A Career in Dentistry

You should speak to the Predental Advisor on your campus, Admission Offices of Dental Schools, the family dentist, other dentists in general practice, and those involved in the various fields of dentistry, such as public health, dental research, etc. Observation in the office of a dentist is required. Information is also available from the American Dental Association (http://www.ada.org/) and the American Dental Education Association (http://www.adea.org).

Preparing for a Career in Dentistry if you are in High School

High school students should take courses that will prepare them for admission to the predental college of their choice. In general, high school courses should include Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, History, Speech, and courses that involve the development of hand skills.

Choosing a College as a Predental Student

We do not recommend specific colleges. The college must be accredited and those having an active predental advisory committee are preferred.

The College of Dentistry provides complete information about admission requirements to predental advisors and to predental students. Counseling is available by phone.

College Courses to Take

The College of Dentistry requires a minimum of 90 semester hours, however, most students complete a baccalaureate degree before coming to the college. A grade of C or better is required for all prerequisite courses.

As outlined in the College Bulletin, an applicant must include in the required hours:

- Six semester hours of English
- Eight semester hours of General Chemistry
- Eight semester hours of Organic Chemistry
- Eight semester hours of Physics
- Three semester hours of Biochemistry
- Fourteen semester hours of Biology – 12 hours of lecture and 2 hours of formal laboratory
- Three semester hours of Statistics (from Math or Statistics Department) or Biostatistics

No course should be planned for Summer Session 2 of year of entry as it conflicts with the start date.

Suggested Elective Courses

Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Histology, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Immunology, Embryology and Biochemistry II are suggested to strengthen the student’s science background.

Small Business Management, Personal Finance, Reading Improvement, Mechanical Drawing, Studio Art, and Hand Crafts will aid in the business and technical aspects of a dental practice. Courses in Speech, Psychology and Sociology will help improve interpersonal communication skills for positive interaction with other individuals in our diverse society.

Preferred Major Fields of Study

Although we do not require a specific major, the majority of successful applicants have majored in the Biological or Biomedical Sciences. The applicant must perform well in the science courses including upper division hours and should be aware of the competition with other students who have taken more than the required number of hours of science especially biology. The well-rounded predental education will include some liberal arts courses along with science courses.

Academic Calendar

The College of Dentistry operates on a semester system with new classes beginning only once a year. A current calendar is available upon request.

Cost to Attend

The tuition and fees for the student in the college are recommended by the administration and are approved by the Board of Regents and may be adjusted as economic conditions warrant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Category</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas resident, per semester</td>
<td>$2,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident, per semester</td>
<td>$8,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated Tuition, per semester</td>
<td>$3,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Differential Tuition, per semester</td>
<td>$2,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Clinic Fee (D3 and 4 years only)</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruments Leasing, per year</td>
<td>$5,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tuition refund policy

Tuition refund policy is available on request.

To view the Cost of Attendance (COA) estimate provided by the Financial Aid Office, please visit their webpage http://financialaid.tamu.edu/Home.aspx and select the College of Dentistry.

Students are discouraged from holding any outside employment which may be detrimental to the pursuit of their education. In no case may a student accept a position which conflicts with regularly scheduled school
hours. When scholastic progress is questionable, students may be asked to discontinue outside work.

**Loan and Scholarship Programs**

The college participates in several types of loan and scholarship programs. Students are classified as independent for consideration in professional school so aid is available based upon your documented need. Students complete FAFSA and submit requests for aid to the Office of Student Aid.

**Attrition Rate**

Because of the intense efforts in selecting only highly qualified students, few students fail to complete the programs.

**Summer Predental Programs**

A Summer Predental Enrichment Program exists to strengthen academic background, introduce the profession of dentistry, improve study skills and increase readiness for admission to Dental School. For information, contact the Director of Student Development, or visit the Office of Student Development (https://dentistry.tamhsc.edu/student-development/).

**Opportunities Beyond General Practice**


**Departments**

**Departments**

Department of Biomedical Sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/biomedical-sciences/)
Department of Comprehensive Dentistry (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/comprehensive-dentistry/)
Department of Diagnostic Sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/diagnostic-sciences/)
Department of Endodontology (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/endodontology/)
Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/oral-maxillofacial-surgery/)
Department of Orthodontics (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/orthodontics/)
Department of Pediatric Dentistry (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/pediatric-dentistry/)
Department of Periodontics (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/periodontics/)
Department of Public Health Sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/public-health-sciences/)

**Interdepartmental Programs**

- Doctor of Philosophy in Oral Biology (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/interdepartmental/oral-biology-phd/)
- Master of Science in Oral Biology (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/interdepartmental/oral-biology-ms/)

**First Professional Doctoral**

- Doctor of Dental Surgery in Dentistry (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/dentistry/interdepartmental/dds/)