

HOW TO GET INTO DENTAL SCHOOL

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Who are we ?

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Fourth year - Biology and Psychology

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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

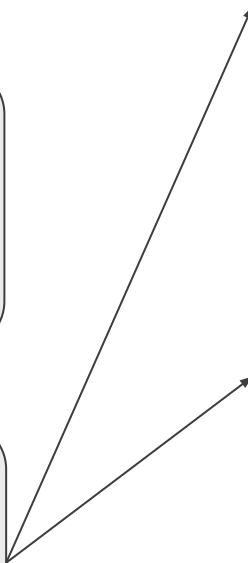


STEP 3: WRITE BOARD (LICENSING) EXAMS

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	<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	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

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

Undergraduate/Academic Average Requirements

- Admission is based on the most recent four-year undergraduate degree.
 - Applicants must have achieved at least 80% or higher in each of the two best undergraduate years.
 - Each of the two best years used for academic average consideration must contain ALL of the following:
 - Five full or equivalent courses (full course load) between September and April
 - Minimum of three full or equivalent courses at or above the year of study

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

ONTARIO

COVID-19 Considerations

- Winter 2020 grades will not be included in your GPA calculation
- The academic year of 2019-2020 can still be used as one of your two best years if:
 - Five full or equivalent courses (full course load) between September and April
 - Minimum of three full or equivalent courses at or above the year of study

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

ONTARIO

Prerequisite Subject Areas

- At least one half-year course in Organic Chemistry
 - In-class lab requirement is not required
- At least one half-year course in Biochemistry
- One full-year course in Human or Mammalian Physiology

- ****Only prerequisites taken within ten years of the application deadline are deemed acceptable****
 - Prerequisite courses can be taken at any time but must be completed by April 30 of the year of entry.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO ONTARIO

Autobiographical Sketch & Personal Statement

- Holistic approach into assessment of candidates
- **Autobiographical Sketch**
 - 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 other non-academic achievements
- **Personal Statement**
 - Allows applicants to expand on information in the sketch, to highlight achievements and goals, or the accomplishment of success after overcoming a significant disadvantage.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO ONTARIO

DAT:

- Resident Canadians must take the Canadian DAT (administered by the CDA) within two years prior the December 1st application deadline
 - Manual Dexterity Test not required
- The American DAT is accepted with conditions
- Will take the most recent DAT score

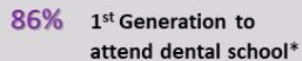
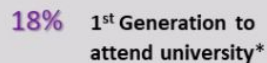
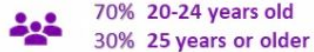
DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 1, 2021



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO ONTARIO

ADMISSION STATISTICS:

Meet the Schulich Dentistry **CLASS OF 2024** 56 Admitted



- **Number of Applicants**
 - 485
- **Number of Interviews**
 - 140
- **Number Accepted**
 - 56

*Data based on a voluntary survey with 75-80% responses.

Published: October 2020

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:

- Minimum GPA of 3.0/4
 - Competitive GPA is 3.5/4
 - Note: The average GPA of those admitted in 2020 was 3.91/4

Prerequisite Subjects:

- General Chemistry (full year)
- Organic Chemistry (full year)
- Biology (full year)
- English (full year)
- Statistics (half year)
- Introductory Biochemistry (half year)
- Physics (full year)



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

ALBERTA

COVID-19 Considerations

- Winter 2020 grades will not be included in your GPA calculation
- Courses taken during Winter 2020 will still count towards your full course load for 2019-2020

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

ALBERTA

DAT:

- Must be written within the last 5 years
- If the test is written more than once, the best score is used
- Only Canadian DAT is accepted
 - Manual Dexterity (carving) not required for 2021 admissions cycle
 - Minimum score of 15 on the PAT and RCT

Class Profile: 2020 Admission Statistics

- DAT Reading: Mean 22.9
- DAT PAT: Mean 22.2
- DAT Manual: 24.6

DEADLINE TO APPLY: November 1, 2021

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

■ Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)

REQUIREMENTS:

- Completed 3 years of an undergrad (90 credits)
- Two letters of reference
 - 1 from an upper-year science professor
 - 1 from a healthcare professional who knows the candidate on a professional basis
- Personal Statement

GPA:

- Minimum GPA of 2.8/4.0 scale (70%) in all university courses
 - Summer courses included in GPA calculation
 - Worst academic year dropped from GPA calculation if:
 - Completed 4 or more years, cannot drop the most recent year



UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

DAT:

- Can be Canadian or American
- Scores valid for four years
- If written more than once, best score is used

DEADLINE TO APPLY: October 8, 2021

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
- Autobiographical sketch

GPA:

- Adjusted Grade Point Average (AGPA)
 - Core course average last year: 3.8
- Summer courses not included in GPA



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

MANITOBA

Prerequisite Subjects:

- Introductory Chemistry (one full year)
- Organic Chemistry (one full year)
- Biochemistry (one full year)
- Physics (one full year)
- Biology (one full year)
- English (one full year)
- Humanities/Social Sciences (one full year)

DAT:

- If written more than once, then the highest score is used
- Only the Canadian DAT is used

DEADLINE TO APPLY: January 15, 2021

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
- CV

GPA (2018 Averages)

- Average for IN PROV: 3.82
- Average for OOP: 3.88

Prerequisites:

- 2 Introductory biology courses
- 2 General chemistry courses
- 1 Organic chemistry course
- 2 Introductory physics courses
 - 1 Calculus course can be used towards this

DAT:

- NOT REQUIRED for Fall 2021 entry



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



SIMRAN - 3ND YEAR DENTAL STUDENT AT WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Hi everyone! My name is Simran I am a third year dental student at the University of Western Ontario. I worked as peer mentor for several years during my undergrad at York where I presented seminars like this one! It always feels surreal to come back as a guest speaker. Please let me know if you have any questions!

Email: spurewa4@uwo.ca

STUDENT OMBUDS SERVICES

bethune.yorku.ca/sos

Peer Mentor/ SOS

Office: BC 208

Open 9:30am – 3:30pm