

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY**

From its inception in 1971, the College has established a reputation of educating skilled practitioners to provide the highest level of dental care possible. The training program affords extensive opportunities to learn and develop proficiency through practice in both simulation and patient clinic settings. Graduates develop the knowledge, technical competency, and clinical expertise necessary to assume roles as responsible health care professionals.

Dentistry offers the opportunity to blend science, human relations and technical skills into a satisfying profession. Anyone considering a career in dentistry is encouraged to carefully examine the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry. Excellent training facilities, superb faculty and a well-designed curriculum combine to produce a dental education second to none.

BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of 90 semester hours of course work from any accredited college or university.
- A minimum of 75 semester hours of course work prior to application.
- A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 for all college level work attempted.
- In good standing with the college or university last attended or in which currently enrolled.

In recent years, most, of not all, of the entering class has earned a considerably higher grade point average and the vast majority has completed a Bachelor's Degree or an equivalent number of credits.

PREREQUISITES

| <u>Course</u> | <u>Credits (semester/quarter)</u> |
|--|--|
| Biology (with lab) | 16/24 |
| Chemistry, inorganic/general (with lab) | 8/12 |
| Chemistry, organic (with lab) | 8/12 |
| Biochemistry | 3/5 |
| Physics (with lab) | 8/12 |
| General Psychology | 3/5 |
| English (composition or writing intensive) | 6 /10 |

A minimum grade of "C" is required for each prerequisite course.

Additional advanced studies in the biological sciences are highly recommended. Please note: the biology prerequisites have increased to 16 credits starting with the 2011 application.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Application for Admission

Application to the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry is made through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS). The application and full instructions for online submission are available on the American Dental Education Association's Web site at adea.org. All supporting documentation, including transcripts and recommendation letters are submitted directly to AADSAS. In addition to the basic AADSAS application, a separate supplemental application must be submitted directly to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. A link to the supplemental application is provided in conjunction with the AADSAS application (see "Supplemental Information") or may be accessed on the College of Dentistry's Web site under "How to Apply."

Dental Admission Test

All applicants are required to provide score results from the Dental Admission Test (DAT). The DAT is administered through the American Dental Association and complete information on the examination is available at ADA.org. If taken multiple times, the College of Dentistry considers the DAT with highest score (academic average). The perceptual ability test is not routinely factored into the evaluation process. The average academic average for the entering class in recent years has been 19.

Letters of Recommendation

A letter of recommendation from: **(1) a dentist (2) a pre-professional advisory committee. (For those attending institutions that do not have a pre-professional advisory committee, two (2) letters of recommendation from science instructors are acceptable.)** Recommendations are submitted to AADSAS.

Observation Hours

Applicants must complete at least 100 hours of observation in a dental practice setting and/or dental laboratory. The majority of shadowing in a dental practice setting should be done with a general dentist.

Updated Information

It is important throughout this process to keep the Admissions Office updated with new DAT scores, additional observation hours and transcripts showing any additional credit hours completed. Updates may factor into the selection of applicants for interviews and admission decisions. It is the responsibility of the applicants to check the completion status of their application at <http://cfapps.ouhsc.edu/appstatus/logon.cfm>.

International Applicants

Applicants must meet the minimum requirement of 88 on the TOEFL. Foreign transcripts must be submitted to the World Evaluation Service (WES) for course-by-course evaluation. International students also apply through AADSAS more information is available at <http://www.admissions.ouhsc.edu/> under Prospective Students. Click on “Non-US Citizen Applicants”.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Deadline

The application deadline for all **applicants is October 1**. Applications may be submitted while the applicant is working toward completion of one or more of the required courses.

Interviews

Applicants with strong credentials and competitive applications are invited for a personal interview with individual members of the Admissions Committee. In addition to academic achievement, interviewers look for motivation, character, interpersonal and communication skills, maturity, service ethic, evidence of manual dexterity, and knowledge of the dental profession. Interviews begin in the early fall. The full Admissions Committee meets in November to consider applicants who have been interviewed and to make initial selections for the entering class. The Committee may meet again in January to make further selections to fill the entering class if necessary.

Admission Decision

Each applicant who submits a completed application may expect a response when a final admission decision is made, but not before December 1st. Successful applicants are asked to submit an advanced tuition deposit in order to reserve a position in the class. Alternates are notified of their position on the waiting list to be selected should an opening in the class become available.

CLASS SIZE

A class of not more than 60 students begins each year. The fall semester for the entering class begins in late June/early July of each year. The learning experience is formatted around a cohort model in which students in each entering class progress through the entire program together.

CURRICULUM AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Orientation and the start of classes for new students take place in late June or early July. The four-year curriculum begins with foundational studies in biomedical and dental sciences, progresses to applied laboratory and simulated patient experiences, and culminates with clinical training and comprehensive patient care. Completion of the prescribed program leads to a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree. Significant opportunities for treating patients is a hallmark of the student’s training at the College of Dentistry and promotes the formation of strong clinical skills and development of excellent practitioners.

In addition to completing the curriculum required by the College of Dentistry, students must also pass regional and national examinations administered by organized dentistry in order to receive a degree and become licensed for practice.

ACCREDITATION

The OU College of Dentistry is one of approximately 60 programs in the United States and is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. To obtain further information, contact:

**University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry
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Revised 3/9/10