

DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATION TIMELINE & CHECKLIST FOR MATRICULATION IN 2009

WINTER 2008

- Start organizing your thoughts in writing about why you are seeking a dental education. You will use this write-up both as a draft for your AADSAS personal statement as well as helpful supporting materials to share with your reference letter writers. Prepare a list of all your activities and accomplishments inside and outside of the classroom. You will need this information later to help you complete the AADSAS application sections for:
 - Scholastic awards and honors earned
 - Job shadowing and volunteer experiences in dentistry
 - Extracurricular activities and leadership positions
 - Volunteer and community service activities
 - Work experience
 - Research experience
 - Activities requiring manual dexterity

Share this list (or a summary) with your reference letter writers as well.

- If you have not already done so, open a file with letters of reference at The Career Center at <http://www.careercenter.umich.edu/students/refletter/index.html>. There is no Pre-Dental Advisory Committee at UM. The responsibility of collecting reference letters is on you. Strive to secure three academic letters of reference (2 science + 1 non-science) and, possibly, a letter from a dentist, former employer, or supervisor of a volunteer experience. It is important that you demonstrate how you tested your interest in dentistry in a variety of settings, such as private dental offices, hospitals, dental clinics, dental specialties, research labs, etc. The exact number and types of letters required by each school, however, may vary.
- The Dental Admissions Test (DAT) is divided into the following sections: Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension Quantitative Reasoning, all scored on a 1-30 scale. Explore available options to prepare for the test at <http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp>. Register for the DAT 60-90 days in advance to enhance your chances to secure a testing slot for your desired date and location. The registration fee includes the submission of official transcripts of scores to five dental schools. Additional transcripts of scores may be purchased if you are applying to more than five schools.
- Investigate dental schools and doublecheck their specific academic and state residency requirements on their websites. Consider purchasing *ADEA Admission Requirements of U.S. and Canadian Dental Schools* and the *ASDA Handbook* (<http://www.adea.org/>) to learn more about schools and programs. Explore open houses at dental schools you plan to apply to since these events are traditionally offered in spring and summer.
- Stay informed about issues in dental education and practice.

SPRING 2008

- Currently, fifty-five of the fifty-six U.S. dental schools, and one Canadian dental school participate in AADSAS. You will need to complete the AADSAS application to apply to these schools. Start working on your AADSAS application as soon as it becomes available, around mid-May, at <http://www.adea.org/aadsas/default.htm>. Carefully review directions. AADSAS starts processing and delivering applications to individual dental schools in June.

- AADSAS offers a Fee Reduction Program to applicants demonstrating extreme financial need. Individuals who qualify may receive a refund of paid application fees. Refer to instructions inside the AADSAS 2009 application for details.
- If you applied to AADSAS last year and re-applying for 2009, you must complete an entirely new application. Data from the 2008 application is not carried over to the 2009 application.
- Make arrangements to have your transcript(s) sent to AADSAS for every U.S. or Canadian institution that was part of your undergraduate experience, such as summer programs, study abroad, course work prior to enrolling in college, etc. Print a Matching Transcript Form from the AADSAS application and send to each institution you attended. AADSAS starts accepting transcripts in mid-May of each application cycle. Note: Your application cannot be processed until AADSAS receives an official transcript from every college/university you attended.
- Finalize your personal essay and have it reviewed by a number of people you trust: advisors, counselors at The Career Center, faculty members, etc. To schedule a personal statement review at The Career Center call 734/764-7460.
- Enter your coursework carefully and accurately. The coursework section of the AADSAS application requires that you list every single course you have taken in college, including grades and credit hours. This information is verified by AADSAS based on the official transcripts you send, and is used to compute your application GPA. Failure to enter this information accurately can result in application processing delays. Carefully follow AADSAS instructions!
- Plan to send your reference letters either to the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) or directly to the individual schools, according to each school's preference--check dental school websites and information in the Dental School Designations section of the AADSAS application for school-specific requirements. If sending to AADSAS, print the Letter of Evaluation Matching Form in the AADSAS application. Instruct the UM Reference Letter Service to send letters on your behalf at <http://www.careercenter.umich.edu/students/refletter/rlssend.html>. AADSAS starts accepting letters of reference in mid-May.
- Set your own criteria for narrowing down the list of schools to which you want to apply. Check individual schools' websites, catalogs, and bulletins. Consult the *ADEA Admissions Requirement* book, *Opportunities for Minority Students in U.S. Dental Schools* and the *ASDA Handbook* (order at <http://www.adea.org>). Also, visit with faculty, advisors, family and friends about the schools they attended. Tap into the UM Alumni Networks (<http://umalumni.com/alumninetworks>) for more information. Send completed materials to AADSAS any time after mid-May. Although dental schools have varying deadline dates, ranging from October 1 to March 1, early application is highly recommended due to rolling admission practices.
- Contact ADEA Customer Service if you have questions about AADSAS: (800) 353-2237 (202) 289-7201 csraadsas@adea.org
- Take the DAT when you are ready. You must wait at least 90 days before retaking the DAT. Review DAT scores in relation to specific schools' admissions criteria. Decide where to apply. NOTE: You do not have to delay submitting your AADSAS until you have taken the DAT; however most dental schools will not consider your application complete until they have received DAT scores.

SUMMER 2008

- Your application is considered complete and ready to process when AADSAS has received: (1) your submitted online AADSAS application; (2) official transcripts from every college and university you attended; and your AADSAS processing fee. After receipt of all these items, AADSAS takes 4-8 weeks to process your dental school application and forward it to the designated dental schools. AADSAS begins sending applications to the dental schools in June.

- Keep copies of all materials for your records.
- Monitor your application closely. Follow-up with AADSAS in the event of an error or delay in processing.
- Register and take/retake the DAT as needed.
- Complete school-specific secondary applications in a timely fashion--fees will be involved.
- Stay informed about issues in dental education and practice.

FALL 2008-WINTER 2009

- Start preparing for your interviews. Gather interview tips through available literature and interview programs sponsored by The Career Center. See dental school interview feedback online from students interviewing nationwide at <http://www.studentdoctor.net/interviewdent/index.asp>. Schedule a videotaped practice interview at The Career Center by calling 734/764-7460 to gain practice and confidence. Try to coordinate interview trips within the same region to reduce travel cost when/if feasible.
- As you interview, send thank you letters; reflect upon your interview experience and learn from it; and take notes of your impressions of the schools you visited for future reference.
- Take your classes seriously. You may need/want to send your fall grades to schools, especially if you end up being waitlisted.
- As you await interview decisions, revisit factors important to you in selecting a dental school: prestige, class size, cost, financial aid, curriculum, philosophy of education, mission, location, opportunities for research, study abroad, etc., timing and location of clinicals, specialty training, availability of financial management classes, and more.
- Starting in January, complete financial aid information at <http://fafsa.com>.
- If you are waitlisted, keep the school(s) abreast of any new involvement or accomplishment.
- Pay deposits and start narrowing down your options as you receive admission offers.
- Due to the competitiveness of the application process, make contingency plans should you fail to gain admission. Consider scheduling an appointment with a Career Center counselor (call 734/764-7460) to explore your options.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

- **Dental Admission Testing Program**, American Dental Association, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 1846, Chicago, IL 60611. Phone: 800-232-1694; 312-440-2689--for DAT information and registration.
<http://www.ada.org>
- **American Association of Dental Schools Application Service**, 1400 K Street NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005, Customer Service: 202-289-8123 or 800-353-2237. AADSAS Fax: 202-289-8698. For AADSAS info and purchase of admissions requirements book. <http://www.adea.org/AADSAS/default.htm>
- Dental School Interview Feedback at <http://www.studentdoctor.net/interviewdent/index.asp>
- For a comprehensive page of **dental-related resources on the Internet**, check <http://www.dental-resources.com/>