Dentistry

A dentist is a scientist and clinician dedicated to the highest standards of health through prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of oral diseases and conditions. There are more than 150,000 active dentists in the United States, and 80% are general practitioners. Dentists can also specialize in fields such as dental public health, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial, orthodontics, pediatrics, periodontics, and prosthodontics. With continuing population growth and the upcoming retirement of a large group of dentists, the need for new dentists is expected to escalate over the next decades. (American Dental Education Association)

Working in Dentistry

The average net income for an independent private practitioner who owned all or part of his or her practice in 2004 was $185,940 for a general practitioner and $315,000 for a specialist (Survey of Dental Practice—American Dental Education). Incomes will vary depending on length of time in practice, the number of hours spent treating patients, the use of allied dental personnel, the type of practice, and by the region of the U.S. Dentists are in the top 5 percent of the nation’s wage earners. Dentists are highly respected professionals and the career offers variety, prestige, flexibility, security, and personal satisfaction.

Additional Information

Health Professions Advisors
140 TILT Building
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1052
Phone: (970) 491-7095
Email: prehealth@colostate.edu

UCD School of Dentistry
University of Colorado Denver School of Dental Medicine
Mail Stop F-833, P.O. Box 6508
Aurora, CO 80045
Voice: 303-724-7122
www.uchsc.edu/sod/

American Dental Education Association (AADSAS)
1625 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036-2212
(202) 667-9433
www.adea.org

American Dental Association
211 E. Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 440-2500
www.ada.org

Dental Admissions Test (DAT)
www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp

CSU Pre-Dental Club
www.casa.colostate.edu/advising/preprof/dent/club.cfm

Human Health Pre-Professional Programs
www.casa.colostate.edu/advising/preprof/index.cfm
There are 56 accredited dental programs in the United States. The minimum amount of time required to earn the Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree is seven (7) years. Students must complete a minimum of three years of undergraduate work followed by four years of dental school. However, it is rare for students to be admitted with just 90 college credits and the majority of dental school applicants have completed a bachelor’s degree prior to entering dental school.

For more information about specific dental schools visit: www.adea.org

Admissions Requirements

Admissions requirements are GENERAL and may differ from school to school. Please contact the individual schools to discuss specific admissions requirements.

- Minimum of 90 semester credits of college education (most applicants have a bachelor's degree)
- Competitive cumulative GPA
- Competitive Dental Admissions Test (DAT) score
- Application submitted to the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS)
- Letters of recommendation
- Interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical Academic Prerequisites</th>
<th>Recommended CSU Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Biology (2 semesters with labs)</td>
<td>LIFE 102 and LIFE 103</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Chemistry (2 semesters with labs)</td>
<td>CHEM 111/112 and CHEM 113/114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry (2 semesters with labs)</td>
<td>CHEM 341 and CHEM 343/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Physics (2 semesters with labs)</td>
<td>PH 121 and PH 122 OR</td>
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<td>PH 141 and PH 142</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry (1 semester)</td>
<td>BC 351 (required at CU-Denver)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbiology (1 semester)</td>
<td>MIP 300 (required at CU-Denver)</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Composition (1 or 2 semesters)</td>
<td>CO 150, CO 300/301</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics (Sometimes Calculus)</td>
<td>MATH 155 or MATH 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly recommended courses:</td>
<td>BMS 300, BMS 301 and OT 215</td>
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