

28 August 2008

PREDENTAL STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-FAYETTEVILLE

PREDENTAL ADVISOR:

Dr. Jerome C. Rose
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Old Main, 340
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Pre-dental Website: <http://www.uark.edu/~jcrose/dentaladvising/dentaladvising.html>

GENERAL:

It is important that you keep your advisor informed of any changes in address, email address and telephone number. It is frequently necessary to contact pre-dental students on short notice. All announcements, scheduled events, and deadlines are now distributed by email so it is imperative that we have your email address.

I have sign-up sheets for appointments to see me for pre-dental advising always posted on the bulletin board next to the entrance to the Anthropology Department Office at Old Main 330. Come by and sign up for a time slot and that is your appointment. I will be waiting for you in my office in Old Main 340.

There is a student *Dental Society* on campus and you are encouraged to join and participate. This is an entirely student-run club for all people interested in teeth and dentistry. The officers send out notices of their meetings by email. It is important to get your address to them. Keep in mind that all dental school applications ask if you have belonged to a pre-dental club while in college.

MAJOR:

Although many students major in Chemistry or Biology, a pre-dental student may major in any subject such as Anthropology, French, Mathematics, Sociology, etc. In fact, Dental Schools encourage a broad education and majoring in Biology or Chemistry will not provide an admission advantage. You should choose the major that you want or are interested in.

DENTAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:DENTAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:DENTAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:DENTAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:

The majority of Dental Schools require the following science courses in addition to other subjects normally taken by all students: two semesters of English composition (ENGL 1013, 1023 or a combination of advanced writing courses), two semesters each of general and organic chemistry with labs (CHEM 1103/1101L, 1123/1121L, 3603/3601L, 3613/3611L), two semesters of physics (PHYS 2013/2011L, 2033/2031L), and two semesters of introductory biology (BIOL 1543/1541L) along with introduction to zoology (BIOL 1603/1601L). Biology majors can use one of their nonrequired (by the dental schools) advanced biology courses in place of introduction to zoology. One or two advanced biology courses (such as anatomy, physiology, microbiology, Dental Science (ANTH4523), and biochemistry (CHEM3813) are recommended. Practicing dentists recommend business courses such as business law, management concepts and accounting. I recommend the business minor for non-business students concentration 9 - Management. You can contact the business school deans office to arrange to take this minor. Each of the dental schools have some deviation from this general plan and they are listed below:

- 1) The University of Alabama in Birmingham requires 2 semesters of mathematics, but 1 semester may be statistics, computer science, accounting, etc.; 6 additional biology credits beyond the two introductory semesters to be selected from cell biology, physiology, comparative anatomy, embryology, human anatomy, and microbiology.
- 2) The Baylor College of Dentistry requires 3 hours of biochemistry, and 6 additional hours of biology.
- 3) The Louisiana State University requires 2 courses beyond the two introductory biology course to be chosen from: cell biology, molecular biology, anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, and embryology with their associated labs. They further require an additional 3 credits of English be taken for a total of 9 credits.
- 4) The University of Louisville requires only the first semester of physics (mechanics) and three semesters of biology after the introductory semester (concepts of biology) to be chosen from: anatomy, physiology, cellular biology, microbiology, biochemistry, and immunology (for a total of 16 credits).
- 5) The Meharry School of Dentistry requires the standard courses only.
- 6) The University of Missouri at Kansas City requires a total of 4 semesters of biology including biology I, anatomy, physiology and cell biology with laboratory and recommends additional courses such as biochemistry, microbiology, and molecular biology/ genetics. Applied art classes such as jewelry making and sculpting are recommended.
- 7) The University of Oklahoma requires a semester of psychology and 3 credits of biochemistry in addition to the standard courses.
- 8) The University of Tennessee, Memphis requires that the applicant take 8 semester hours of English composition (that means 3 courses here), 1 semester of biochemistry with lab (we do not have a lab with biochemistry and thus students must petition) and 1 semester of an additional biology course that **must** be **one** of the following courses and its associated lab component: Cell Biology, Microbiology, or Comparative Anatomy.
- 9) The University of Texas, Houston Branch requires one semester of biochemistry.
- 10) The University of Texas, San Antonio Branch requires only the standard distribution.

DENTAL EXPERIENCE:

All schools require that you have some experience in the dental profession. As a guideline we can quote from the UMKC dental school: "It is strongly suggested that candidates observe in a minimum of five different dental offices such as general dentists (required by all schools) and specialists. Students should log a minimum of 80 to 100 hours of dental office observation."

ADVANCED ADMISSION:

Most students going on to Dental School earn either a B.A. or B.S. degree. Exceptional students have been infrequently *admitted after only 90 hours* of course work. Such students can earn a B.A. or B.S. degree from Fulbright College, University of Arkansas, by using their first year of Dental School as their major (this is called the 3/1 program). This pathway requires careful planning from the first semester of the freshman year. Because all University and College requirements must be met there are only six hours of electives in the B.S. program and B.A.

students must take 94 hours. The most difficult requirement to meet is the advanced course requirement of the Fulbright College and, thus, all electives must be numbered 3000 or above. (This option has not been used in recent years because the dental schools have not accepted students without degrees).

DENTAL ADMISSION TEST:

The American Dental Association mandated that all pre-dental students take the D.A.T. in the computerized test format. You can get all current information about the test and register on-line at www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat.

Candidates who are applying for the D.A.T. must submit either the paper application form included in the registration booklet or the online application (at the website listed above). To request the **Application and Preparation Materials** booklet, contact: Dental Admission Testing Program, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 1846, Chicago, Illinois 60611, (312) 440-2689.

After the application and fee payment are processed, the Prometric Candidate Contact Center will receive notification of the candidate's eligibility for D.A.T. testing. The computerized D.A.T. is administered by Prometric at Prometric Testing Centers. Candidates must wait at least 90 days before retesting. Also, a letter will be sent to the candidate. The candidate will receive instructions to call an 800-number to register with the Prometric Candidate Contact Center for the D.A.T. By calling the 800-number, the candidate will be able to arrange the day, time, and place to take the D.A.T. at a Prometric Testing Center. Prometric requires at least a 48-hour advance notice for scheduling a test.

The nearest testing center is the Sylvan Testing Center in Fort Smith, AR. You may make an appointment by calling their testing center at (478) 484-0702 or by writing to Sylvan Testing Center, 2409 S. 56th Street, Fort Smith, AR. 72903. You may also visit the Sylvan website at www.educate.com. The test is administered most days of the year.

It is recommended that the D.A.T. be taken in the spring semester of the junior year after completing all the science course requirements, in particular your organic chemistry courses. This provides additional opportunities to take the test again if necessary. **(Physics is not on the test).**

Preparation materials for the D.A.T can be obtained from a variety of sources such as the Kaplan preparation course (521-8599 in Fayetteville or <http://www.kaptest.com/>) and a variety of prepare-yourself books (such as Rudman's Questions and Answers on the D.A.T.- see the following website for this book and others: http://www.ebout.net/study_DAT.html) and software such as that produced by ScholarWare (www.scholarware.com) which is highly recommended by dental schools. UMKC suggests, "students use the scope of examination section in the front of the D.A.T. book and then use their college text books to look up the information". This is then followed by taking practice tests on their computers using the various software tests that are available for purchase. I suggest that students take practice tests and then analyze each question they got wrong, determine why they got it wrong, and then correct their understanding of the material so that it cannot happen again. Keep in mind there really are only so many questions that can be asked and if you take enough different practice tests you will have seen almost all the questions. **It has now been decided that a person can only take the D.A.T. three (3) times.**

RECOMMENDED BOOK PURCHASE:

ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools.
Phone 202-289-7201
www.adea.org

WEB SITES THAT ARE USEFUL:

- **The American Dental Education Association**
www.adea.org
has many links to sites about dental schools, application procedures, the AADSAS unified application process, testing, etc.
- **ScholarWare**
www.scholarware.com
Provides materials used to prepare for the D.A.T.
- **The American Dental Association**
www.ada.org
Provides information about testing and admissions.

PODCASTS:

Itunes provides a number of dentistry related podcasts available for download to your pc or portable mp3 player. Itunes can be downloaded for free at www.apple.com and is available in both PC and Mac formats. Information concerning the dental industry can be found under numerous categories such as management and marketing, medicine and health. Featured podcasts include:

The American Dental Association Podcast Network: Located within the medicine category, this podcast provides dental professionals with important information about running a practice, the industry in general, interviews and much more.

Dental Informatics (IT Bootcamp): Located within the podcasting category, this series of lectures is designed to help prepare faculty, students and staff to manage the myriad of tools and resources available for electronically enhanced teaching.

Ultradent Products, Inc.: Located within the health category, the ultradent podcast allows you to listen in to weekly dental discussions. Each episode focuses on a unique theme in current dentistry. With new guests every week, the ultradent podcast is an entertaining and informative way to continue learning more about ultradent products.

O.A. Bud Ham Consulting: Located within the management and marketing category, Bud Ham offers advise on dental practice management.

DENTAL SCHOOLS:

1. University of Louisville (ARHEG Slots: 1)

Dianne D. Foster, Director of Student Affairs
School of Dentistry
Room 231
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292
502-852-5081/800-334-8635; www.dental.louisville.edu
Fax: 502-852-1210

2. Louisiana State University (ARHEG slots: 4)

Dr. Jim Weir, Assistant Dean
Office of Admissions
Louisiana State University
School of Dentistry
1100 Florida Ave., Box 228
New Orleans, LA. 70119-2799
985-718-7369 (Dr. Weir)
504-941-8124 (Office of Admissions); www.lsusd.lsuhs.edu

3. Baylor College of Dentistry (ARHEG slots: 3)

Dr. Barbara Miller, Director
Office of Recruitment and Admissions
Baylor College of Dentistry
P.O. Box 660677
Dallas, TX. 75266-0677
214-828-8231; www.tambcd.edu

4. University of Missouri-Kansas City (ARHEG slots: 2)

Dr. John W. Killip, Assistant Dean for Student Programs
Office of Student Programs
School of Dentistry
University of Missouri-Kansas City
650 East 25th Street, Rm. 420
Kansas City, MO. 64108-2784
816-235-2100 (Dental School); 816-235-1111 (Admissions)
[www.umkc.edu/dentistry/
dentistry@umkc.edu](http://www.umkc.edu/dentistry/dentistry@umkc.edu)

5. University of Oklahoma (ARHEG slots: 1)

Randy P. Jones, Director
Admissions and Student Affairs
Office of Admissions and Records, Room 200
P.O. Box 26901
Oklahoma City, OK. 73190
405-271-3530; <http://dentistry.ouhsc.edu/>

6. University of Tennessee-Memphis (ARHEG slots: 18)

Dr. Wisdom F. Coleman, Jr., Associate Dean for Admissions
Office of Admissions and Student Affairs
875 Union Avenue
S-102 Dunn Bldg.
University of Tennessee-Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee 38163
901-448-6201

Johnnie Hart and Rose Hardin, Administrative Aides
Office of Admissions and Affairs
875 Union Avenue
S-102 Dunn Bldg.
University of Tennessee-Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee 38163
901-448-6200/800-788-0040
Fax: 901-448-1625

7. University of Alabama-Birmingham (ARHEG slots: 0)

Dr. Steve Filler, Director of Admissions
University of Alabama School of Dentistry
1530 3rd Ave. South
SDB 125
Birmingham, Alabama 35294-0007
205-934-3387; Fax:(205) 934-0209; dmdinfo@uab.edu
<http://dental.uab.edu/>

8. Meharry Medical College (ARHEG slots: 1)

Allen D. Mosely, Director of Admissions and Recruitment
Meharry Medical College
Admissions and Records
1005 Dr. D.B. Todd, Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, Tennessee 37208
615-327-6000, Fax: 615-327-6228; <http://www.mmc.edu/>

FOR TEXAS RESIDENTS:

9. University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio
Office of Registry Mail Code 7702
Dental Admissions
7703 Floyd Curl Dr.
San Antonio TX 78229-3900
210-567-2665
<http://dental.uthscsa.edu/>

10. University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston
6516 M. D. Anderson Blvd. Suite 155
Houston TX 77030
713-500-4151
Fax. 713-500-4425
<http://www.db.uth.tmc.edu/studentaffairs/index.htm>

WHEN TO APPLY TO DENTAL SCHOOL:

You will apply to dental school one year (12 months) prior to the time you wish to begin. If you are pursuing a degree you will begin the process of application the **August** of your senior year. If you are applying for advanced admission, you will begin the first steps in August of your junior year and have your applications sent in by early September. This is true despite the fact that the published deadlines are much later in the year.

It should be noted that the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry has a final deadline of September 1st for all materials to be submitted through AADSAS. Because of this early deadline, any student wishing to apply to the University of Oklahoma must meet with the pre-dental advisor by April 1st to have the letters of recommendation prepared.

WHEN TO TAKE THE D.A.T.:

All dental schools require you to take the Dental Aptitude Test. You should take the test during the spring semester of your junior year so that you have the opportunity to take it again in the summer before your senior year. Early admission applicants will take the test during the spring semester of their sophomore year. Further, the University of Missouri-Kansas City suggests that students should have taken the test prior to sending in their applications. On the application they ask you to mark the schools to which you wish to send your scores. Check off all the schools to which you might apply and also have them sent to your pre-dental advisor. This way there is a copy of your scores for emergencies.

WHERE TO OBTAIN THE APPLICATIONS:

On or after July 15th you should write or call the University of Tennessee-Memphis, Louisiana State University (available in September), and Baylor for their application forms. Their applications are also available on their web sites. The addresses are listed previously. The University of Louisville, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Alabama-Birmingham, University of Oklahoma and Meharry Medical College all use a uniform application known as the AADASA (American Association of Dental Schools Application Service) form. This can be obtained by writing the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Suite 101, Washington D.C. 20036 after April 1st (10800-353-AADS) or you may apply on-line at www.adea.org/. This one form is used to apply to all schools previously listed. If you have not filled this form out by September 1st, you are going to be too late.

APPLICATION STEP ONE:

Fill out the AADSAS application form and any non-AADSAS application forms. **Do this completely and neatly. This should be done by September 1st (and earlier for Oklahoma).** Remember to make a copy of each completed form before you mail it in. Loss in the mail is not uncommon.

APPLICATION STEP TWO:

All schools require a letter of evaluation from the pre-dental advisor and these will be done on the 1st of October of each year. **Each student should make an appointment for an interview with the pre-dental advisor and bring the following items: a copy of your completed dental school application, list of all dental schools to which you intend to apply, a copy of your transcript, names of three faculty members who know you well, and a complete resume that includes social clubs, offices held, leisure activities, jobs during school and summers as well as other things that you would like us to know about you.** Make sure that you have filled in the information concerning your name, address, and social security number.

When asking others for letters of recommendation, provide them with stamped, addressed (to the

Dental School) envelopes. Recommendations are to be sent directly to the Dental School.

APPLICATION STEP THREE:

The dental schools will be in touch with you for various reasons: to verify receiving materials, to ask you to send transcripts, pictures, letters of recommendation, etc. ALWAYS REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

The dental schools will contact you by telephone or letter to schedule an interview. Remember to DRESS NEATLY and to be yourself when you go for the interview. This should be an enjoyable experience.

APPLICATION STEP FOUR:

Wait patiently for admission letters. Once accepted, the schools will send information on financial aid and student loans.

APPLICATION STEP FIVE:

To receive ARHEG funding, a student must be certified an Arkansas Resident by filling out an Application and Affidavit and submitting them to the Coordinator, ARHEG, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, 114 East Capitol Ave., Little Rock AR. 72201-3818. The telephone number is 1-800-54-STUDY. The necessary information and application can be found at <http://www.arkansashighered.com/arheg.html>.

The funding is available to a student accepted at one of the contract schools. University of Tennessee-Memphis (18 entering slots); Meharry Medical College (1); Louisiana State University (4); University of Louisville (1); University of Oklahoma (1); Baylor College of Dentistry (officially known as Texas A&M University System HSC, Dallas, TX.)(3); University of Missouri-Kansas City (2); University of Alabama-Birmingham (1).

APPLICATION STEP SIX:

THE DENTAL SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS:THE DENTAL SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS:THE DENTAL SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS:THE DENTAL SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS:

The Arkansas Health Education Grant Program (ARHEG), which is funded by the state of Arkansas, provides assistance for Arkansas residents attending certain out-of-state accredited health-dental-professional schools that are unavailable in Arkansas.

The ARHEG is administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) and assistance is provided pursuant to rules established under Act 1218 of 1999. Such assistance is currently available for attendance at certain accredited schools of dentistry that we list later.

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) determines the priorities for the applicable programs. Based upon these priorities and the availability of funding, **the Board establishes the number of student places (contract slots) for entering students in dentistry.** Based upon these determinations, the ADHE negotiates contracts with participating schools either (1) through the SREB or (2) directly with the institutions. **The AHECB allocates a number of contract slots to each participating school, and each school selects students certified as Arkansas residents to fill its allocated slots.** If the school participates in the SREB contract program, the State pays a set fee per

student to the SREB as follows: **Dentistry \$12,000.**

In return, the SREB negotiates a contract with the school to hold a certain number slots open for Arkansas students and to charge those students resident tuition. (Exceptions: Students attending the University of Tennessee (dentistry), Texas A&M University System Health Science Center (dentistry), University of Louisville (dentistry), are charged the resident tuition plus the difference between the non-resident tuition and the sum of the resident tuition and the SREB contract fee. Schools, which do not have a resident-non-resident tuition differential, agree to hold a number of slots open for Arkansas students at reduced tuition.

Non-SREB Contracts: If the school has a direct contract with the ADHE, the contract basically provides that the State will pay to the schools that charge different resident and non-resident tuition an amount equal to the difference between the resident and non-resident tuition, which the school will apply to the tuition and fees of such students. Should the differential exceed the contract price approved for similar programs by the SREB, the lesser amount will be paid. For schools which charge the same amount of annual tuition for residents and non-residents, and such annual tuition is extraordinary as determined by the ADHE, the amount will not be less than \$5,000 per student, which the school will apply to the amount of tuition and fees of such students.

CERTIFICATION AND APPLICATION:

To receive ARHEG funding assistance to study dentistry a prospective student must be “certified” as an Arkansas resident. Certification is a procedural process that is initiated by the student by completing the application and affidavit and submitting them to:

ARHEG Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, 114 East Capitol Ave. Little Rock, AR. 72201-3818. (800) 54-STUDY or (501) 371-2000 Fax: (501) 371-2001 or email: finaid@adhe.arknet.edu

Students may request information and application packets from the ARHEG Coordinator, or obtain the same information from the ADHE website (www.arkansashighered.com/arheg.html).

The prospective student also must apply to and be accepted by a school that is under contract with the State. **The total number of contract slots is limited by available funds, so it is important to apply and gain acceptance by the school at the earliest possible time.**

Note: Requests for certification are processed by ADHE on a monthly basis. Students applying for the ARHEG and residency certification receive a letter from ADHE confirming their certification status; at the same time, an updated list of certified students is sent to the institutions participating in the ARHEG. Participating institutions have sole discretion in selecting grant recipients from the list of certified students using the same criteria they use in determining those students that will be accepted for enrollment.