Practicing dentists have either a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree (DDS) or a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree (DMD). Both programs require four years of graduate study, sometimes followed by two or more years of post-graduate training. The median salary for Dentists in 2014 was $154,640, and the U.S. Department of Labor estimates that the number of jobs in dentistry will grow much faster than average through 2024.

More than 99% of accepted students have completed an undergraduate degree before beginning a DDS or DMD program. Most dental schools require a small number of pre-requisite science courses, listed below, but most recommend (and some require) additional natural science, mathematics, and social sciences as well. Interested students are encouraged to thoroughly research prospective dental schools in order to best prepare for their programs of choice.

### Curriculum Guide

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Required Coursework*</th>
<th>St. John Fisher Courses</th>
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</table>
| 1 year of Biology    | BIOL 120, BIOL 127L: General Biology  
BIOL 128: Zoology |
| 1 year of General Chemistry | CHEM 103/103L, CHEM 104/104L |
| 1 year of Organic Chemistry | CHEM 201/201L, CHEM 202/202L |
| 1 year of Physics    | PHYS 121, PHYS 122 OR  
PHYS 131, PHYS 132 |

*A “C” grade is required in all pre-requisites. A competitive GPA is 3.5. Some schools may have a longer list of pre-requisites – check with your schools of interest.

Recommended courses include Biochemistry (Chem 408), Anatomy and Physiology (Biol 105 and 106 OR Biol 314 and 320), Cell Biology (Biol 311), Microbiology (Biol214), Calculus (Math 120), Statistics (Econ 221 or Math 260), Psychology (Psyc 100), and an art class, such as Beginning Drawing (Arts 105).

### Required Pre-Professional Exam

#### Dental Admissions Test (DAT)

Most students take the DAT in the spring of Junior year or the following summer. The test includes chemistry, biology, algebra, and perceptual ability, and is offered multiple times throughout the year. A competitive DAT score is 19 or 20.

### Clinical Experience

Must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of field via shadowing, volunteer experiences, or employment.

Additional information: American Dental Education Association (www.adea.org)

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