

Things to do the year before submitting your application to dental schools

It is recommended you file your application for dental school 14 months before the fall semester you want to start dental school. Below is a checklist of things you would want to have accomplished by the time you file your application for dental school.

	Have a strong academic record with at least three semesters of course work without getting grades below a "B" or developing a pattern of withdrawals on your transcript..
	Complete Chem 302 and at least one semester of human biology. It is strongly recommended that leading up to the application process to dental school, you present a portfolio of courses where you are taking at least two sciences together during a consecutive period of two-three semesters.
	If completing a bachelor's degree, check with your major program advisor to make sure you can finish your bachelor's degree before you start dental school.
	Devote intense preparation time to studying DAT and be registered to take a DAT exam during an April, May, June or July administration.
	Attend one mandatory orientation session for those participating in the pre-health advisory committee process and for those who are applying to start dental school the semester you wish to begin.
	Attend personal statement and interviewing workshops.
	Participate in the pre-health advisory committee process.
	Request from faculty and health care workers individual letters of evaluation and have at least three individual letters of reference on file with the office of pre-health sciences advising. These are in addition to your committee letter.
	Arrange with the office of records and registration to have VCU transcripts submitted to AADSAS.
	Arrange with the registrars from other schools where you have completed course work to have those transcripts sent to AADSAS.
	File your centralized application with AADSAS.
	Write your personal statement.
	Build a strong resume of dental experiences involving patient contact.
	Attend pre-dental club sponsored events.
	Order a copy of the Official Guide to Dental schools from www.adea.org and use this publication to select the dental schools to which you will apply.
	Dedicate a significant amount of time during the summer to completing secondary applications.
	Notify Dr. Leibowitz on or after July 17 to have your reference packet transmitted to the dental schools where you will be applying.