 1, 2017, successful completion of prerequisite courses for Dentistry Admissions requires a minimum grade of B or 74.5% based on the Ontario Medical School Application Service (OMSAS) scale for applicants studying at a Canadian university.**
- **Pre-requisites**
- At least one half lab course in Organic Chemistry
- At least one half course in Biochemistry
- One full course in Human or Mammalian Physiology
- **\*\*Only prerequisites taken within ten years of the application deadline are deemed acceptable\*\***

# UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO ONTARIO

- **3. Autobiographical Sketch & Personal Statement**
- Applicants have the opportunity to outline additional scholastic and non-scholastic achievements in the autobiographical sketch that may not be evident in the application and academic transcripts
- Purpose- highlight your strengths, motivation to enter the field, and achievements

# UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO ONTARIO

## **DAT:**

- If written more than once, most recent score used
- American DAT is accepted

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 1**

# UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

- **Academic Competitiveness: 80% or higher average in each of two academic years, and DAT score of 21/30**

**Average of Dental 2020 class: 89.82%**  
**Minimum RC score on DAT- 19**

- **Receive approximately 500-600 applications for 56 positions**
- **No reference letters required in application package**

# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## ALBERTA

### Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- At least 2 years (60 credits)
- At least 1 year should have full course load (30 credits)

#### **GPA:**

- Average accepted GPA in 2016: 3.85
- Lowest academic year dropped from GPA calculation if:
  - Completed 4 or more years; &
  - It's not the most recent year
  - It's not the only year with full course load (30 credits)

# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## ALBERTA

**DAT:** If written more than once, then highest score used

- Only Canadian DAT is accepted
- Manual Dexterity (carving) score required

**Class Profile: 2016 Admission Year**

- DAT Reading: Mean 22.75
- DAT PAT: Mean 21.50
- DAT Manual: 24.15

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: November 1**

No reference letters required in application package

# UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Doctor of Dental Medicine (**DMD**)

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Completed 3 years of an undergrad (90 credits)

### GPA:

- Summer courses included in GPA calculation
- Worst academic year dropped from GPA calculation if:
  - Completed 4 or more years; &
  - It's not the most recent year
  - It includes at least 24 credits

# UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

## MANITOBA

### ■ Doctor of Dental Medicine (**DMD**)

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Completed 2 years (60 credits)
- Minimum 24 credits required for a year to be considered

### GPA:

- Adjusted Grade Point Average (AGPA)
  - Core course average last year: 3.8

*Applicants with two years of pre-dental studies:*  
(2 x the average on the CORE courses)  
PLUS  
(1 x the average on lower year)  
PLUS  
(3 x average on better year)  
DIVIDED BY SIX

- Summer courses not included in GPA calculation

# UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

## MANITOBA

**DAT:** If written more than once, then highest score used

- Only Canadian DAT is accepted
- Manual Dexterity (carving) score required

**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** January 15, 2018

No reference letters required in application package

<http://umanitoba.ca/admissions/application/programs/dentistry-application.html>

# DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

## NOVA SCOTIA

Doctor of Dental Surgery (**DDS**)

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Completed 2 years of undergrad (60 credits)

### **GPA:**

- Last Year average: 3.7

**DAT:** American DAT is accepted, MDT score not required

**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** December 1

# MCGILL UNIVERSITY

## QUEBEC

Doctor of Dental Medicine (**DMD**)

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Be in final year or completed undergraduate degree

### **GPA:**

- average for IN PROV: 3.82
- 2016 average for IN PROV: 3.82
- 2016 average for OOP: 3.88

**DAT:** NOT REQUIRED

### **APPLICATION PACKAGE ALSO INCLUDES:**

#### ■ **Two Reference Letters**

- **1:** from a professor / TA / lab demonstrator who can attest to applicant's academic abilities
- **2:** from a non-academic referee who supervised applicant while working/volunteering in a health care or social service setting

#### ■ **Personal Statement**

#### ■ **Resume**

**Deadline November 1**

# SCHOOLS IN CANADA

School	Cut off GPA	Ave. Entrance GPA	Year to Apply*
Alberta	3.0	3.90 (3.7-4.0)	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
UBC	2.8	89.01	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
Manitoba		(AGPA)	2 <sup>nd</sup> year

School	Cut off GPA	Ave. Entrance GPA	Year to Apply*
Dalhousie		Last two years	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
Toronto	3.0	3.9	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
Western	80%	89.82	4 <sup>th</sup> year
McGill		3.88	4 <sup>th</sup> year

- Each year considered as full year course load

# Canadian Dental School Application Requirements : Minimum & Competitive DAT Scores

School	<a href="#">UBC</a>	<a href="#">Alberta</a>	<a href="#">Manitoba</a>	<a href="#">Saskatchewan</a>	<a href="#">Toronto</a>	<a href="#">Western</a>	<a href="#">Dalhousie</a>	<a href="#">Montreal</a>	<a href="#">Laval</a>	<a href="#">McGill</a>
--------	---------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------

This chart is intended as a general guide. Please visit individual schools' websites for up-to-date, complete details.

Legend: X = Used, NR = Not Required

Oldest acceptable score:	5 years prior	5 years prior	3 years prior	3 years prior	2 years prior	2 years prior to Dec 1 deadline	2 years prior "February of	Website is in French.	Website is in French.	McGill does
Latest acceptable score 2014 Application Cycle:	2									
Uses Best or Most Recent Score?	Nov 2013	Nov 2013	Nov 2013	Feb 2014	Nov 2013	Nov 2013	the year of application"	Please contact eventualDDS@gmail.com if you'd like to	Please contact eventualDDS@gmail.com if you'd like to	not consider DAT scores as part of admissions criteria.
Accepts American DAT Scores?	Best	Best	Best	Best	Best	Recent	Best			

	Yes	No	No	Yes, but must write CDA-DAT if accepted	Yes, only if not residing in Canada	Yes, only if not residing in Canada	Yes, only if not residing in Canada	contribute.	contribute.	
Biology										
Chemistry										
Reading Comprehension		5	18.66?	X		8	5			NR
Academic Average	X	5		X	X	X	5			
Perceptual Ability	X		14	X	X		5	0	5	
Manual Dexterity	NR	5	12	NR	NR	NR	NR	5	5	

## Average DAT Scores of those Admitted

Biology										
Chemistry										
Reading Comprehension	21.24	22.427	18.88			21	"21+ is considered competitive"			NR
Academic Average	214		8.8	21		21				
Perceptual Ability	22.13		9.6	22						
Manual Dexterity	2133		NR	NR		NR?	NR			
Info Last Updated	2-Jul-2013 23.35	2-Jul-2013	29-Jul-2013	2-Jul-2013	27-Jun-201	27-Jun-2013	27-Jun-2013	27-Jun-2013	27-Jun-2013	27-Jun-2013

# DENTAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW

- **Evaluates an applicant's:**
  - Maturity, Motivation, Initiative, Ability to communicate, Personal qualities
  
- **POSSIBLE FORMATS:**
  - 1) Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)**
    - Interviewee exposed to series of stations
    - At stations: interviewee provided a question/scen and given time to formulate a response
  
  - 2) Panel Interview**
    - Often includes 3 interviewer on a panel
    - Interactive and group oriented
    - Often group of candidates interviewed together

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

<http://www.dentistry.ualberta.ca/en/ProgramsAdmissions/Dentistry/DDSOverview/DDSFAQs/SampleMMIQuestions.aspx>

# DENTAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW

## Assessing your personal qualities

- \* Personal qualities -Maturity
- \* Personal experiences and interests
- \* Exposure to health care and medical research environments
- \* Potential contributions to the campus and community
- \* Ability to communicate



## Preparation:

- \* Plan your trip carefully
- \* Dress accordingly to weather
- \* Dress comfortable
- \* Practice common questions
- \* Know your application
- \* Be honest and sincere
- \* Be ready to discuss your research in layman's terms
- \* Thank everyone who helped



# STUDENT OMBUDS SERVICES

[bethune.yorku.ca/sos](http://bethune.yorku.ca/sos)

**SOS Office: BC 208**

Open 9:30am – 4:30pm