High School Preparation for a Career in Dentistry
Health Professions Advising Office, University of Mississippi

Why consider becoming a Dentist?
“The opportunities that exist for dentists now and in the future make oral health one of the most exciting, challenging, and rewarding professions. Individuals who choose to pursue dental careers are motivated, scientifically curious, intelligent, ambitious, and socially conscious health professionals. They are men and women from diverse backgrounds and cultures, all of whom want to do work that makes a difference.” Dentists require a 4-year undergraduate degree, plus 4 years of dental school, plus additional years of study for specialty dental practice. See more at American Dental Education Association website: http://www.adea.org

While in High School, you should:
• Take as many math and science courses as are available! AP math and science classes are excellent to prepare you for college. Many universities and/or dental schools want you to take your major math and science classes at the college level, so they will not accept AP credit for science courses (see more detail on reverse side). You should take AP classes, but you may not want to pay for the AP credits!
• READ! Improve your reading comprehension, speed and vocabulary.
• Work on that ACT/SAT score. These are important in determining which college classes you can take. They also give you great experience in test-taking---the Dental School Admission Test (DAT) is similar to the ACT/SAT!
• Develop skills in time management and active study techniques.

While in College, you must:
• Earn a 4 year degree in an academic department. The major you choose is up to you, but you must include science & math courses required by the Dental Schools where you intend to apply (even if they are not required by your academic department). Course requirements for the UMMC School of Dentistry are on back of this sheet.
• Work hard on your math and science courses. Dental schools look closely at your BCPM GPA (GPA of all your Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Math courses).
• Gain experience in a dental setting by volunteering and/or working with dental professionals and patients, and keep a journal of your experiences.
• Develop professional relationships with science and math faculty, who will eventually write evaluation letters for you.
• Take the DAT after finishing the required science courses.
• Apply for Dental School after finishing 3 or more years of college in your chosen academic department.
• Use the resources available to undergraduates at the University of Mississippi. The Health Professions Advising Office maintains a website, offers information sessions, and advises students on a diversity of health-related careers.

Contact us: HPAO@olemiss.edu http://healthprofessions.olemiss.edu
Courses **Required** by the UMMC School of Dentistry in Jackson, MS

University of Mississippi School of Dentistry: [http://dentistry.umc.edu/](http://dentistry.umc.edu/)

**Note:** Other dental schools may require slightly different classes!

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<th>Biological Science</th>
<th>BISC 160/161*</th>
<th>Biological Sciences I</th>
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<td>162/163</td>
<td>Biological Sciences II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inorganic Chemistry</td>
<td>CHEM 105/115**</td>
<td>General Chemistry I</td>
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<td>General Chemistry II</td>
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<td>222/226</td>
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<td>Composition or Literature</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>MATH***121 or 261</td>
<td>College Algebra or Calculus I</td>
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<td>123 or 262</td>
<td>Trigonometry or Calculus II</td>
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<td>(or elective such as 125, Statistics)</td>
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**Required courses for DAT.**

*Requires a minimum Math score of 23 on ACT or 550 on SAT, or “A” or “B” in Math 123, or 125 or Chem 101.

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***Students who qualify by placement tests to enter calculus I directly, can satisfy their math requirements with Calculus I; the other three (3) required hours may be met by an approved math course such as statistics (Math 115).

**Advanced Science** (At least 6 hours, 300 level or above) such as: CHEM 471 (Biochemistry I, 3 cr), CHEM 473 (Biochemistry II, 3 cr), BISC 330 (Physiology, 4 cr), BISC 336 (Genetics, 4 cr).

**Others include:** BISC 331 (Comparative Anatomy, 4 cr), BISC 333, (Microbiology, 4 cr), BISC 440 (Cell & Molecular Biology, 4 cr), CHEM 314 (Quantitative Analysis, 4 cr), CHEM 331 (Physical Chemistry, 3 cr), and MATH 353 (Differential Equations).

AP and CLEP credit in science or math do not count towards these admission requirements.

No correspondence, independent study, or online course will count toward UMC’s required courses.

See “Credit by Examination” in UM catalog.

For clarification of required courses, see the Registrar’s office, [http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/registrar/](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/registrar/)

The UM Dental School evaluates all coursework when making admission decisions, including courses in which the student has invoked the UM “Grade Forgiveness Policy.”

Dent School AdmReq for HS students.docx
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