Dentists diagnose and treat diseases of the hard and soft tissue of the mouth. They are also trained to recognize a number of systemic diseases that manifest symptoms within the oral cavity to be referred to the appropriate physician. Eight specialties include orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, endodontics, periodontics, pedodontics, prosthodontics, oral pathology, and dental public health.

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Paying Back Your Dental School Loans
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>D.D.S., D.M.D.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program Length</td>
<td>4-7 years, depending on specialization.</td>
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<td>Professional Schools'</td>
<td>ADEA (American Dental Education Association)</td>
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<td>Dental Schools</td>
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<td>U.S. and Canadian Dental Schools</td>
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<td>ADEA AADSAS School-Specific Deadlines</td>
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<td>Application Fees</td>
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<td>Fee Assistance Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Admission</td>
<td>Minimum three years undergraduate; B.A. or B.S. preferred; one year each: General &amp; Organic Chemistry, Physics, Biology, English, Calculus &amp; Upper-level Biology recommended. Links to prerequisites for each U.S. dental school are found at the bottom of the Choosing Your Courses page (select “Course Requirements of the U.S. Dental Schools”). ADEA AADSAS Participating Dental Schools Required and Recommended Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission Exam</td>
<td>DAT (Dental Admission Test)</td>
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<td>DAT Fee Waiver Information</td>
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<td>Personal Attributes</td>
<td>Evidence of inquiring independent thought, interest in continued education, motivation toward dental career, good interpersonal skills, leadership qualities and interest in the community; appropriate psychomotor skills, concern for people, social awareness; evidence of understanding of the profession through experiences in clinical</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; Experiences</td>
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settings; psychomotor skills to perform technical tasks in dentistry, service and desire to help others.

**Recommendation Letters**

Health Professions Committee letter (usually confidential) sent with additional individual letters of support.