

# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding D.D.S. Admissions

## Academic Preparation

**Q. Is a B.A. or B.S. degree required for entry into the D.D.S. program?**

A. While only three years of undergraduate work are required for entry, the majority of our entering students have completed a B.A. or B.S. degree prior to entry.

**Q. Do I need to complete all requirements before I apply?**

A. Students can apply prior to completing all required coursework. Once a student has been admitted, they will be required to submit transcripts showing completion of all required and completed coursework before matriculation.

**Q. Do you accept international students in the D.D.S. program?**

A. The UW School of Dentistry accepts only US Citizens and permanent residents at this time.

**Q. Do you accept courses from community and Junior colleges to fulfill entry requirements?**

A. It is possible to complete some required courses from community and junior colleges to fill requirements. However, we require that the at least half of our prerequisite science courses be taken at a four-year institution.

**Q. Is there a minimum GPA?**

A. To give yourself a glimpse of where you would fit in an applicant pool, the average overall GPA for the entering class of 2005 is 3.60 and the science GPA is 3.55.

**Q. How is the science GPA calculated?**

A. AADSAS calculates the science GPA by considering only biology, physics, general chemistry and organic chemistry courses. In addition, the UW School of Dentistry considers grades in microbiology and biochemistry although this is not calculated in the AADSAS science GPA.

**Q. Do we accept AP courses?**

A. Yes, AP courses can be accepted.

**Q. Are Microbiology and Biochemistry really required?**

A. Yes, the Admissions Committee will make no exceptions to this policy.

**Q. Are there graduate courses other than the requirements you recommend for applicants?**

A. The graduate courses would depend on 1) What the student's major was, 2) what schools they have access to, and 3) the courses available. Generally, we recommend that students who have completed all our prerequisite courses take upper division science courses. Some examples would be: Developmental biology, Genetics, Immunology, and Anatomy/Biological Structure.

**Q. How are retakes calculated?**

A. UW reviews both grades.

## Application Process

**Q. What is "rolling admissions"?**

A. Rolling admissions at the University of Washington School of Dentistry means the Admissions

Committee makes decisions on a continual basis beginning on December 1 and ending on or about March 1. It is recommended that applicants apply and complete their files well before the November 1 deadline although individual decisions are not based on the date the application was received.

**Q. Is it possible to defer admission?**

**A.** The UW School of Dentistry will defer admission, only for exceptional circumstances.

**Q. Are UW graduates treated differently?**

**A.** UW graduates are not given preference in admissions to the School of Dentistry .

**Q. Is residency a factor in the admission process?**

**A.** The School of Dentistry gives priority first to Washington State residents. Recent entering classes have 80 – 85% Washington State residents. The remaining class is comprised of students from WICHE states and other states.

**Q. Do I need to send my transcripts directly to you or just to AADSAS?**

**A.** The UW School of Dentistry requires that a separate set of official transcripts be sent directly to us for all coursework completed.

**Q. When do I send in my \$35 application fee?**

**A.** You send in the application fee along with your supplemental application. The supplemental application is sent after we receive your AADSAS application. Please send your fee only after we request that you send it to us.

**Q. When is the AADSAS application available?**

**A.** An online application form is obtained from the Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) at [www.adea.org/AADSAS](http://www.adea.org/AADSAS) which is available mid-May.

**Q. Can I submit my AADSAS application prior to taking the DAT?**

**A.** You may send in the application fee along with your supplemental application prior to the DAT.

**Q. Must I complete all of the required courses before I apply?**

**A.** No, it is not necessary; however, the majority of the coursework should be completed before applying.

**Q. How long does AADSAS take to process my application?**

**A.** It may take up 6-8 weeks.

**Q. How will I know when UW has received my AADSAS application?**

**A.** You will know when we have posted it on the AADSAS website.

**Q. What is the deadline for my application?**

**A.** Our deadline for the AADSAS application is November 1 st .

**Q. Is a supplemental application required?**

**A.** A supplemental application is only required for the applicants who have received one.

**Q. When will I be notified of acceptance?**

**A.** Acceptance notification begins December 1 and ends around March 1.

**Q. What is alternate status and how does it work?**

**A.** When final notification status is sent out, applicants are accepted, denied admission, or given

alternate status. Applicants selected for alternate status remain in active consideration until the program begins.

**Q. How many total students are admitted into each dental class?**

**A.** 55 students are admitted into each dental class.

### **Dental Admissions Test (DAT)**

**Q. Do you accept the Canadian DAT?**

**A.** The UW School of Dentistry will accept the Canadian DAT if taken by a US citizen or permanent resident.

**Q. How long are DAT scores valid?**

**A.** DAT scores are valid for 3 years.

**Q. Are there any exceptions to the DAT?**

**A.** There are no exceptions to the DAT.

**Q. What is considered a good DAT Score? What would your recommendations be if it is below the average? Retake?**

**A.** Our DAT scores have averaged between 19 and 21 in recent years. Due to the 7 areas on the test, often there are a few scores below our average. If choosing to retake the DAT, applicants should keep in mind that they have to wait 90 days before retaking the exam. Furthermore, the test must be taken before October 31 in order to be considered for admission.

**Q. What is the DAT?**

**A.** The DAT stands for the Dental Admission Test. For more information on the DAT please visit: <http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp>

**Q. Are there any courses I should complete prior to taking the DAT?**

**A.** The individual should complete courses in biology, organic chemistry, and general chemistry prior to the DAT.

**Q. When should I take the DAT?**

**A.** The DAT should be taken when one is prepared for it.

**Q. Where can I take the DAT?**

**A.** The DAT can be taken at various testing locations depending on the location of where the applicant resides.

**Q. How should I prepare for the DAT?**

**A.** In order to prepare for the DAT one may take a preparatory course through different test preparation organizations or purchase preparatory manuals from almost any bookstore.

### **Letters of Recommendation**

**Q. Are letters of recommendation submitted through AADSAS or should I submit them directly to the UW?**

**A.** You can send your letters either directly to AADSAS or the UW School of Dentistry. If you have submitted your letters of recommendation to AADSAS it is not necessary to resend them to the UW School of Dentistry.

**Q. Do letters of recommendation must come from professors?**

**A.** We require three different types of recommendations, one from a science faculty, one from a dentist, and one character reference.

**Q. Do letters of recommendation need to be originals or photocopies?**

**A.** If the letters of recommendation are sent directly to the UW School of Dentistry they must be originals and have a seal of confidentiality this may include a signature on the envelope flap from the person who wrote the letter.

**Q. Can recommendation letters be sent via e-mail?**

**A.** No, letters of recommendation may not be sent through e-mail.

**Q. How many recommendation letters are required?**

**A.** Three letters of recommendations are required:

- Science Instructor – Someone who can evaluate your academic and intellectual qualifications
- Dentist – Someone who can evaluate your knowledge of and motivation toward the dental profession
- Character – Someone who can indicate your contribution to humanity and community.

Or

- A committee evaluation is also acceptable. One will have to inquire about obtaining a committee evaluation from your own university.

\*We will accept copies from your AADSAS Application.

\*Although UW welcomes any additional letters of recommendation from professors or employers, one must still submit all three forms of letters of recommendation or a committee evaluation.

**Interviews**

**Q. Does the UW School of Dentistry require interviews?**

**A.** The UW School of Dentistry invites select candidates (approximately 15%) from the applicant pool for interviews as a requirement of the admissions process. From these candidates, the entering class will be selected.

**Q. Who will interview me?**

**A.** The interview is conducted by two members of the Admissions Committee and allows you to ask questions about the School, faculty, and student life. In addition to the interview, applicants will have an opportunity to obtain information about financial aid, meet with enrolled students, take a tour of the School, and meet one of the deans.

**Q. How should I dress for the interview?**

**A.** Business attire is recommended for the interview.