

IOWA | DENTISTRY DDS Requirements

Applicants to the DDS program are reviewed using a whole file review process, with consideration given to all components of the application, including the criteria below.

☐ PREREQUISITES

Applicants are required to complete the following coursework with a C or better by June of the intended entering year. Grades of C- or lower and courses taken pass/fail or credit/no credit will not be accepted. Applicants may apply while completing prerequisite coursework.

Completing the prerequisite courses at an accredited four-year college or university is strongly encouraged. Community college coursework is accepted but not recommended for the prerequisites. Online coursework from accredited institutions is accepted, but in-person coursework is strongly encouraged.

Prerequisite Subject	Semester Hours	Quarter Hours
Biochemistry (lab is not required)	3	5
English	6	9
Biology (labs required)	8	12
General Chemistry (labs required)	8	12
Organic Chemistry (labs required)	8	12
Physics (labs required)	8	12

*For the English prerequisite, two composition courses are preferred; or one composition course, and one additional course in either literature, humanities, or public speaking that is writing intensive.

Microbiology is strongly recommended and will become a required prerequisite with the 2027-28 admissions cycle.

Other recommended courses include anatomy, physiology, histology, public speaking, genetics, and art.

Please note: Advanced Placement (AP) credit or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) is accepted for a prerequisite if the credit appears on an official college or university transcript.

The minimum requirement for admission is ninety semester hours (135 quarter hours) of academic coursework completed by June of the year of planned enrollment. A minimum of thirty of the ninety semester hours must be completed at a four-year college or university. Most applicants will complete a bachelor's degree before matriculation to dental school.

☐ SHADOWING

40 hours of dental shadowing is required and must be completed at the time of application submission. It is expected the dental shadowing be completed under general dentists and dental specialists.

☐ EXPERIENCES

Applicants report experiences in which they are involved on the AADSAS application. Experiences could include (but are not limited to) academic enrichment, extracurricular activities, research, volunteering, and work experience.

A minimum of 40 hours of volunteering is recommended. Applicants who show a commitment to helping underserved communities and caring for others are given strong consideration.

❑ LETTERS OF EVALUATION

A minimum of three individual letters or one committee letter is required. Letters must be uploaded directly to the application by the evaluators. Letters sent to the Dental Student Admissions Office are not accepted.

❑ DENTAL ADMISSIONS TEST

Applicants are required to complete the Dental Admissions Test (DAT), which is administered by the American Dental Association (ADA). Official DAT scores must be sent to AADSAS. Application review will not be performed until official scores are received. DAT scores may not be older than 3 years at the time of application.

Official scores must be received by September 30; applications missing scores after this deadline will be cancelled.

Retake tests: If planning to retake the DAT during the application cycle, please enter the future test date on the AADSAS application. Please note that Iowa Dentistry uses the most recent DAT scores, and application review will occur once official results are posted to AADSAS.

❑ APPLICATION FEE

Applicants are required to pay a non-refundable \$60 (U.S.) or \$100 (international) application fee directly to the University of Iowa. This fee is separate from any payments made to AADSAS and can only be made online via credit or debit card.

University of Iowa Application Fee Waiver: The \$60 (U.S.) or \$100 (international) application fee can be waived for applicants who qualify for the AADSAS Fee Assistance Program (FAP). Such applicants should send their FAP approval email from AADSAS to gradmail@uiowa.edu.

❑ ATTESTATION

Applicants for admission to the University of Iowa College of Dentistry are required to complete an attestation in accordance with Iowa Code section 262.9.39. Completion of this attestation is not used in the College of Dentistry admissions process. After payment of the University of Iowa application fee, instructions for submitting the required attestation will be provided. Applications without completion of the attestation will remain incomplete.



Dental Student Admissions



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Visit us online: dentistry.uiowa.edu



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