



PRE-DENTISTRY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

COLUMBIA HALL, ROOM 100

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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) and [Common Course Numbering](#) (CCN). 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>. 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/>.

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):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biol 150, 150L General Biology I | <input type="checkbox"/> A Statistics course (choose one) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biol 151, 151L General Biology II | Psyc 241 Psychological Statistics |
| | Soc 326 Sociological Statistics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chem 121, 121L General Chemistry I | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chem 122, 122L General Chemistry II | <input type="checkbox"/> Psyc 111 Introduction to Psychology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chem 341, 341L Organic Chemistry I | <input type="checkbox"/> Engl 110 Composition I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chem 342, 342L Organic Chemistry II | <input type="checkbox"/> Engl 130 Composition II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BMB 301 Biochemistry | <input type="checkbox"/> An Art course (choose one) |
| | Art 120 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phys 211, 211L College Physics I | Art 130 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phys 212, 212L College Physics II | Art 151 |
| | Art 200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math (choose one) | Art 204 |
| Math 146 Applied Calculus | Art 220 |
| Math 165 Calculus I | |
| AP credit for Calculus | |

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anat 204, 204L Anatomy for Paramed Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> A Physiology course (choose one) |
| | Biol 442 Physio of Organs/Systems (for Bio majors) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biol 315 Genetics | PPT 301 Human Physiology (for other majors) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biol 315R Genetics Recitation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MBio 302 302L General Microbiology | |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bio 341 Cell Biology | <input type="checkbox"/> A Business course (choose one) |
| | Badm 101 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bio 369, 369L Histology | Econ 201 |
| | Econ 202 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bio 420 Neuroscience | Mgmt 300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MBio 328 Introduction to Immunology | |

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:

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Fall	Bio majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio 120 Bio 150, 150L Chem 121, 121L Math 103 	Bio majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chem 341, 341L Bio 315 (Genetics) Bio 315R (Genetics Recitation) Bio 332 (Ecology) 	Bio majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physics 211, 211L Bio 442, 442L Chem 333, 333L (for minor) ? 	Bio majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio 480 Bio requirement** Anat 204, 204L or Other Bio requirement**
	Chem/Biochem majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chem 101 Chem 121, 121L Bio 150, 150L Math 103 	Chem/Biochem majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chem 341, 341L Chem 361 Chem 333, 333L Physics 211, 211L 	Chem/Biochem majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chem 466 Anatomy 204+L or Bio 442+L Bio 315, 315R? 	Chem/Biochem majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMB 401, 403 Chem 492 or 495? Bio elective**
	Other majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio 150, 150L Chem 121, 121L Math 103 	Other majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chem 341, 341L Bio 315, 315R Your major requirements? 	Other majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physics 211, 211L PPT 301 Chem 333, 333L (for minor) ? Your major requirements? 	Other majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anat 204, 204L or Other Bio elective** Your major requirements?
	Everyone: Courses from Group 1*	Everyone: Courses from Group 1 or 2*	Everyone: Courses from Group 2 or 3*	Everyone: Courses from Group 2, 3 or 4* 2^o Dent School Apps Due <i>(Submit to schools ASAP)</i> Interviews Begin <i>(Usually run October-February)</i>
Spr	Bio majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio 151, 151L Chem 122, 122L Math 146 	Bio majors : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chem 342, 342L Bio 341, 341L (Cell Bio) Bio 312 (Evolution) 	Bio majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physics 212, 212L BMB 301 	Bio majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio requirement** Bio requirement**
	Chem/Biochem majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio 151, 151L Chem 122, 122L Math 146 	Chem/Biochem majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chem 342, 342L Chem 362 Physics 212, 212L 	Chem/Biochem majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMB 301 Anat 204+L or PPT 301 	Chem/Biochem majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chem 492 or 495? Bio elective**
	Other majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio 151, 151L Chem 122, 122L Math 146 	Other majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chem 342, 342L Bio 341 Anat 204, 204L? Your major requirements? 	Other majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physics 212, 212L BMB 301 Your major requirements? 	Other majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio elective(s)** Your major requirements?
	Everyone: Courses from Group 1*	Everyone: Courses from Group 1 or 2*	Everyone: Courses from Group 2 or 3* <i>Take a lighter credit load (12 credits) For DAT prep or DAT prep course</i>	Everyone: Courses from Group 2, 3 or 4*
Sum	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 <i>(Complete over Spring Break)</i> DAT (1st one by June 15th) 1^o Dent School Apps Due <i>(Submit to AADSAS by June 30th)</i>	

* Courses in 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