



**MEDICAL PROFESSIONS
ADVISEMENT**



**EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**PRE-DENTISTRY
GUIDE**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

151,600

jobs in 2019

156,148

jobs projected in 2029

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE

\$159,200

in 2019

for more information, see the Bureau of Labor Statistics
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dentists.htm>

The Pre-Dentistry track at East Tennessee State University prepares students for application to a four-year Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree program (depending on the degree awarded by institution of choice). Students may apply to most dental schools with the completion of at least 90 hours of undergraduate coursework, but completion of a bachelor's degree before matriculation is expected.

CAREERS IN DENTISTRY

Dentists diagnose and treat problems with a patient's teeth, gums, and other parts of the mouth. They provide advice and instruction on taking care of teeth and gums and on diet choices that affect oral health.

There are twelve specialty areas in the field of dentistry: Dental anesthesiology, dental public health, endodontics, oral medicine, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orofacial pain, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, and prosthodontics.

The number of hours worked varies greatly among dentists. Most dentists work full time, and some also work evenings and weekends to meet their patients' needs. It is common for dentists to continue in part-time practice well beyond the usual retirement age.

Some dentists own their own businesses and work alone or with a small staff; others work with retail dental practices. Other dentists have partners in their practices and a few work for more established dentists as associate dentists.

FRESHMAN	SUMMER	SOPHOMORE	SUMMER	JUNIOR	SUMMER	SENIOR
Complete prerequisite requirements						
Build professional relationships with professors, advisors, counselors, and professionals for letters of recommendation						
Community service / volunteer work / job shadowing / engagement in student organizations; Document experiences						
Choose a major						
	Gain research experience					
	Campus visits to professional schools of interest					
TIMELINE				Request letters of recommendation		
				Take DAT		
				Application		
					Interviews	

ADVISEMENT

PRE-DENTISTRY IS NOT A MAJOR. Therefore, you must choose a major (and minor, if appropriate) which supports your life goals by the time you earn 60 credit hours. You do not have to major in a science field. Choose a course of study that interests you. It is true that students who have an extensive science background have an easier time with the dental school basic sciences than non-science majors. Dental schools do not assume, however, that you have had any courses other than those required.

We strongly recommend you meet with your MPA counselor and major advisor each term before registering for the next semester. Students who receive scholarships or participate in specialized ETSU programs (such as athletics or Honors College programs) must also seek advisement from those departments. Serious consequences can occur if students fail to meet with advisors (e.g., failure to graduate on time, missing appropriate courses to prepare for the DAT, etc.).



MPA COUNSELOR CONTACT
 Medical Professions Advisement Office
 423-439-5602

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET INTO DENTAL SCHOOL?

Statistics based on entrance for 2020 class to dental school.

GPA - 3.57

Average GPA among admitted students in 2020 as reported by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA)

SCIENCE GPA - 3.49

Average science/math GPA as reported by the ADEA for 2020

DAT SCORE 19.9

Average score on the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) for 2020

CORE PREPARATION COURSES

Different schools may have varying prerequisite requirements. It is up to the student to research and ensure the required courses are completed before application to the preferred school(s) of interest.

Biology	8 hours	BIOL 1110/1111, BIOL 1120/1121
General Chemistry	8 hours	CHEM 1110/1111, CHEM 1120/1121
Organic Chemistry	10 hours	CHEM 2010/2011, CHEM 2020/2021
Physics	8 hours	PHYS 2010/2011, PHYS 2020/2021*
Biochemistry	Hours vary	Consult with your counselor
English	6 hours	ENGL 1010 and ENGL 1020
General Microbiology, Histology or Comparative Anatomy	4 hours	HSCI 3320/3321

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED COURSES

Human Anatomy#	4 hours	HSCI 3000
Human Physiology#	4 hours	HSCI 3020
Principles of Nutrition#	3 hours	NTFD 2420
Calculus#	8 hours	MATH 1910 and 1920
General Genetics	5 hours	BIOL 3100/3141
Molecular Biology	3 hours	BIOL 4647
Immunology	3 hours	HSCI 3540
Statistics	3 hours	MATH 1530
Psychology	3 hours	PSYC 1310
Economics	3 hours	ECON 2210/2220

*Calculus-based physics (PHYS 2110 and 2120) may be substituted for general physics.

#These classes may be required by some dental schools.

*Core prep based on UTHSC-COD

MANUAL DEXTERITY

In order to perform dental procedures, a dentist must be able to work with precision on an extremely small scale. As a dental student you will spend time developing eye-hand coordination needed to grasp and manipulate small objects and make precise movements. In order to be a competitive applicant students must spend time improving their eye-hand coordination. Taking classes in art, sculpture and ceramics as well as knitting, model building or playing an instrument can help cultivate the dexterity needed to perform dental procedures.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Students are encouraged to begin the application process at the end of their junior year. Students apply to dental school through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) at aadsas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#useraccount. Your completed application will then be submitted to the dental schools of your choice. Most schools also require a supplemental application that they will provide to you after your application has been received. Applications are available in June; however application deadlines vary for each school, with the latest deadline being in February. It is important to be aware of the deadlines and submit your applications as soon as possible.

Some dental schools require students to submit a university composite letter of evaluation during the application process. Please contact your MPA counselor for additional information. Students interested in pursuing a letter of evaluation should start this process around December of their junior year.

The Dental Admissions Test (DAT) is the entrance exam for dental schools. It is a multiple choice exam that is administered by computer at testing centers in various locations across the country. **It is not recommended to take the exam before completing the prerequisite courses.**

SUGGESTED 2-YEAR SCHEDULE FOR PRE-DENTISTRY STUDENTS

FRESHMAN

Fall

CHEM 1110/11
BIOL 1110/11
MATH 1530
ENGL 1010
PREH 1350

Spring

CHEM 1120/21
BIOL 1120/21
ENGL 1020
ELECTIVE
ELECTIVE

SOPHOMORE

Fall

CHEM 2010/11
PHYS 2010/11
SPCH*
ELECTIVE
ELECTIVE

Spring

CHEM 2020/21
PHYS 2020/21
ELECTIVE
ELECTIVE
ELECTIVE

Students should maintain a minimum of 17-19 credit hours per semester

*Consult your MPA counselor before choosing a speech course

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

WE HAVE 15+ PRE-HEALTH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE 250+ AT ETSU

PRE-DENTAL SOCIETY (PDS)

The Pre-Dental Society is ETSU's pre-dentistry organization. This group is committed to the advancement of students interested in pursuing a career in the field of dentistry. This organization holds various events from speaker series to volunteer opportunities and helps students to cultivate relationships with professionals in the field for shadowing opportunities.

ALPHA EPSILON DELTA HONOR SOCIETY (AED)

AED functions as a health pre-professional honor society encouraging excellence in scholarship. It emphasizes the importance of health education and promotes cooperation and contact among professionals.



Please visit Student Activities and Organizations to find an organization that best fits your goals.

etsucampuslabs.com/engage/organizations

American Dental Education Association
www.adea.org

Find the link for AADSAS (the dental school application portal) on the ADEA site or visit the link directly if you are viewing an electronic version of this guide.

WHAT CAN I BE DOING NOW TO STRENGTHEN MY APPLICATION TO DENTISTRY SCHOOL?

RELATED EXPERIENCE Students are encouraged to explore the field of dentistry either through employment or as a volunteer. Dental schools want to know that a student has worked in the field, observed what is involved, and still has the desire to continue in that profession. Students should gain as much experience as possible without sacrificing grades. The majority of your shadowing experience should be in the field of general dentistry. In addition to shadowing a local practitioner, you may also consider applying to the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), a six-week academic enrichment program for freshman and sophomore college students. SHPEP hosts students at 13 program sites across the country. Learn more and apply at www.shpep.org.

EXTRACURRICULARS The admissions committees of dental schools are interested in seeing a range of extracurricular activities, especially those demanding a significant leadership role. Students should demonstrate their ability to balance full academic schedules with extracurricular involvement on and off campus and/or through employment opportunities. ETSU has many student organizations. Students should visit the SAO or www.etsu.edu/students/sao/ for more information regarding extracurricular activities. It is not beneficial to simply join an organization; you must demonstrate leadership qualities!

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE Dental schools are looking for candidates who express a commitment to community service. Students should seek volunteer projects that focus on giving back to their community.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE Please consider personal email addresses when corresponding with professional schools. First impressions are often based on correspondence; therefore email addresses should be appropriate for professional communication. Messages and images sent electronically are reflections of judgment and potential suitability for professional careers. Inappropriate behaviors shared on an accessible venue can be viewed and shared by anyone, possibly compromising your admission to dental school.

WATCH WHAT YOU POST!



EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY