It is our goal at UND to prepare students for any dental school in the country. Our undergraduates have been accepted at numerous dental schools across the United States. Seats in dental school entering classes are limited – all together less than 5,800 seats are available across the country each year. The national ratio of qualified applicants per available seat is approximately 2:1. Getting accepted into any dental school is done through a highly competitive, two stage application process. It is extremely important that you are well prepared and able to present the best possible application to dental schools when you apply - good planning is key!

The Pre-Dentistry Program is not a major or degree granting program at UND. In order to graduate with a degree from UND, you will need to:

- Choose a Major and complete the specific requirements determined by the department responsible for that major
- Complete the Essential Studies Requirements
- Complete 125 semester credits (36 of which must be upper divisional credits)

You will be assigned two advisors while pursuing your degree and the Pre-Dentistry Program at UND:

- A major advisor (from your major department) to help with the planning of your major curriculum
- The Health Sciences Advisor (from the College of Arts & Sciences) to help with all aspects of dental school preparation

Joining the Pre-Dentistry Program is easy!:

1. Incoming freshmen students should plan to attend Summer Orientation - you can declare Pre-Dentistry at that time
2. Current or transfer students can declare Pre-Dentistry by stopping by the College of Arts & Sciences main office or by calling us at 701-777-2749

Staying in the Pre-Dentistry Program is hard!:

1. **Incoming Freshmen** must:
   - Attend all freshmen group advising meetings during the fall semester
   - Attend one freshmen group advising meeting during the spring semester
   - Complete the following courses, with a C grade or better, before the start of sophomore year:
     - Bio 150-151, with labs
     - Math 103 (may test out of this with an ACT Math score of 26, or appropriate Math placement test score)
     - Chem 121-122, with labs
   - Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher during freshman year
2. **Transfer students, or current students** switching to Pre-Dentistry after freshman year, must:
   - If not already completed at UND or transferred in, complete the following courses with a C grade or better:
     - Bio 150-151, with labs
     - Math 103
     - Chem 121-122, with labs
   - Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
3. **All continuing Pre-Dentistry students** must:
   - Take Pre-Dentistry courses as advised
   - Prepare for and take the DAT
   - Keep cumulative GPA and science GPA competitive
Dental schools consider a variety of factors when reviewing applications:

1. **Academics**
   a. **Undergraduate Preparation**
      Although not required, most dental schools prefer a 4 year undergraduate degree (BS, BA, etc.) from an accredited college or university. All dental schools have specific content or course prerequisites which are included in the UND Pre-Dentistry Program. UND accepts AP and post-secondary transfer credits toward the completion of a bachelor’s degree in accordance with the NDUS policies of [General Education Requirement Transfer Agreement (GERTA)](http://und.edu/academics/registrar/fields-of-study.cfm) and [Common Course Numbering (CCN)](http://und-public.courseleaf.com/4yearplan/). UND also has numerous articulation agreements and course equivalencies with other academic institutions. You should, however, check with the dental schools on your wish list regarding the post-UND implications of any AP, IB, CIS, CLEP, on-line, distance learning or community college work you plan to complete prior to your undergraduate matriculation.
   b. **Major**
      Dental schools do not require any particular major. Pre-Dentistry students have completed such majors as Anthropology, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classical Studies, Communication, Criminal Justice, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Foreign Language, Forensic Science, History, Honors, Interdisciplinary Studies, Math, Music, Nutrition, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Theatre Arts, and Visual Arts.
      The choice for a major is entirely up to you! You should pick something you are good at, or enjoy studying, or fits your “plan B” if you don’t end up going to dental school. A list of each major and degree offered at UND may be found at: [http://und.edu/academics/registrar/fields-of-study.cfm](http://und.edu/academics/registrar/fields-of-study.cfm). Click on a particular major to see what you will be studying, as well as opportunities and careers associated with that major. For specific requirements and course descriptions, click on the Academics – Check out the courses you’ll take link on the right side of each major page. Four year plans (i.e., schedule of courses) for each degree are listed by college and are posted online at: [http://und-public.courseleaf.com/4yearplan/](http://und-public.courseleaf.com/4yearplan/).
      The combination of the Pre-Dentistry Program with a major in the College of Arts and Sciences can usually be finished in 4 years if both major and Pre-Dentistry are started freshmen year. The combination of the Pre-Dentistry program with a major in Athletic Training, Aviation, Dietetics, Engineering, Education, Nursing, Nutrition or Medical Laboratory Science will take longer. Because these majors include busy curricula and/or practicums, in most cases if you plan to combine one of them with Pre-Dentistry, you will need at least 5 years of undergraduate studies to do so.
   c. **GPA**
      Since dental school curriculum is considerably more challenging than any undergraduate curricula, you need to leave no doubt of your academic ability by excelling at the undergraduate level. Average cumulative GPA of recent regional dental school matriculants: 3.50 - 3.60.

2. **DAT**
   a. **Timing**
      This challenging exam is required by all dental schools – students planning to finish their undergraduate degrees in 4 years typically take the DAT in May or June after their 3rd year (junior year) of college. While retakes are allowed, it is best to “do it right the first time”.
   b. **Preparation**
      Since considerable time (20+ hours/week) needs to go into DAT preparation, UND students are encouraged to take a lighter load (12 credits) during the spring semester of their junior year to give them room to take an online DAT review course, or for reviewing and practice testing on their own.
   c. **Scores**
      Average DAT Academic Average and Perceptual Ability scores for recent dental school matriculants: 20 – 21.
3. Life Experiences
   a. Dental Shadowing => 100+ hours
      - Plan to spend at least 40 hours with a general dentist and then spend your remaining hours with as many specialists as possible: orthodontist, endodontist, pediatric dentist, cosmetic dentist, oral surgeon, etc.
      - Be sure to get both city and rural experiences
   b. Direct Patient Care Experience
      - Dental schools expect applicants to gain information about dentistry through discussions with professionals in the field and through observation of, or participation in, patient care and lab procedures in dental offices, labs and clinics. Dental jobs can be hard to find. If you can’t find a job in a dental office or lab, do more shadowing and work in a medical setting.
   c. Research => expected of students planning to attend top tier dental schools
      - UND has numerous opportunities for doing undergraduate basic science research during summer breaks or the school year – you may apply for positions that either pay or give you college credit
      - Regional hospitals, labs, companies may offer summer opportunities
      - National labs (the NIH and the CDC) have some summer positions for college students
   d. Community Service => These activities will set you apart!
      - Volunteer experiences within the health care community are highly recommended, such as involvement as a chair-side dental assistant, hospital orderly, nurse’s aide, etc.
      - Do things that you love, have a passion for, demonstrate your desire to serve others and give back, show your love of learning, let your leadership skills shine, etc.
      - These volunteer activities/paid jobs include, but are not limited to:
        - Lifeguards, first responders
        - Coaching/teaching sports (for park boards, travelling leagues, Special Olympics, etc.)
        - Camp counseling (church camps, day camps, dental camps, music camps, etc.)
        - Big Brother/Big Sister, Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, etc.
        - Volunteering at your local city mission, free clinic, humane society, etc.
        - College organization participation or leadership (clubs, honor societies, sororities/fraternities, etc.)
        - College tutoring or TA positions
        - Help out at inner city “free” dental clinics
        - Dental missions trips (through college organizations, national organizations, or local churches)
        - Church work/sponsored activities (Sunday school teacher, youth worker, mission trips, etc.)
        - American Red Cross, Peace Corps
   e. Keep a log of all hours
      - Although formal documentation is not needed, you should keep a simple personal log for all experiences/work in a notebook – be sure to include dates, times, activities, impressions, and note any meaningful patients or experiences. You will also need to provide contact information for someone who witnessed you in each experience or circumstance, so make note of that as well!

4. Letters of Recommendation
   a. You will need 3-4 letters of recommendation or evaluation for most dental schools.
   b. Letters need to address the personal attributes and academic abilities that make you a good fit for dental school and the profession of medicine.
   c. Authors will have to include professors and health care work supervisors who know you very well – some schools require a letter from a dentist.

5. Legal Record
   a. Keep legal records clean. All minors and felonies will need to be disclosed on applications.
   b. Keep university records clean. Any institutional actions for code of student conduct violations (behavioral, academic, legal, etc.) will need to be disclosed on applications.
   c. Keep personal social media sites clean (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Be sure to demonstrate integrity, maturity, wholesomeness and good taste in all postings (verbal, photos, pictures, etc.).

6. Home State Residency
   In general, dental schools consider your home state of residency to be where you graduated high school and/or where your parent(s) currently live. You do not become a resident of a state by just attending college there!
Courses included in the UND Pre-Dentistry Program fall into one (or more) of three categories. These categories are:

1. Requirements for most dental schools
2. Good preparation for the DAT (as recommended by ADEA and former UND undergraduates)
3. Good, additional elective preparation for dental schools (as recommended by current/former dental students)

The checklist below will help you keep track of your progress in the Pre-Dental Program:

**UND Courses required by most dental schools** (all but English, Math, Physics and Art are needed for DAT preparation):

- Biol 150, 150L   General Biology I
- Biol 151, 151L   General Biology II
- Chem 121, 121L   General Chemistry I
- Chem 122, 122L   General Chemistry II
- Chem 341, 341L   Organic Chemistry I
- Chem 342, 342L   Organic Chemistry II
- BMB 301   Biochemistry
- Phys 211, 211L   College Physics I
- Phys 212, 212L   College Physics II
- Math (choose one)
  - Math 146   Applied Calculus
  - Math 165   Calculus I
  - AP credit for Calculus

- A Statistics course (choose one)
  - Psyc 241   Psychological Statistics
  - Soc 326   Sociological Statistics
- Psyc 111   Introduction to Psychology
- Engl 110   Composition I
- Engl 130   Composition II
- An Art course (choose one)
  - Art 120
  - Art 130
  - Art 151
  - Art 200
  - Art 204
  - Art 220

**Additional UND Courses needed for some dental schools and/or DAT preparation:**

- Anat 204, 204L   Anatomy for Paramed Personnel
- Biol 315   Genetics
- Biol 315R   Genetics Recitation
- MBio 302, 302L   General Microbiology

- A Physiology course (choose one)
  - Biol 442   Physio of Organs/Systems (for Bio majors)
  - PPT 301   Human Physiology (for other majors)

**UND electives good for dental school preparation** (take as many as desired – all are optional):

- Bio 341   Cell Biology
- Bio 369, 369L   Histology
- Bio 420   Neuroscience
- MBio 328   Introduction to Immunology

- A Business course (choose one)
  - Badm 101
  - Econ 201
  - Econ 202
  - Mgmt 300
Your course schedule at UND will vary depending on your major. Ultimately, all students, regardless of major, will be able to take the courses covering the content they need for the DAT and dental school. The chart below shows complete major and Pre-Dentistry **science and math** course schedules for both Biology and Chem/Biochem majors. For students pursuing other majors, only the **science and math** Pre-Dentistry courses are listed so they will need to “pencil in” their major requirements as well. Also, all UND students will need to add any additional major requirements, Essential Studies requirements, and other electives to each semester in the schedules below as needed or desired:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Sophomore</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Senior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bio majors:</td>
<td>Bio majors:</td>
<td>Bio majors:</td>
<td>Bio majors:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bio 120</td>
<td>- Chem 341, 341L</td>
<td>- Physics 211, 211L</td>
<td>- Bio majos:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bio 150, 150L</td>
<td>- Bio 315 (Genetics)</td>
<td>- Bio 442, 442L</td>
<td>- Bio 480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chem 121, 121L</td>
<td>- Bio 315R (Genetics Recitation)</td>
<td>- Bio 333, 333L (for minor)</td>
<td>- Bio requirement**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Math 103</td>
<td>- Bio 332 (Ecology)</td>
<td>- Other Bio requirement**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chem/Biochem majors:</td>
<td>Chem/Biochem majors:</td>
<td>Chem/Biochem majors:</td>
<td>Chem/Biochem majors:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chem 101</td>
<td>- Chem 341, 341L</td>
<td>- Chem 466</td>
<td>- BMB 401, 403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chem 121, 121L</td>
<td>- Chem 361</td>
<td>- Anatomy 204+L or Bio 442+L</td>
<td>- Chem 492 or 495?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Math 103</td>
<td>- Physics 211, 211L</td>
<td>- Other majors:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other majors:</td>
<td>Other majors:</td>
<td>Other majors:</td>
<td>Other majors:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bio 150, 150L</td>
<td>- Chem 341, 341L</td>
<td>- Physics 211, 211L</td>
<td>- Anat 204, 204L or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chem 121, 121L</td>
<td>- Bio 315, 315R</td>
<td>- PPT 301</td>
<td>Other Bio elective**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Math 103</td>
<td>- Your major requirements?</td>
<td>- Chem 333, 333L (for minor)</td>
<td>- Your major requirements?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone:</td>
<td>Everyone:</td>
<td>Everyone:</td>
<td>Everyone:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses from Group 1*</td>
<td>Courses from Group 1 or 2*</td>
<td>Courses from Group 2 or 3*</td>
<td>Courses from Group 2, 3 or 4*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Spr</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bio majors:</td>
<td>Bio majors:</td>
<td>Bio majors:</td>
<td>Bio majors:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bio 151, 151L</td>
<td>- Chem 342, 342L</td>
<td>- Physics 212, 212L</td>
<td>- Bio majors:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chem 122, 122L</td>
<td>- Bio 341, 341L (Cell Bio)</td>
<td>- BMB 301</td>
<td>- Bio requirement**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Math 146</td>
<td>- Bio 312 (Evolution)</td>
<td>- Bio requirement**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chem/Biochem majors:</td>
<td>Chem/Biochem majors:</td>
<td>Chem/Biochem majors:</td>
<td>Chem/Biochem majors:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chem 151, 151L</td>
<td>- Chem 342, 342L</td>
<td>- BMB 301</td>
<td>- Chem 492 or 495?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chem 122, 122L</td>
<td>- Chem 362</td>
<td>- Anat 204+L or PPT 301</td>
<td>- Bio elective**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Math 146</td>
<td>- Physics 212, 212L</td>
<td>- Other majors:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other majors:</td>
<td>Other majors:</td>
<td>Other majors:</td>
<td>Other majors:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bio 151, 151L</td>
<td>- Chem 342, 342L</td>
<td>- Physics 212, 212L</td>
<td>- Bio elective(s)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chem 122, 122L</td>
<td>- Bio 341</td>
<td>- BMB 301</td>
<td>- Your major requirements?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Math 146</td>
<td>- Anat 204, 204L?</td>
<td>- Your major requirements?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone:</td>
<td>Everyone:</td>
<td>Everyone:</td>
<td>Everyone:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses from Group 1*</td>
<td>Courses from Group 1 or 2*</td>
<td>Courses from Group 2 or 3*</td>
<td>Courses from Group 2, 3 or 4*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Courses from Group 1 are **required** for all majors. Courses from Groups 2, 3 and 4 are **options for Bio requirements/electives or other electives.**

| Group 1: Eng 110 or 130, Psych 111, Comm 110, Badm 101 or Econ 201 or Econ 202, Art; additionally, the Chem/Biochem major also requires a level 2 proficiency in a Foreign Language (i.e., Span 101 and 102) |
| Group 2: Bio 341, Bio 315, Mbio 302, Medical Terminology (Med 205), a Stats class (Psych 241 or Soc 326) |

**Group 3 Fall courses:** Bio 378, Bio 410, Bio 364+L, Chem 333, Mgmt 300;  
**Group 3 Spring courses:** Bio 341, Mbio 302+L, Mgmt 300

**Group 4 Fall courses:** Bio 390, Bio 420, Mbio 328;  
**Group 4 Spring courses:** Bio 369+L, Bio 415

### Additional Notes:
- **Bio 341** is offered at UND during the summer – to help lighten their load during the regular school year, students may wish to do it after freshman or sophomore year (once Bio 150-151 and Chem 121-122 are completed) ……

- **WICHE Forms – ND res only**  
  (Complete over Spring Break)  
  **DAT** (1st one by June 15th)  
  **1st Dent School Apps Due**  
  (Submit to AADSAS by June 30th)

- **Interviews Begin**  
  (Usually run October-February)

- **Take a lighter credit load (12 credits)**  
  For DAT prep or DAT prep course