

Pre-Dentistry

College of Arts & Sciences
McCannel Hall, Room 280
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Grand Forks, ND 58202



The Pre-Dentistry Program is not a major or degree-granting program. 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. Dental schools do not require any particular major.
- Complete the [Essential Studies requirements](#)
- Complete 120 semester credits (36 numbered 300 or above and 30 from UND)

Dental schools consider the following when reviewing applications:

1. Academics

Dental schools have varying pre-requisites, all of which have been taken into consideration to inform the UND Pre-Dentistry Program curriculum so that you are prepared to apply to any dental school you ultimately decide to. The national average GPA of 2022 dental school matriculants was 3.61 (cumulative) and 3.54 (science). To be a competitive applicant, you should aim for such a cumulative and science GPA and excel in all your courses.

2. DAT

Plan to take the DAT in May or June the calendar year before you plan to attend dental school (third year if on a four year plan). Everyone studies differently, but we recommend you start studying 3-6 months prior to the exam. Considerable time needs to go into DAT preparation (30 hours/week), therefore we encourage students to take a lighter course load (~12 credits) the semester prior to taking the DAT. As a Kaplan partner, UND students have access to the Kaplan DAT review courses and materials at a discounted rate. The national average DAT (Academic Average) score of 2022 dental school matriculants was 20.8; this is a good DAT score to aim for.

3. Life Experiences

Admissions committees want to know that you have made an informed career decision and are knowledgeable about the dentistry profession. In addition, they are looking for applicants who have demonstrated a dedication to service. One way that they assess your non-academic qualities is to look at how you spend your time outside of the classroom, so set yourself apart! (Clubs, leadership roles, honors, awards, jobs etc.) Although formal documentation is not needed, be sure to keep track of your experiences and include dates, times, activities, meaningful experiences, and the name and contact information of your supervisor (if applicable).

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).
- Try to get both city and rural experiences.

b. **Healthcare Experience**

- Dental jobs can be hard to find. If you can't find a job in a dental office, focus on dental shadowing and consider working in a medical setting. Non-dental healthcare work can also demonstrate your interest in healthcare and compassion for others.
- 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.

c. **Community Service/Involvement**

Demonstrate your desire to serve others and give back to your community. These experiences do not need to be related to dentistry or healthcare. Participate in things that are of genuine interest to you (either in a paid position or as a volunteer) and that you can speak passionately about in your application and interview. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Lifeguard, first responders
- Coaching/teaching sports (for park boards, travelling leagues, Special Olympics)
- Camp counseling (church camps, day camps, medical camps, music camps)
- Volunteering at your local city mission, free clinic, humane society
- College organizations (clubs, honor societies, sororities/fraternities)
- College tutoring or TA positions
- Medical missions trips

d. **Research**

UND has numerous research opportunities for undergraduate students. Research experience is expected of students applying to top tier dental school and DDS/PhD programs, but is not required by most dental programs. Regardless of where you plan to attend dental school, research experience can help strengthen your application.

UND Pre-Dentistry Course Planner

UND courses required by most dental schools (*needed for DAT prep)

- BIOL 150/L: General Biology I *
- BIOL 151/L: General Biology II *
- CHEM 121/L: General Chemistry I *
- CHEM 122/L: General Chemistry II *
- CHEM 341/L: Organic Chemistry I *
- CHEM 342/L: Organic Chemistry II *
- BIMD 301: Biochemistry
- BIMD 220/L: Anatomy & Physiology I *
- BIMD 221/L: Anatomy & Physiology II *
- BIMD 302/L: General Microbiology
- Physics (choose one)
 - PHYS 211 & 212: College Physics I & II
 - PHYS 251 & 252: University Physics I & II
- PSYC 111: Introduction to Psychology
- SOC 110: Introduction to Sociology
- ENGL 110: College Composition I
- ENGL 130: College Composition II
- Math (choose one) *not required by most dental schools, but recommended for physics prep*
 - MATH 146: Applied Calculus
 - MATH 165: Calculus I
 - AP credit for Calculus
- A Statistics course (choose one)
 - PSYC 241: Introduction to Statistics
 - SOC 326: Sociological Statistics
 - ECON 210: Business/Economic Statistics
 - MATH 321: Applied Statistical Methods
 - BIOL 470: Biometry
 - PHE 306: Epidemiology and Biostatistics
 - Other statistics course
- A hands-on, tactile Art course (choose one)
 - ART 112: Two & Three Dimensional Design
 - ART 200: Introduction to Sculpture
 - ART 204: Intro to Jewelry & Metalsmithing
 - ART 250: Intro to Ceramics – Handbuilding
 - ART 253: Intro to Ceramics – Throwing

UND electives good for dental school preparation (+recommended for DAT prep)

Some may be required by certain dental schools; check individual requirements for schools of interest.

- BIMD 328: Introduction to Immunology
- BIOL 315: Genetics +
- BIOL 341: Cell Biology +
- BIOL 369/L: Histology
- BIOL 378: Developmental Biology
- BIOL 390: Endocrinology
- BIOL 415: Genomics
- BIOL 420: Neuroscience
- BIOL 442: Physiology of Organs/Systems +
- PPT 315: Human Pharmacology
- Business courses
 - ECON 201: Microeconomics
 - ENTR 101: Intro to Entrepreneurship
 - ENTR 386: Financials for Entrepreneurs
 - MGMT 300: Principles of Management
 - MGMT 310: Organizational Behavior
- COMM 212: Interpersonal Communication
- COMM 380: Health Communication
- MED 205: Medical Terminology
- N&D 240: Fundamentals of Nutrition
- Public Health courses
 - PHE 101: Introduction to Public Health
 - PHE 102: Epidemiology in Public Health
 - PHE 103: Introduction to Global Health
- Ethics courses
 - PHIL 120: Introduction to Ethics
 - PHIL 251: Ethics in Healthcare
 - PHIL 245: Death and Dying
- PSYC 250: Developmental Psychology
- PSYC 270: Abnormal Psychology
- Advanced writing/humanities course
- A foreign language

Sample Four Year Plan

This is just an example to aid in your academic planning. Consult with your assigned advisor on how best to combine the pre-dentistry curriculum with your major requirements.

	Fall	Spring	Summer
First Year	BIOL 150/L CHEM 121/L MATH 103 ¹ Courses from Group 1	BIOL 151/L CHEM 122/L Courses from Group 1	Life Experiences Healthcare experience Shadowing Volunteering Research
Second Year	CHEM 341/L BIOL 315 Courses from Group 1 or 2	CHEM 342/L BIMD 220/L BIOL 341 Courses from Group 1 or 2	Life Experiences Healthcare experience Shadowing Volunteering Research
Third Year	PHYS 211 BIMD 221/L Courses from Group 1, 2, or 3	PHYS 212 BIMD 301 Courses from Group 1, 2, or 3 ~12 credits for DAT prep	WICHE Forms (Complete over Spring Break) DAT (take ~Jun 1 st) 1^o Apps Due (Submit Jun 15 th – 30 th)
Fourth Year	Courses from Group 2 or 3 2^o Apps Due (Submit ASAP) Interviews Begin (~ Oct-Feb)	BIMD 302/L Courses from Group 2 or 3	

¹ MATH 103 waived if ACT Math > 26 or AP Calc > 3 or equivalent college level math course

Group 1 courses are **required**: COMM 110, ENGL 110, ENGL 130, MATH 146, PSYC 111, SOC 110, a statistics class, an art class

Group 2 courses are good **electives**: ECON 201, MGMT 300, COMM 212, COMM 380, MED 205, N&D 240, PHE 101, PHE 102, PHE 103, PHIL 120, PHIL 245, PHIL 251, PSYC 250, PSYC 270, an advanced writing/humanities course, a foreign language

Groups 3 courses are **upper level science electives**:

Fall courses: BIMD 328, BIOL 315, BIOL 390, BIOL 420, BIOL 442, PPT 315

Spring courses: BIOL 341, BIOL 369/L, BIOL 415, PPT 315