

Pre-dental studies at Goshen College

The majority of dentists begin general practice after graduation from dental school. Some choose to specialize in areas such as orthodontics, oral pathology, or pediatric dentistry. Others find employment opportunities outside of private practice. For example, dentists have careers in dental education, forensic dentistry, research and the dental product industry.

Why GC for pre-dental?

To be accepted into one of the 54 dental programs in the United States, you will need a strong background in science. Goshen College can provide you with this academic foundation, as well as opportunities in a wide variety of other disciplines, as part of the liberal arts education at GC.

Academic excellence

Goshen College has an excellent record in preparing students to succeed in the sciences.

- In the past 10 years, 82 percent of GC students who have applied to medical school have been accepted.
- In a recent study by Franklin and Marshall College of over 500 undergraduate institutions, Goshen College ranked in the top 5 percent for its percentage of graduates who earned Ph.D.s in life sciences.
- In a comparison to 70 undergraduate institutions in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, Goshen was number one in the percentage of graduates who received Ph.D.s in the life sciences.

Excellent facilities

Renovated in 1992, the Science Building and Schrock Annex provides modern laboratory and research facilities. Its comfortable and safe research labs are well-ventilated and well-equipped for basic research in the biochemical, genetic, cellular, molecular, vertebrate, aquatic and marine areas.

Opportunities to work closely with faculty

Students can interact personally with the science faculty in classes, labs and research activities.

- The student-faculty ratio is 12:1, giving students the opportunity to work one-on-one with their professors.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in various undergraduate research projects directed by faculty members.
- Many students work with professors as lab assistants.

Opportunities to gain experience

Students may choose to pursue experience in Goshen-area clinics and have unique opportunities to gain international experience.

- Most Goshen College students spend a semester abroad in GC's unique Study-Service Term (SST). Students who are interested in a health-related career are encouraged to spend their six-week period of service working in a health-related assignment. Students have the opportunity to work in hospitals, clinics and medical/dental missions in countries as far away as the Dominican Republic, Germany and the Ivory Coast.

Suggested plan of study

The core requirements for most schools include:

Biological Principles	General Physics
Expository Writing	Literature and Writing
General Chemistry	Organic Chemistry

The following schedule represents one way to incorporate the required prerequisite classes into your plan of study. Keep in mind that not all classes listed may be required for every program and that you may need to add one or two additional courses that your program requires.

	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>May Term</i>
First year	Biological Principles I General Chemistry I Literature and Writing Precalculus	Biological Principles II General Chemistry II Expository Writing General education/electives	General education/elective
Second year	Organic Chemistry I Foreign Language 101 Calculus I General education/electives	Organic Chemistry II Foreign Language 102 General education/electives	SST
Third year	General Physics I General education/electives	General Physics II General education/electives	General education/elective

Many schools also require/recommend:

Anatomy and Physiology	Inorganic Chemistry
Biochemistry	Microbiology
Calculus	Psychology
Computer Proficiency	Statistics
Developmental Vertebrate Biology	Vertebrate Physiology
Genetics	

Each dental program has its own prerequisites for admission, so you will need to check the requirements of each program you are considering in advance to gain specific information. To find the specific requirements for each school, see the *ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools*, found in the science secretary's office.

Applying to dental school

Most applications to dental schools are processed through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS). The service provides a universal application that is first sent to AADSAS and then is forwarded to participating schools that the applicant is interested in. If you are interested in a school that does not participate in this program, you will need to apply directly to its admissions office. Additional information, such as letters of reference, may be requested after your application has been processed. Students are evaluated based on previous academic curriculum, undergraduate GPA and DAT scores. Students who meet expectations in these areas will be asked for an interview before a final admissions decision is made.

Most dental schools require a minimum GPA of 2.5-3.0 for acceptance. However, in most schools, the mean GPA for accepted students in 2001 was 3.2-3.3. Therefore, a GPA of at least 3.3 is preferable to remain competitive. All schools also require applicants to submit scores from the Dental Admissions Test (DAT).

Faculty advisers

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Additional resources

Goshen College Pre-professional Programs Web site:
http://www.goshen.edu/bio/pre_prof/prehome.html

Biology department Web site:
<http://www.goshen.edu/bio/biology.html>

Chemistry department Web site:
<http://www.goshen.edu/chemistry/>

American Dental Education Association Web site:
<http://www.adea.org/>