# Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry

## Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry (Cert./MS)

**Application Fee**
- Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program (Match), Postdoctoral Application Support Service (PASS) applications required for some programs
  - $35 non-refundable fee
  - $100 non-refundable fee is required of international applicants

**Previous Degree**
- Requirements vary for specific graduate programs
  - Official transcript of all undergraduate and graduate work from previously attended institutions

**Undergraduate Cumulative GPA**
- A minimum total GPA of 2.7 and a record of study and experience which is predictive of success in advanced education; for some programs, acceptable scores on the National Board Examination

**Graduate Record Examination (GRE)**
- Acceptable scores required on GRE or on other national tests approved by graduate program

**International Requirements**
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): Minimum score of 550 Paper; 213 Computer based; 80 or higher Internet based
  - Score a 6.0 overall band score on the Academic Module of the International English Language (IEL) Testing Exam

**Other Requirements**
- Approval for admission from the Program Admissions Committee and the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies

### International Requirements

1. In order to be admitted to graduate and professional studies at Texas A&M University, submit international transcripts translated in English by a certified English translator, which can usually be accomplished at the nearest American Embassy in the student's country. International transcripts for all Health Science Center (HSC) components are evaluated by and any required fees are paid to the Texas A&M University International Student Services (http://international.tamu.edu/iss).
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**Taking the Dental Admission Test (DAT)**

The application should take the DAT in the spring or summer prior to applying. The DAT is offered at Prometric Testing Centers with locations throughout the country. The DAT is administered on computer almost every day of the week. An applicant with below average scores on the test may wish to retake the test in order to become more competitive. A 90-day waiting period is required before re-testing.

Other resources include the Dental Admissions Testing Program (http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test).

**Application Procedures**

The college participates in the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS). This central processing service allows the applicant to apply to any or all of the three dental schools in the State of Texas. The TMDSAS accepts and processes all materials of the primary application for admission to the Doctor of Dental Surgery program only. Texas Residents MUST apply through the TMDSAS.

The college participates in the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) for out-of-state students. Out-of-state applicants who apply through AADSAS must also apply using the TAMBCD application. The TAMBCD application is available online at Banner Admissions Management Framework (https://bamf.tamhsc.edu/2/?wicket:bookmarkablePage=:bamf2.web.AuthLoginPage) (BAMF).

To apply to the program leading to the Doctor of Dental Surgery degree, the applicant should:

- Access full information and the online application at the website for:
  The Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service
  702 Colorado, Suite 6.400
  Austin, Texas 78701
  http://www.tmdsas.com

- Applicants needing assistance or who have no Internet access may contact the TMDSAS:
  Telephone: (512) 499-4785
  Fax: (512) 499-4786

- Timetable for filing application:
  Earliest date: May 1, year prior to desired admission
  Latest date: Application deadline is September 30 in year prior to desired admission

**Application Fees:** The TMDSAS has a variable fee based upon the number of schools for which you apply. TAMBCD requires a secondary application but charges no additional processing fee.

It is to the applicant’s advantage to apply as early as possible. The TMDSAS online application is accessible beginning May 1 of the application cycle. The Office of Recruitment and Admissions strongly advises that you submit your application by late August. Selection for interviews begins in July, and this requires a transmitted complete application. TMDSAS will not transmit incomplete applications to the participating dental schools. A definition of the completed application is available on the TMDSAS website. The TMDSAS may take 4 to 6 weeks to process the application before sending it to the dental college.

TAMBCD requires the submission of a secondary application in addition to the primary application. This application can be accessed from links on the TMDSAS website or at the application site BAMF (https://bamf.tamhsc.edu/2/?wicket:bookmarkablePage=:bamf2.web.AuthLoginPage).

The application for admission is not complete until the secondary application is submitted.

**Required Interview**

An interview is required. The applicant may be asked to come for an interview with the Admissions Committee. Interviews are scheduled by the Office of Recruitment and Admissions. Although an official interview is not granted to all applicants, the college gladly provides complete information and counseling for all prospective applicants. Visits to the campus for conferences and observations of the facilities can be arranged during spring and summer months.

**Basis for Accepting Students**

The quality of academic achievement is the first point of consideration. The grade point average (GPA) and the Dental Admission Test (DAT) are the primary factors used in this evaluation. The interview with the Admissions Committee gives the opportunity for evaluation of noncognitive factors. Preference is given to residents of Texas and the surrounding states that do not have a college of dentistry. Consideration of any factors that may have impacted academic or personal history is important in interview selection and final acceptance decisions. Consideration is also given to how the student may contribute to the diversity of the class. Additionally, applicants seeking to enter the dental school must be able to perform the essential functions required to complete the curriculum successfully.

**Improving Chances for Admission**

The application for admission to TAMBCD may be strengthened by the following:

- keep the GPA as high as possible
- make above average scores in all areas of the DAT
- upper-division biological science courses similar to those taken by the first-year dental students
- give careful attention to details in filling the application - apply early
- assure your personal statement explains your motivation for pursuing dentistry, including personal and academic achievements, hardships overcome and other factors that affected personal or academic progress
- observation in a general practice dental office is required
- participate in activities to improve manual dexterity and imaginative, creative ability
- take advantage of opportunities for community service
- evaluate and be able to articulate your skills, abilities, attitudes, etc., to determine if you are motivated to make the commitment required for a career in dentistry

**Comprehensive Review of Application**
A comprehensive (whole-file review) of the application is performed to reveal characteristics critical to the practice of dentistry, factors that indicate success in the dental curriculum that are not evident from academic history or standardized test performance and potential for future contributions to the dental profession. They include:

- motivation to pursue a career in dentistry
- involvement in community service
- observation or involvement in a dental office or clinic
- involvement in a summer pre-dental preparatory program
- letters of evaluation
- communication capabilities including writing (as evidenced in personal statement) and conversational English proficiency
- the applicant’s ability to contribute to the diversity of the class including their race or ethnicity, socioeconomic background, talents, life skills and experiences and special attributes
- region in Texas in which applicant resides
- residence in a Texas county designated as underserved by dental health professionals
- employment while attending college
- preparation to attend and succeed in post-secondary education
- parents’ educational background
- applicant is first college attendee in his/her immediate family
- history of extreme hardship
- leadership positions held in societies or organizations
- evidence of diverse cultural experience
- multilingual capabilities

**Becoming More Competitive as a Re-applicant**

All re-applicants must be enrolled in coursework to be considered as a competitive candidate. We recommend taking post-baccalaureate coursework in the biological sciences to further prepare for the dental school curriculum, keep current with study skills and prove to the Admissions Committee the applicant’s motivation and preparedness (for example: anatomy, physiology, biochemistry II, microbiology, histology, neuroscience, cell and molecular biology, immunology). Re-applicants need to critically review their applications for areas that may need further work: biological science coursework, DAT scores, GPA, community service and volunteer work, and general dental office shadowing experience.

Re-applicants should continue to participate in shadowing and ongoing volunteer activities during the application cycle. Re-applicants who follow this advice to improve their academic background and general application will be more competitive than those with little change from year to year. Working in a dental office alone will not improve the applicant’s competitiveness.

**More Information**

For up to date information, please go to Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry (http://bcd.tamhsc.edu/admissions/ddsadmissions.html). Select the section on Questions and Answers About Admissions to quickly access updated information and resources to further your knowledge of the admissions process. Go directly to Procedure for Application if you need specific directions on how to apply. To aid in planning and as a gauge for how you may compare to the “average” entering student, access the statistics in the snapshots of the recent entering classes.

Texas residents MUST apply through the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS). To access the full information and the online application, please visit TMDSAS (http://www.tmdsas.com).

Out-of-state applicants have three options. They may apply through the TMDSAS, through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS), or with the TAMBCD application packet (http://bcd.tamhsc.edu/admissions/applications.html).

**Please note:** Out-of-state applicants who apply through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) MUST also submit the TAMBCD application.

If you have further questions, you may contact the Office of Recruitment and Admissions by email at admissions-bcd@bcd.tamhsc.edu (bcd@bcd.tamhsc.edu) or by telephone at (214) 828-8231.

**Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)**

**Duration**

- 4 years (includes 3 summer sessions)
- D1 – Biomedical Sciences and Pre-clinical Dentistry
- D2 – Pre-clinical Dentistry
- D3 and D4 – Clinical Dentistry

(For specific information about the DDS curriculum, please contact the Office of Academic Affairs.)

**Requirements**

- Dental Admissions Test (DAT), 90 semester hours (minimum; BS degree recommended), specific course requirements (see below)

**Application Deadline:** September 30

**Start Term:** Fall

**The Integrated Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

**Admission Requirements**

Admission into this combined program requires that the applicants are accepted into the DDS program first, and then make a separate application to the PhD program. The applicant completes the forms with additional information on the areas of research interest, academic background, GRE scores, and prerequisite courses, academic honors, research experiences, and the names of three referees. Recommendation forms are specifically designed with questions on the applicant’s scholarly aptitude, including intellectual, problem-solving, and creative skills. The style of questions resembles that used on National Institute of Health/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH/NIDCR) Career Development applications. Applicants use Apply Texas, which is an all-inclusive site for graduate programs in the State of Texas. All applicants will be interviewed by the Graduate Program Director.

Applicants must be accepted into both degree programs (DDS and PhD). For more information, go to Graduate Program in Medical Sciences (http://www.tmdsas.com).
bcd.tamhsc.edu/bms/gradprogram) and see the section The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in this catalog.