DENTAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

General Info:

* Students should complete a BNBS for admission to competitive programs (all programs in California are competitive). All applications are processed by one central agency.

All schools require the DAT (Dental Admission Test) exam [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

- Programs should be accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, which operates under the auspices of the American Dental Association.

Excellent resources for counselors and students:

American Dental Association: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)
American Dental Education Association: [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)
Career Services Center, UCSD: [career.ucsd.edu/undergrads/interest-area/pre-dental.html](http://career.ucsd.edu/undergrads/interest-area/pre-dental.html)

**UCSF** [http://dentistry.ucsf.edu/](http://dentistry.ucsf.edu/)
- % 2020, there were approximately 2000 applicants for the DDS program, and 124 were offered admission and 87 enrolled into the four-year program.
- The average GPA of entering dental students was 3.57 on a 4.00 scale.
- DAT average 22.1

**UCLA** [https://www.dentistry.ucla.edu/](http://www.dentistry.ucla.edu/)
- There were 1820 applicants and 90 admitted.
- The average GPA of entering dental students was 3.75 on a 4.00 scale.
- DAT average 23

**USC** [http://dentistry.usc.edu](http://dentistry.usc.edu)
- In fall 2017, there were +3,000 applicants for the USC School of Dentistry program and only 144 were admitted into their class of 144 students.
- The average GPA in 2018 of entering dental students was 3.45 in science and overall a 3.52 on a 4.00 scale.
- DAT average 20.4

**University of the Pacific** [http://dental.pacific.edu/](http://dental.pacific.edu/)
- The Admissions Committee recommends that you select courses that extend the content of biomedical sciences such as anatomy, histology, biochemistry, physiology, & microbiology.
• Competitive GPA is a 3.6 overall and a 3.5 in the sciences.
• In fall 2017 – 2,400+ individuals applied and 144 were accepted.
• Competitive, DAT 22

Loma Linda University [http://www.llu.edu/dentistry](http://www.llu.edu/dentistry)
• Offers a variety of dental programs including: dentistry, dental hygiene, and combined DDS/MS and DDS/PhD programs.
• Each year about there are about 1,700 applicants, on average 100 students are accepted.
• The science GPA of entering dental students was 3.54 and cumulative of a 3.44 on a 4.00 scale.
• DAT 20 and above to be competitive

**Common dental prerequisites:**

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- **Biology:** One year of general biology coursework and one quarter of lab.

- **Chemistry:** One year with one quarter lab of both general (inorganic) chemistry and organic chemistry.

- **Physics:** Any one year sequence including lab.

- **Mathematics:** Not specifically required for admission to dental school; a calculus background is usually a pre-requisite for chemistry and physics (some schools also recommend statistics).

- **English Comp:** Two to three quarters of English comp are generally required; completing the writing sequence at your college will generally fulfill this requirement. **Psychology:** Some schools require or recommend introductory courses.

- **Fine Arts:** Some schools recommend courses in sculpting, ceramics, drafting, or other applied fine arts.

- **Humanities:** Some schools require and all schools recommend that you have a broad, well rounded education complete with coursework in social and behavioral sciences, philosophy, foreign language, history, etc.

The prep for major varies slightly from school to school please refer to [http://www.adea.org/](http://www.adea.org/)

**FYI:**
Employment of dentists is projected to grow 18% from 2014 through 2024, faster than average for all occupations. The median annual wage was $159,770 in 2016. The demand for dental services is expected to continue to increase.

**Resources:**