General PreDental Guidelines

Dental admissions committees want evidence that you will complete the program once admitted. Therefore, The Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University (DCG @ AU) and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) have the following admission requirements: (There are few private dental schools; state schools give preference to residents.)

Academic Ability

To demonstrate that you will be able to meet the rigorous, scientific demands of a dental school curriculum

DCG @ AU Requirements: MUSC Requirements (more typical of dental schools)
• 90 credit hours (bachelor’s degree preferred)
• Completion of the following classes:
  - 1 year of biology
  - 1 year of general or inorganic chemistry*
  - 1 year of advanced chemistry (includes organic)
  - 1 semester physics
  - 1 year English
  - 1 year English

MUSC Requirements:
• 90 credit hours (bachelor’s degree preferred)
• Completion of the following classes:
  - 1 year inorganic chemistry
  - 1 year organic chemistry
  - 1 year general biology or zoology
  - 1 year physics
  - 1 year Math
  - 1 year Science electives

Recommended courses: microbiology, genetics, cell biology, molecular biology, psychology, anatomy, physiology, histology, pharmacology, advanced chemistry, business, finance, accounting, painting, sculpting, biochemistry

Business classes because most dentists operate as small businesses.

Art classes are to improve fine motor skills and manipulative ability which are also evaluated.

Note: It is also required that you do well in these classes, these averages appear typical.

2015 (2019 graduation) AU Dental School class: average GPA = 3.6; average science GPA = 3.6

Testing Ability

To demonstrate that you can take the kind of tests needed to pass the licensing boards

Requirements:
• Completion of the Dental Admissions Test (DAT)

Note: You must also do well on this exam; these averages appear typical

2014 (2018 graduation) AU Dental School class average is 19 (academic); 20 (perceptual) (each of 30)

Personal Commitment

To demonstrate that you know what being a dentist entails and that you really want to make that your life

Requirements:
• Volunteering in a dental clinic and/or shadowing a dentist
  - seeing work done by dentists; being in a medical/dental environment

• Personal statement

• References
  - predental advisor or committee
  - dental professional you have worked with
  - other personal reference

Other activities that can strengthen your application

• Volunteer work—showing that you care about people enough to spend time helping them

• Research—showing that you know what it really means to be a scientist
  - Required if you want to be part of an MD/PhD program

• Study abroad/mission work—showing your ability and interest in diverse populations

• Officer in a student club—showing your leadership abilities

Information Courtesy of Augusta University, Department of Chemistry and Physics
One Way of Meeting the Academic Requirements:

**Chemistry Major (biology minor) on the Biochemistry Track at Augusta University**

Courses Required for AU dental school are in bold
Recommended courses for Dental School (or required at schools other than AU) are in italics
Numbers in parenthesis indicate courses that must be taken in a particular order
Other classes may also have prerequisites, but the schedule, as given, accounts for this.
*Courses required for the biology minor.  A minor is not required for the chemistry degree or dental school.

**FRESHMAN YEAR**

**Fall Semester**
- CHEM 1211-general/inorganic chemistry (1)
- MATH 1113-precalculus (1)
- ENGL 1101
- COMS 1100
- WELL 1000

**Spring Semester**
- CHEM 1212-general/inorganic chemistry (2)
- MATH 2011-calculus
- ENGL 1102
- BIOL 1107*
- INQR 1000

**SOPHOMORE YEAR**

**Fall Semester**
- CHEM 3411-organic chemistry (3)
- PHYS 1111
- BIOL 1108*
- HUMN 2001

**Spring Semester**
- CHEM 3412-organic chemistry (4)
- PHYS 1112
- upper level BIOL*
- HUMN 2002

**JUNIOR YEAR**

**Fall Semester**
- CHEM 4451-biochemistry (5)
- CHEM 2810-quantitative analysis
- CHEM 3820-laboratory safety
- Social Science
- PSYC 1101

**Spring Semester**
- CHEM 4552-biochemistry II (6)
- CHEM 4553-biochemistry lab
- upper level BIOL*
- upper level BIOL*
- WELL activity

**Summer**
- take DAT
- submit Dental school application

**DENTAL PREP** (not an AU course, but do self-study)

**SENIOR YEAR**

**Fall Semester**
- CHEM 3721-physical chemistry
- CHEM 4210-inorganic chemistry
- CHEM 4700-advanced lab
- Social Science
- WELL activity

**Spring Semester**
- CHEM 3810-advanced organic chemistry
- CHEM 4840-instrumental analysis
- upper level BIOL*
- CHEM 4800-seminar
- Social Science

**Upper level biology courses regularly offered at AU (taken after completion of BIOL 1108):**
- **Cell Biology**
- **Genetics**
- **Microbiology**
- **Zoology**
- **Ecology**
- **Botany**