

HOW TO GET INTO DENTAL SCHOOL

EDEN MARCO, SADAF MALIYAR AND SAYA SEDIGHI



Who are we ?

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SEMINAR OUTLINE

SLIDES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE BETHUNE WEBSITE

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

ROUTE TO BECOMING A DENTIST

STEP 1: WORK TOWARDS
AN UNDERGRADUATE
DEGREE AT A UNIVERSITY



STEP 2: WRITE THE DAT
AND GAIN ADMISSION IN A
DENTAL SCHOOL

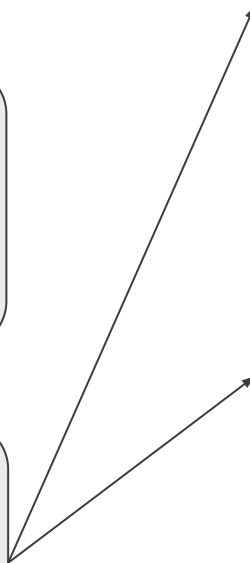


STEP 3: WRITE BOARD
(LICENSING) EXAMS

OPTIONAL

STEP 4: SPECIALIZE
FURTHER AND PASS
APPROPRIATE LICENSING
EXAMS

PRACTICE DENTISTRY



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DENTIST



<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**
- Recommended to write at least a year before entering dental school
- On the **DAT Transcript**, the following will be reported:
 - 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

Natural Sciences
(Biology & Chemistry)

Perceptual Ability

**Reading
Comprehension**

Manual Dexterity

DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FORMAT

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

DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FORMAT

SECTIONS	FORMAT	SAMPLE TOPICS
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
Reading Comprehension		
Manual Dexterity		

DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FORMAT

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

DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FORMAT

SECTIONS	FORMAT	SAMPLE TOPICS
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
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
- Total of 160 questions on French DAT (no RC section)

- DAT also scores **Academic Average**
 - INCLUDES: Natural Sciences and Reading Comprehension scores

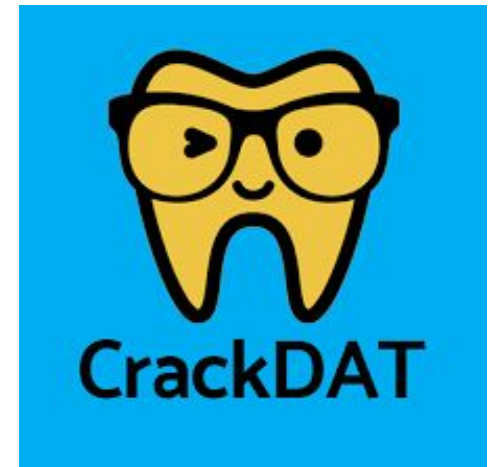
- Often dental schools look at:
 - Academic Average (AA)
 - Perceptual Ability Test (PAT) score
 - Reading Comprehension (RC) score



DAT Score (Quantitatively)	Percentile	DAT Score (Qualitatively)
17-18	50th	Average
19-20	75th	Usually Good
22-23	98th	Very High

DENTAL APTITUDE TEST REGISTRATION

- DAT is held twice a year [November 23, 24, 25, 26 & February 16, 17, 18]
 - Registration begins in July
 - Registration deadline for Nov DAT- Sept 30th (expired)
 - Registration deadline for Feb DAT- TBD (due to COVID-19)
- Register Online on CDA website
 - <http://www.cda-adc.ca>



DENTAL APTITUDE TEST

PREPARATION

- Can buy prep packages/courses to help you prepare for the test itself. Highly recommended!
 - DAT Preparation Kit
 - DAT Preparation Manual
 - Soap Six-Pack

The above are endorsed by the CDA

- **More details** on CDA website
 - <http://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/information/preparation/>

DENTAL APTITUDE TEST FEE

■ DAT Total: \$375 (non-refundable)

- Written Test Portion: \$345
- Additional Administration Fees: \$30+ taxes
- **MDP is typically around an additional \$100



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

The schools that do not require the MDP portion are:

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

■ **The DAT Fees covers the following :**

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

DENTAL APTITUDE TEST

AMERICAN vs. CANADIAN

- American DAT Differences:
 - Has no Manual Dexterity Test (carving) Portion
 - Includes Quantitative Reasoning (math) Portion
 - Includes Organic Chemistry
- American DAT is NOT accepted for entry into **SOME** 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.



SCHOOLS IN WEST CANADA PREREQUISITES

Schools	Prerequisites 6=full year equivalent 3=half year equivalent
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	Biology 6, Chemistry 6, Physics 6, Organic Chemistry 6, Biochemistry 6, English 6, Humanities/Social Science 6

<http://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/information/schools/>

SCHOOLS IN EAST CANADA PREREQUISITES

Schools	Prerequisites 6=full year equivalent 3=half year equivalent
Dalhousie (Nova Scotia)	Biology w/ lab 6, Chemistry w/ lab 6, Physics w/ lab 6, Organic Chemistry w/ lab 6, Biochemistry 3, Microbiology 3, Vertebrate physiology 6, Writing course 6, Humanities/Social Science 12
Toronto	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	Biology w/ labs 6, Chemistry w/ labs 3, Physics w/ labs 6, Organic Chemistry w/ labs 3, Recommended Biochemistry 3, Physiology 6

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS

■ Updates so far (2021 cycle):

- Winter 2020 grades for some schools will not be included in the calculation of admission GPAs
- No changes to the DAT have currently been made
- Please note these are subject to change!

CASPer

- Required by
 - University of Toronto
 - McGill University

- Comprised of 12 sections consisting of video and written prompt scenarios
 - Feel comfortable with tackling ethical dilemmas/difficult situations
 - Answer questions pertaining to situations you have encountered before
 - Takes 75-90 minutes to complete
 - Results are valid for one admissions cycle

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

CASPer

Personal Statement

Essay outlining greatest accomplishment

DEADLINE TO APPLY: DECEMBER 1st of each year

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, 2019, 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.

Each year, have to take at least 3 out of 5 courses that are on that same year level or above

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

ONTARIO

- **Effective the application cycle beginning October 1, 2019, 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, 2020



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

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

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 2019: 3.89
- 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: 2019 Admission Year

- DAT Reading: Mean 22.4
- DAT PAT: Mean 21.3
- DAT Manual: 25.8

DEADLINE TO APPLY: November 1 2020

No reference letters required in application package

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

■ Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)

■ Deadline: November 1, 2020



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



- 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, 2021

No reference letters required in application package

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 1st, 2020



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

QUEBEC

Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)

REQUIREMENTS:

- Be in final year or completed undergraduate degree

GPA:

- average for IN PROV: 3.82
 - 2018 average for OOP: 3.88
- **Personal Statement**
- **Resume**
- Deadline November 1**

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



SCHOOLS IN CANADA

School	Cut off GPA	Ave. Entrance GPA	Year to Apply*	School	Cut off GPA	Ave. Entrance GPA	Year to Apply*
Alberta	3.0	3.90 (3.7-4.0)	2 nd year	Dalhousie		Last two years	2 nd year
UBC	2.8	89.01	3 rd year	Toronto	3.0	3.8	3 rd year
Manitoba		(AGPA)	2 nd year	Western	80%	89.82	4 th year
				McGill		3.88	4 th year

- Each year considered as full year course load

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

DENTAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW

Assessing your personal qualities

- * Personal qualities -- Maturity
- * Personal experiences and interests
- * Exposure to healthcare 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



ALEX KHOZIN - 2ND YEAR DENTAL STUDENT AT U OF T



STUDENT OMBUDS SERVICES

bethune.yorku.ca/sos

Peer Mentor/ SOS

Office: BC 208

Open 9:30am – 3:30pm