



DENTISTRY—

Major Steps

** Use this information sheet as a guide only. Please verify all admission requirements with your transfer school.

Thinking about a career as a Dentist?

While in High School, enroll in

- Advanced Algebra. Pre-Calculus recommended
- Two or more years of foreign language
- Four years of English. Develop strong writing skills
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Calculus classes
- Computer classes particularly Word and Excel will be helpful

Most dentists are general practitioners. This means they handle a wide variety of dental problems. For example, they fill cavities, pull teeth, and try to prevent dental disease. Dentists begin exams by looking at patients' teeth and mouths. They examine x-ray images of teeth for cracks and defects. They talk to dental hygienists to learn what they discovered while cleaning patients' teeth. Dentists use this information to create a plan for how to treat patients and promote their dental health.

Common procedures for dentists are to apply sealants and repair fractured

teeth or those with cavities. They may also make molds to replace missing or pulled teeth. Dentists sometimes apply crowns to strengthen teeth. They may perform surgery on gums or on the bones that support gums. Dentists use instruments such as drill, mirrors and scalpels.

The need for dental care is continuing to grow. The baby-boom generation is advancing into middle age. Many may need more complicated dental work, such as bridges. In addition, this generation of older adults is more likely to keep their own teeth.

This will require more care than in the past when people had dentures.

Source: Washington Occupational Information System – www.wois.org

2 Great Reasons to Be a

Dentist:

- ◆ Use your artistic and scientific talents.
- ◆ Give patients smiles they are proud to wear.

(Source: American Dental Association)

Work with your faculty advisor

Working with a Pre-Dental faculty advisor can be an invaluable resource for you. Your faculty advisor can provide you with information about class selection and sequencing, internships and differences between various dental schools. Having a letter of recommendation written by a faculty who really knows you can enhance your application to a dental school as well as a future job.

To request a faculty advisor, go to: <http://www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning/request.advisor.htm>

or Drop in at the Educational Planning and Advising Center (EPAC) in Building 6

Monday and Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.,

Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 3-5 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (9am–1pm Summer quarter)

How can you prepare for dental school ?

Students pursuing a profession in Dentistry should likely plan to complete the Associate of Science (AS) in Biology.

Completing an AS in Biology is especially helpful to students who plan on pursuing a baccalaureate degree in biology or chemistry as it will help them earn an undergraduate degree in a timely manner. However, students pursuing a non-science major could complete the AA degree with calculus, chemistry and biology classes, leaving the organic chemistry series to take at the baccalaureate level. (note: some schools require at least half of the prerequisite science courses to be taken at the baccalaureate level)

Admission into the School of Dentistry is highly competitive. The average overall GPA for the University of Washington entering class for 2006 was 3.59 and the pre-dental science GPA was 3.55. Each dentistry school is different so check the pre-requisites and admission standards early while you are starting your classes at Highline.

The UW has the only dental program in the State of Washington. There are approximately 56 dental schools nationwide. Although a bachelor's degree is usually not required for admission, it is highly recommended that you have one to be competitive. You should also be developing strong written and oral communications skills.

Dentistry Degree Pre-Requisites

To become a dentist, you will need to complete a four-year doctorate program from a dental school accredited by the American Dental Association. Before entering dental school, a student must have completed three to four years of undergraduate education. Pre-dental students must have completed the following Science/Math prerequisites before applying to the UW Dental School:

- Biology& 211, 212, 213, 260
- Chemistry& 161, 162, 163, 261, 262, 263,
- Chemistry 204, 205, 206
- Math& 151, 152, 153 or Math& 146

In addition to the above science courses, the UW Dental School also requires one year of general physics with lab (you can complete these courses at the University of Washington) for admission.

Overall grade point average (GPA), and GPA of pre-dental required science courses are reviewed for admission and college grades are an important indicator of dental school performance and success. The Committee members review these grades for a strong, consistent GPA with very few withdrawals, incompletes, repeated courses or non-graded options.

Some schools (for example, Oregon Health Sciences) also require Biology& 241 (Human Anatomy & Physiology I) and Biology& 242 (Human Anatomy & Physiology II). Be sure to check with dental schools to confirm admissions requirements.

All dental student applicants must also take the Dental Admission Test (DAT). The test covers four areas: survey of the natural sciences (biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry), reading comprehension, quantitative ability, and perceptual ability.

Listing of Washington Dental Program and Dental Web Sites

University of Washington-School of Dentistry
(206) 543-5840
www.dental.washington.edu

American Dental Association
<http://www.ada.org>

Students at the University of Washington
Call about attending an information session
(206) 543-2550.
www.washington.edu/students/ugrad/advising/predent.html

Links to **Dental Schools in the U.S and Canada**
<http://www.adea.org>

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