SOS Seminar

How to Get Into Dental School

PRESENTED BY
Claudia Tran & Simran Purewal
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](http://www.cda-adc.ca)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTIONS</th>
<th>FORMAT</th>
<th>SAMPLE TOPICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences (Biology &amp; Chemistry)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual Ability</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Reading Comprehension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manual Dexterity</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td>60 Minutes</td>
<td>- Cell metabolism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Biology &amp; Chemistry)</td>
<td>40 Biology and 30</td>
<td>- Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Chem. Questions</td>
<td>- Genetics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Atomic and Molecular Structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perceptual Ability</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Natural Sciences (Biology & Chemistry) | 60 Minutes 40 Biology and 30 General Chem. Questions | - Cell metabolism  
- Physiology  
- Genetics  
- Atomic and Molecular Structure |
| Perceptual Ability             | 60 Minutes 90 Questions | - Angle discrimination  
- Form development  
- Cubes  
- Orthographic projections  
- Apertures                  |
<p>| Reading Comprehension          |                         |                                         |
| Manual Dexterity               |                         |                                         |</p>
<table>
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<th>SAMPLE TOPICS</th>
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- Atomic and Molecular Structure |
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- Form development  
- Cubes  
- Orthographic projections  
- Apertures |
| Reading Comprehension                  | 50 Minutes 50 Questions     | - Answer ques. based on passages  
- Read, organize, and analyze new information |
<p>| Manual Dexterity                       |                             |                                                        |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<th>FORMAT</th>
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- Physiology  
- Genetics  
- Atomic and Molecular Structure |
| Perceptual Ability               | 60 Minutes 90 Questions | - Angle discrimination  
- Form development  
- Cubes  
- Orthographic projections  
- Apertures |
| Reading Comprehension            | 50 Minutes 50 Questions | - Answer ques. based on passages  
- Read, organize, and analyze new information |
| Manual Dexterity                 | 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 5th 2016 & February 25th 2017]
  - Registration begins in July
  - Registration deadline for Nov DAT- Sept 15th (expired)
  - Registration deadline for Feb DAT- Jan 15th
- **Register online** on CDA website
  - [http://www.cda-adc.ca](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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Toronto</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Western Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Manitoba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalhousie University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Saskatchewan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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](http://www.yorku.ca/laps/students/gpa.html)

Undergraduate Grading System
Conversion Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Numeric/Numérique</th>
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<tr>
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<td>OMSAS Value Valeur OMSAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.90</td>
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<td>3.80</td>
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<td>67–69</td>
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<td>2.00</td>
<td>63–66</td>
<td>62–63</td>
<td>55–59</td>
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<td>1.70</td>
<td>60–62</td>
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<td>50–54</td>
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<td>57–59</td>
<td>56–59</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>53–56</td>
<td>53–55</td>
<td>50–54</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>50–52</td>
<td>50–52</td>
<td>D–</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>≤ 49</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Guelph</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mt. Allison</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acadia</td>
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<td>Lakehead</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mt. St. Vincent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
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<td>Laurentian</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athabasca</td>
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<td>Laval</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Nipissing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop's</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lethbridge</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Northern B.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandon</td>
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<td>Manitoba</td>
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<td>Ottawa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brock</td>
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<td>McGill</td>
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<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
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<td>McMaster</td>
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<td>Quebec</td>
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<td>Carleton</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Memorial</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Queen's</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concordia</td>
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<td>Moncton</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dalhousie</td>
<td>3,7</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>RMC/CMR</td>
<td>4,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Trinity Western</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>UBC</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wilfrid Laurier</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: The above scales are applicable only to current grading schemes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Prerequisites 6=full year equivalent 3=half year equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alberta (Alberta)</td>
<td>Biology 6, Chemistry 6, Physics 6, Organic Chemistry 6,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biochemistry 3, English 6, Statistics 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBC (British Columbia)</td>
<td>Biology 6, Chemistry 6, Organic Chemistry 6, Biochemistry 6,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba (Manitoba)</td>
<td>Biology 6, Chemistry 6, Physics 6, Organic Chemistry 6,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biochemistry 6, English 6, Humanities/Social Science 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/information/schools/
# Schools in East Canada

## Prerequisites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Prerequisites 6=full year equivalent 3=half year equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dalhousie (Nova Scotia)</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto (Ontario)</td>
<td>Biochemistry 6, Human/Mammalian Physiology 6, Life Sciences 12, Humanities/Social Science 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western (Ontario)</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry w/ labs 3, Biochemistry w/ labs 3, Human/Mammalian Physiology 6 (or with challenge exam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill (Quebec)</td>
<td>Biology w/ labs 6, Chemistry w/ labs 3, Physics w/ labs 6, Organic Chemistry w/ labs 3, Recommended Biochemistry 3, Physiology 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)

REQUIREMENTS:
- At least 3 years of undergrad

GPA:
- 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
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
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

» [www.schulich.uwo.ca/dentistry](http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/dentistry)
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.
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**
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.
DAT:
• If written more than once, most recent score used
• American DAT is accepted

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 1
**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
Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)

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

**GPA:**
- 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)

» www.dentistry.ualberta.ca
DAT: If written more than once, then highest score used
- Only Canadian DAT is accepted
- Manual Dexterity (carving) score required

DEADLINE TO APPLY: November 1
No reference letters required in application package
- 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

» www.dentistry.ubc.ca
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

» umanitoba.ca/dentistry
**DAT:** If written more than once, then highest score used

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

**DEADLINE TO APPLY:** January 21

No reference letters required in application package
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

» www.dentistry.dal.ca
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Cut off GPA</th>
<th>Ave. Entrance GPA</th>
<th>Year to Apply*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.90 (3.7-4.0)</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBC</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>89.01</td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>(AGPA)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} year</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Cut off GPA</th>
<th>Ave. Entrance GPA</th>
<th>Year to Apply*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dalhousie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last two years</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>89.82</td>
<td>4\textsuperscript{th} year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>4\textsuperscript{th} year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Each year considered as full year course load

» [www.utoronto.ca/dentistry](http://www.utoronto.ca/dentistry)
### Canadian DentalSchool Application Requirements: Minimum & Competitive DAT Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>UBC</th>
<th>Alberta</th>
<th>Manitoba</th>
<th>Saskatchewan</th>
<th>Toronto</th>
<th>Western</th>
<th>Dalhousie</th>
<th>Montreal</th>
<th>Laval</th>
<th>Mcgill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oldest acceptable score:</td>
<td>5 years prior</td>
<td>5 years prior</td>
<td>3 years prior</td>
<td>2 years prior to Dec 1 deadline</td>
<td>2 years prior</td>
<td>2 years prior to Dec 1 deadline</td>
<td>Website is in French.</td>
<td>Website is in French.</td>
<td>McGill does not consider DAT scores as part of admissions criteria.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses Best or Most Recent Score?</td>
<td>Best</td>
<td>Best</td>
<td>Best</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accepts American DAT Scores?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, but must write CDA DAT if accepted</td>
<td>Yes, only if not residing in Canada</td>
<td>Yes, only if not residing in Canada</td>
<td>Yes only if not residing in Canada</td>
<td>Yes only if not residing in Canada</td>
<td>Yes only if not residing in Canada</td>
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</table>

#### Minimum DAT Scores REQUIRED to Apply

<table>
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<th>School</th>
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<th>Mcgill</th>
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#### Average DAT Scores of those Admitted

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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/scenario 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:

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

SOS Office: BC 208
Open 9:30am – 4:30pm