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 exam 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
American Dental Education Association: www.adea.org
Career Services Center, UCSD: http://career.ucsd.edu/files/dentistry.pdf

UCSF http://dentistry.ucsf.edu/
• In fall 2016, there were 2114 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.

UCLA https://www.dentistry.ucla.edu/
• In fall 2016, there were 1819 applicants and 88 admitted.
• The average GPA of entering dental students was 3.74 on a 4.00 scale.

USC 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 2016 of entering dental students was 3.42 in science and overall a 3.51 on a 4.00 scale.

University of the Pacific 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 3.5 overall and a 3.5 in the sciences.
• In fall 2017 – 2,400+ individuals applied and 144 were accepted.

Loma Linda University http://www.llu.edu/dentistry
• Offers a variety of dental programs including: dentistry, dental hygiene, and combined DDS/MS and DDS/PhD programs.
• In fall 2017 there were 1,697 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.

August 2017
Common dental prerequisites:

- **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:**