

# Professional School Information Session: Dentistry

## Transcript

For Dentistry, you will receive either a DDS or a DMD which are both equal dental degrees.

Grades and DAT scores are what are needed to be competitive to be accepted at Canadian universities. In Ontario, The University of Toronto and Western University have dental programs.

There are other programs across Canada as well (but they have a limited number of out of province seats). At Toronto, the minimum is 3.0; however in the past, applicants invited to interviews had 3.79 (that's about 85% on the OMSAS scale); At Toronto they will drop your worst year if you apply with a 4-year degree and the worst year isn't your last year. At Western, they want 2 years at 80% or above; and weight 60% on academics, 15% on the DAT, and 25% on the interview

Most Canadian dental schools require that you take the Dental Admissions Test. It is recommended that applicants write the DAT no more than two years before the application deadline. Applicants can take the DAT as many times as they wish, although only the last test score will be submitted to the schools to which they apply (and the number of times you have taken the test will also be forwarded with your scores). The DAT covers several aspects of the studies future dentists will undertake: this includes a survey of natural sciences (biology and general chemistry), reading comprehension (ability to find important points and messages in a passage), manual dexterity, and perceptual ability (visualizing in three dimensions and angle discrimination). There is a Canadian and a US version of the DAT. Most US schools accept the Canadian version, but Canadian schools don't accept the US version. Applicants should always check the requirements on the school websites.

It is difficult to get volunteer experiences in a dental office, but try to job shadow your family dentist and meet with him/her for an informational interview. This relevant experience will help you understand the profession.

Check the prereqs required for each program (some programs outside Ontario now require 1 or 2 English credits). References are required at Dalhousie and the U.S. dental schools. Personal statements are not required for most Canadian dental applications; McGill requires a PS and Dalhousie requires a "supplemental information form". AADSAS is the US Centralized application site; there is one personal statement that applicants need to complete which is approximately 1 page in length.

US schools require interviews, and there are also standard Canadian Dental Association (CDA) questions that are asked in many Canadian interviews. Western uses a format similar to the CDA questions and also adds classic and situational questions. Recently Calgary, Saskatchewan, McGill, and Dalhousie have moved towards a Multiple Mini Interview format.