

Pacific Union College

Pre-Dentistry for Admission to the D.D.S. Degree Program of Loma Linda University

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DEGREE

Who should take dentistry?

Since admission to the school of dentistry is on a competitive basis, students should carefully assess their aptitudes for success in this profession. In addition to the scientific knowledge required in dentistry, the prospective dentist should be skilled in activities involving careful, precise handwork and artistic judgement. The Admissions Committee puts forth considerable effort to be assured that applicants are qualified and will profit from the educational experience at the University. The Committee, accordingly, reviews the credentials of applicants to assess scholastic performance, moral and ethical standards, and significant qualities of character and personality.

Even though students may be certain about their choice of a dental career, it is wise to consider taking course work that would lead to alternate careers. Also they are advised to seek help from the Counseling Center and/or academic advisors in choosing their courses leading to the study of dentistry.

Should the student be concerned about general education classes?

It is desirable that the student of dentistry have a good understanding of the humanities and the behavioral sciences as well as the natural sciences. The admissions test (DAT) which is taken by all candidates includes sections on reading ability. The student will benefit by developing the habit of reading good literature beyond the requirements of course work.

When should admissions tests be taken and what can be done to prepare for them?

The Dental Admissions Test (DAT) must be taken no later than the fall prior to the year of anticipated admission.

Test applications are available at the Counseling Center. Application must be made at least one month prior to intended exam date and may be made as early as one year prior to intended exam date.

Students may obtain at the Counseling Center *specific information* in regard to the types of questions included and the mathematical skills which are required. In order to be prepared to take the test after the junior year the student must select carefully the courses that are taken each year. If the requirements in algebra and trigonometry have not already been met, such courses should be taken during the freshman year because they are helpful in the study of chemistry and physics. All other courses that would help in preparing for the test should be included in the program for the first three years.

An interview is required of each applicant during the academic year prior to enrollment in a dental school.

How long does it take to meet entrance requirements?

The applicant to the School of Dentistry at LLU must have completed a minimum of three academic years in an accredited liberal arts college and must present credits for a minimum of 144 quarter units before admission to the freshman class is considered. Acceptance is contingent on completion of specified subject requirements. A four-year curriculum leading to the bachelor's degree is advantageous. Some schools of dentistry, including Loma Linda, require applicants to have "shadowed" a practicing dentist for a specified number of hours.

As a rule, credits earned in professional schools (business, medical technology, nursing, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, or medicine) do not fulfill admission requirements. Similar requirements exist at other dental schools.

Is a degree recommended?

Preference is given to students who will complete a baccalaureate degree before entering dental school.

What major should be chosen?

Pre-dental students can meet the requirements for graduation in any department. While various science and business degrees are frequently chosen, the School of Dentistry accepts the selection of non-science degrees. A major does not need to be chosen immediately, but it is desirable that a decision be made by the end of the freshman year. Advisers in the various departments will be glad to assist students in making their choices. When a student decides on a major, academic advice should be sought from an adviser in the department offering the major as well as from the pre-dental adviser.

When should the student apply for admission to the School of Dentistry?

The student should make application at least one year before the anticipated date of admission. An applicant does not apply directly to Loma Linda University. Application should be made directly through the American Association of Dental Schools Admission Service (AADSAS) between June 1 and January 1. Decisions by the Admissions Committee begin in December; therefore the sooner the application is complete, the sooner a student may be given a decision.

Upon receipt of the application from AADSAS, Loma Linda University will send the candidate a secondary application.

Where are application forms available?

AADSAS application forms are available on-line at http://www.adea.org/AADSAS/AADSAS_Main_Page.htm

PRE-REQUISITE COURSES FOR ADMISSION

144 hours distributed as follows:

Communication:

ENGL 101-102 College English 4-4

Natural Science:

BIOL 111-2-3 Biological Foundations 5-5-5
CHEM 111-2-3 General Chemistry 5-5-5
CHEM 371-2-3 Organic Chemistry 4-4-4
CHEM 381&482 Biochemistry I&II 4 -0-4
(or CHEM 381 & BIOL 320)* 4-4-0
PHYS 111-2-3 General Physics 4-4-4

Religion: (4 quarter hours per year of attendance at a church-related college)

Exercise Science: (one per year)

Electives recommended to assist in preparation for a dental career:

ACCT 121 Intro to Accounting (3)
ART 141 Ceramics (2)
BIOL 320 Cell and Molecular Biology (4)*
BIOL 426 Histology (5)
CPTR 105 Introduction to Computers (3)
FDNT 235 Nutrition (3)
GNRL 204 Intro to Dentistry (2)
MATH 131 Calculus (4)
MGMT 261 Intro to Management (3)
PSYC 121 General Psychology (4)

Footnotes:

*Together, BIOL 320 and CHEM 381 also fulfill the Loma Linda University biochemistry requirement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

American Dental Association
Council on Dental Education
211 E. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

American Dental Education Association
1625 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-2212
adea@adea.org

EXCERPT FROM LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY ADMISSION LITERATURE

ADMISSION

SUBJECTS: A minimum of a three-year pre-dentistry curriculum in an accredited college is required for acceptance. Students with a baccalaureate degree or on track to complete a degree are given preference. The following complete college courses are required:

Humanities:

Freshman English (*complete course*)

Natural Sciences: (*Full year sequence*)

General Biology or General Zoology,
with laboratory.

General Chemistry, with laboratory.

General Physics, with laboratory.

Organic Chemistry, with laboratory.

Biochemistry (2 quarters)

Religion

At least 4 quarter hours per year of attendance at a church-related college.

Electives

Strongly recommended are ceramics, principles of management, basic accounting, mathematics (with a minimum of college algebra and exposure to calculus), basic human nutrition, anatomy, histology, and psychology. Although a baccalaureate degree is advised, a minimum of 144 quarter units must be completed from fields that contribute to a broad educational background.

Visit PUC's Web site: <http://www.puc.edu/peredent>