

# PRE-DENTAL RESOURCES



CAREER CENTER

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

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This handout is designed to provide students a general guide to applying to dental programs. For further assistance, please schedule an appointment with a Career Advisor.

## QUICK FACTS

Dentists are healthcare professionals specializing in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of oral health conditions. **There is only 1 dental school program in Georgia:** The Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University ([augusta.edu/dentalmedicine](http://augusta.edu/dentalmedicine)).

Here are some elements to consider when navigating the application process:

- Applications usually require some combination of these materials: **minimum GPA, Dental Admissions Test (DAT) scores, letters of recommendation, a personal statement, a secondary application, shadowing hours, and an interview.**
  - Thoroughly read through the requirements each school/program has for admission.
- Many programs require that you apply through a common application system: **American Dental Education Association Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (ADEA AADSAS)**, found at [aadsas.liaisoncas.com](http://aadsas.liaisoncas.com).
  - Additional applications are required by most dental programs for their specific school. They vary in information requested and most often require a fee.
- The number of shadowing/clinical hours required vary from program to program.
  - For Augusta's program, there is no set number—but the successful applicant average is **300 hours in a dental setting**.
- Most dental schools are seeking at least 1 letter of recommendation from science faculty, 1 from an advisor, and 1 from a dentist with whom you shadowed, however this varies from school to school. Visit the **ADEA Letters of Evaluation** page for more information: [adea.org/godental/letters-of-evaluation](http://adea.org/godental/letters-of-evaluation).
- Personal Statements being submitted through ADEA AADSAS should be a **general overview as to why you chose this profession**.
  - Pay attention to the character count (including spaces) allotted for the essay. The ADEA AADSAS has a **4,500 character limit**.

## DENTAL ADMISSIONS TEST (DAT)

**Dental Admissions Test (DAT)** is an admissions exam required for most dental school applications.

- The exam is broken into **4 types of questions: Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension, and Quantitative Reasoning**.
- Visit the **American Dental Education Association (ADEA)** and the **American Dental Association (ADA)** for exam details and requirements: [adea.org/GoDental](http://adea.org/GoDental) and [ada.org](http://ada.org).
- **Students should plan on spending about 200-250 hours intensely studying.**
- **The DAT should be taken 1 year prior to your planned enrollment date.**
- You can visit Kaplan for a breakdown of scores for each test section, [kaptest.com/study/dat/](http://kaptest.com/study/dat/)
- The exam can be re-taken after 60 days. You can take the exam a maximum of **3 times**.

## COMMON APPLICATION SERVICES (ADEA AADSAS)

**ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (ADEA AADSAS)**

- Many schools require your application to be submitted through this system. Find more information about the service here: [adea.org/godental/apply](http://adea.org/godental/apply).
- An account has to be made to utilize this application service. **Familiarize yourself with the site, the applications themselves, and what materials are necessary for each application.**
- **Keep in mind that not all schools use ADEA AADSAS!** Thoroughly read through each program's admission procedures.

## COMMON PREREQUISITES

English Composition I & II  
Principles of Biology I & II  
Principles of Chemistry I & II  
Organic Chemistry I

Biochemistry  
Introductory Physics I  
Pre-Calculus  
Probability and Statistics or Calculus

**\*This is not an exhaustive list. Please research each program's requirement and consult with your academic advisor prior to registering.**

## KEY NUMBERS

- Average GPA: science **3.4**; overall **3.5**
- Average DAT score: Academic Average **19.7**; Perceptual Ability **19.3**; Total Science **19.3**
- Average Shadowing Hours: **200-300**

**\*Check with each individual school for their GPA and score requirements.**

**\*\*Keep in mind that quality outweighs quantity when obtaining hours.**

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## INTERVIEW PREPARATION

Many programs require students to interview with the admissions committee as part of the application process.

**When preparing for professional school interviews, it is important that you practice ahead of time.**

- **“Why do you want to be a dentist?” or “Why our program?”** are common types of questions that you want to prepare for.
- **The American Student Dental Association (ASDA)** offers a Guide for Predental Students to help strengthen their application materials, including interview tips: [asdanet.org/utility-navigation/Publications/Getting-Into-Dental-School](http://asdanet.org/utility-navigation/Publications/Getting-Into-Dental-School).
- **The ADEA AADSAS** also has a page with interview resources, including the **“Dos and Don’ts” for virtual interviewing**: [adea.org/godental/interviews/](http://adea.org/godental/interviews/)

## PRE-DENTAL AT GCSU

At Georgia College, students interested in dentistry can prepare for dental school and a career in the field through academic planning, campus involvement, and hands-on experiences. While “pre-dental” is not a specific major, students from a variety of academic backgrounds can successfully pursue dental school admission with careful professional school planning and advising.

The **Pre-Dental Club at GCSU** brings together students who aspire to become dental professionals, offering support, guidance, and a sense of community. The organization provides a forum for discussing the dental school application process, the Dental Admission Test (DAT), and career opportunities in dentistry, all while enriching the pre-dental academic experience. Members gain exposure to the dental profession through guest speakers, attending dental conferences, visiting professional schools, and participating in shadowing opportunities.

## RESOURCES

**ADA: Dental Admission Test (DAT):**

<https://www.ada.org/education/testing/exams/dental-admission-test-dat>

**ADEA AADSAS: Student Login:**

<https://aadsas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

**ADEA: Applicants, Enrollees, and Graduates:**

<https://www.adea.org/home/publications/research-and-data/applicants-enrollees-and-graduates>

**ADEA: Dental Admission Test (DAT):**

[https://www.adea.org/godental/dental-admission-test-\(dat\)](https://www.adea.org/godental/dental-admission-test-(dat))

**ADEA: Dental School Interview:**

<https://www.adea.org/godental/interviews/>

**ADEA: Filling out your ADEA AADSAS Application:**

[https://help.liaisonedu.com/ADEA\\_AADSAS\\_Applicant\\_Help\\_Center/Filling\\_Out\\_Your\\_ADEA\\_AADSAS\\_Application](https://help.liaisonedu.com/ADEA_AADSAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_ADEA_AADSAS_Application)

**ADEA: Letters of Evaluation:**

<https://www.adea.org/godental/letters-of-evaluation>

**ASDA: Getting into Dental School:**

<https://www.asdanet.org/utility-navigation/Publications/Getting-Into-Dental-School>

**Augusta University: DCG Admissions Requirements Summary:**

<https://www.augusta.edu/dentalmedicine/admit/admissions/requirements.php>

**Augusta University: Welcome to the Dental College of Georgia:**

<https://www.augusta.edu/dentalmedicine/about-us/>

**Georgia Board of Dentistry:**

<https://gbd.georgia.gov/>

**Kaplan: What’s a Good DAT Score?:**

<https://www.kaptest.com/study/dat/whats-good-dat-score/#:~:text=DAT%20Scoring,no%20penalty%20for%20incorrect%20answers>