Pre-Dental

The following curriculum is tailored to the requirements for most dental schools. Occasionally, a well-qualified student is accepted into dental school after three years at MTSU (3-1 program). For most students, a Bachelor’s degree in a science related discipline such as Biology or Chemistry is required in order to be competitive. **However, students may choose any major they wish as long as they are fulfilling the minimum requirements for dental school.** Dental schools are looking for well-rounded students with excellent grades. Competitive candidates have at least a 3.5 GPA. General information about dentistry and important links can be found at the websites for the American Dental Education Association ([http://adea.org](http://adea.org)) and/or the American Dental Association ([http://www.ada.org/](http://www.ada.org/)).

Students are encouraged to complete the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) and submit their application to dental school one year prior to their expected date of matriculation into dental school. Application to dental school is made through the Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS, accessible at [https://portal.aadsasweb.org](https://portal.aadsasweb.org)). It is recommended that students schedule an appearance before the MTSU Pre Professional Advisory Committee at the time of application. Students should see their advisor regarding this appearance.

Each pre-dental student should gain as much knowledge as possible of what work in dentistry is like. We suggest students talk to dentists about their experiences, spend time observing dentists in a dental office, and read as much as possible about the profession. It is also a good idea to pay a personal visit to the dental school(s) you are considering and to make a special effort to meet with dental school representatives who visit MTSU, so that you will not be just a name on an application.

Suggested Curriculum – **CAUTION - following this exact path will not lead to a degree!**
If you were interested in attempting a 3+1 program for Pre Dental this is the sequence of courses you would need to complete. Please refer to the Academic Map for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year Fall</th>
<th>15 hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1110/1111 General Chemistry I*</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1110/1111 General Biology I</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1910 Calculus I**</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010 Expository Writing</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<th>Second Year Fall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 3010/3011 Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 2010/2011 Non Calculus Based Physics I</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 3250/3251 Genetics</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature General Education</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Year Fall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 2230/2231 Quantitative Analysis</td>
<td>5 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 3020/3021 Comparative Anatomy</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities General Education</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social and Behavioral General Education</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<th>First Year Spring</th>
<th>15 hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1120/1121 General Chemistry II</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1120/1121 General Biology II</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 1020 Research and Argumentative Writing</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social and Behavioral General Education</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Year Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 3020/3021 Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 2020/2021 Non Calculus Based Physics II</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>US History</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 2200 Fundamentals of Communication</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>1 hr</td>
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<tr>
<th>Third Year Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 3530/3531 Principles of Biochemistry</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 4130/4131 Histology</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>US History</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities General Education</td>
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* Students with a weak chemistry background should take Chemistry 1010 (Introduction to General Chemistry) before Chemistry 1110 and 1120.

** Prerequisite to MATH 1910 is MATH 1730 or a MATH ACT ≥ 26.
Most Dental schools have the following admission requirements:

- One year of General Biology with labs (BIOL 1110/1111 and BIOL 1120/1121)
- One semester of upper level Biology (BIOL 3020/3021 Comparative Anatomy or BIOL 4130/4131 Histology preferred)
- One year of General Chemistry with labs (CHEM 1110/1111 and CHEM 1120/1121)
- One year of Organic Chemistry with labs (CHEM 3010/3011 and CHEM 3020/3021)
- One semester of Biochemistry (CHEM 3530/3531)
- One year of college level Physics (PHYS 2010/2011 and PHYS 2020/2021)
- One year of college level English (ENGL 1010 and ENGL 1020)
- One semester of Calculus (MATH 1910)
- At least 90 total semester hours

Most schools will not seriously consider you for admission until you are done with your bachelor's degree or would be done prior to beginning dental school.

Application to most dental schools in the United States is made via the American Association Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) in the summer one full year before you expect to start with a fall dental school class. This is done after taking the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). Overall GPA, and Science & Math GPA will be calculated by AADSAS. They will include all grades on all science and math courses in their calculations (taking a class over does not replace the grade in their calculation). Overall GPA, Science & Math GPA and DAT scores along with an application essay and additional elements stipulated below determine whether or not you will be invited for an interview. Currently, average GPAs for entering dental school classes are approximately 3.5-3.6, and average DAT score is 18 to be minimally competitive.

Additional Courses to Help Improve DAT Score

- BIOL 3250/3251 Genetics
- BIOL 4110/4111 General Physiology
- BIOL 4210/4211 Cell and Molecular Biology
- BIOL 4130/4301 Histology

Dental Schools Like to See the Following in Your Schoolwork

- Full course loads of 16 - 18 hrs/semester unless you are also working 10+ hrs/week.
- 2 - 3 lab classes most semesters.
- Taking an “easy” semester is not recommended as doing so is not an option in Dental school. Furthermore it does not demonstrate a student’s ability to handle a challenging and difficult academic course load.

Dental Schools Need to See Clinical Experiences

- Before applying to Dental school, you need 50 - 200 hours of direct observation of doctors in dental settings.
- Dental schools will look for a record of clinical experience over several years in multiple settings
• Begin getting clinical experience early so you will find out quickly if you really want to be around sick people and insurance company paperwork for a career.
• How to get experiences - Call your dentist or other dentists you know, and ask if you can watch them at work for a day (called "shadowing"). Ask them to refer you to colleagues to get other experiences. Other ways you can gain clinical experience include volunteering or working in hospitals and other dental clinics.

Dental Schools Like Proof of Community Involvement & Leadership
• You need to demonstrate an ability to earn good grades and carry a full course and/or work load while doing more than just studying. You need to demonstrate leadership qualities, concern for others, and an ability to work well in groups.
• How to demonstrate community involvement & leadership - be an active community member (volunteer in a local school or religious group, volunteer for the Special Olympics, Heart Walk, Memory Walk or MS walk, spend a day with Habitat for Humanity. Consider joining some of the clubs and organizations on campus – see this website for a comprehensive list https://mtsu.collegiatelink.net/organizations). Like sports? Coach a youth sports team.
• There are lots of ways to get involved so take advantage of these opportunities to development your leadership skills. Consider running for a position on the Executive Board of one of these groups to help plan events!
• There are several Pre-Professional Clubs that we would recommend
  o PreScripts
  o Delta Delta Sigma (DDS)

For more information please see your Advisor in the Pre Professional Health Science Advising Center in KUC 316 or email preprof@mtsu.edu.

Eric Miller  Douglas Adams  Jon Buchalski
Advising Manager  Advisor  Advisor
615-494-8894  615-898-2316  615-898-5465
ericb.miller@mtsu.edu  douglas.adams@mtsu.edu  jon.buchalski@mtsu.edu
Last Names A-D  Last Names E-M  Last Names N-Z