

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA**  
**PRE-HEALTH ADVISING**  
**ACADEMIC ADVISING AND TRANSFER SERVICES**  
[www.southalabama.edu/departments/academicsuccess/pre-health/](http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/academicsuccess/pre-health/)

**UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY**  
**Birmingham, Alabama**

**APPLICATION TO UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY**

The UAB School of Dentistry (UAB SOD) welcomes applications from students with strong undergraduate records and scores on the DAT which indicate their ability to handle the rigors of dental school. Approximately sixty (60) students are matriculated into the UAB SOD each August. Preference is given to Alabama residents. Out-of-state applicants who have superior academic records are encouraged to apply and are seriously considered for admission. In addition minority students are strongly encouraged to apply.

Students apply one year prior to their planned start date. Generally this will occur during the summer between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of undergraduate studies. Applicants must submit all application materials (including DAT score) to the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) by October 31<sup>st</sup>. All Alabama applicants and highly competitive out of state applicants will receive a supplemental application. The supplemental application, including transcripts, letters of recommendation and other specified documents, must be submitted by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**STATISTICS FOR THE 2018 UAB SOD ENTERING CLASS**

	<b>IN-STATE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Verified Applications	116	890
Interviewed	60	160
Matriculated	48	63
Mean GPA		3.78
Mean Science GPA		3.76
Median DAT		
Academic Average		21.2
Perceptual Ability		20.1
Total Science		20.9

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR UAB SOD**

The UAB SOD seeks applicants with a wide range of talents and academic backgrounds. Because of this, all majors, both science and non-science, are considered for acceptance. Although a bachelor's degree is not required for admission, the majority of successful applicants will have completed a baccalaureate degree which includes the completion of the minimum required course work<sup>1</sup> (see below). Please refer to the USA Major Guides for information about course requirements for specific majors.

- General Chemistry with Lab: Two semesters<sup>2</sup>
- General Biology with Lab: Three to four semesters<sup>2,3</sup>
- Mathematics: Two semesters<sup>4</sup>
- Organic Chemistry with Lab: Two semesters<sup>2</sup>
- General Physics with Lab: Two semesters<sup>2</sup>
- Humanities & Social Sciences: Minimum of 30 credits
- English Composition or Literature: Two semesters
- Biochemistry is not currently required but is highly recommended

<sup>1</sup>U.S. AP and IB credits will be accepted with proper denotation on the undergraduate transcript.

<sup>2</sup>All math and science courses have required prerequisites. Entrance to these courses will be based on Math ACT or SAT score and/or prior coursework.

<sup>3</sup>UAB SOD requires 12 credit hours in biology

<sup>4</sup>Completion of math courses will be dependent on Math ACT or SAT score. Calculus is recommended but completion of MA 115 or its equivalent will satisfy the mathematics requirement for UAB SOD.

**RECOMMENDED ACADEMIC PLAN**

<b>FIRST YEAR</b>	<b>CREDIT HOURS</b>
CAS 100	2
EH 101 & EH 102	6
Mathematics	3-6
CH 131/L & CH 132/L	8
BLY 121/L & BLY 122/L	8
CA 110	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30-33</b>

**SECOND YEAR**

CH 201/L & CH 202/L	8
Physics I & II and Labs	8
Courses in Major	6
History (US or Western Civilization)	3
ST 210	3
English Literature	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>

**THIRD YEAR<sup>5</sup>**

Biochemistry I & II <sup>6</sup>	6
Fine Arts	3
Humanities	3
Behavioral & Social Sciences	3
Upper level biology	3
Courses for Major/Minor	<u>12</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

**FOURTH YEAR<sup>5</sup>**

Completion of general education, major, and minor courses required for the degree	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

<sup>5</sup>UAB SOD strongly recommends art studio courses that will develop manual dexterity skills including ceramics, sculpting, two-dimensional and three-dimensional design, painting and drawing.

<sup>6</sup>CH 440/441, BMD 321/322 or BLY 440/441 will satisfy this requirement.

**DENTAL ADMISSION TEST (DAT)**

In addition to maintaining a strong GPA, participating in volunteer activities and shadowing, students will need to take

the DAT. Students should plan on taking the DAT during the spring of their junior year. The DAT is composed of four sections: 100 questions on the natural sciences (biology, general chemistry and organic chemistry); 90 questions on perceptual ability; 50 questions on reading comprehension and 40 questions on quantitative reasoning. Each section is scored from 1 to 30 and is based on the number of correct answers as compared to all test takers. The national average DAT score in 2016 was a 19. The DAT score for accepted applicants nationwide (2015-2016 application cycle) was a 20.3. The American Dental Education Association website contains useful information on preparing for and taking the DAT.

### **COMMITTEE EVALUATION**

Pre-Health Advising at the University of South Alabama provides current students the option of a committee evaluation. In order to be eligible for a committee evaluation students must have a GPA of 3.2 or higher and attend a required informational workshop in February prior to starting the application process in June. Students will need to ask between three and five faculty members to complete an evaluation form. A minimum of two letters must be from science faculty. The committee will base their letter of recommendation on these evaluation forms and committee interview. The deadline to request a committee evaluation is typically the first Friday in February prior to the summer of application.

### **PRE-MEDICAL PROGRAM**

Pre-Health Advising is dedicated to helping students succeed as they work towards a graduate education in dentistry. We are here to help students craft a workable plan by providing structure, guidance and information about University and Pre-Dental resources.

### **CHOOSING A MAJOR**

There is no perfect “pre-dental” major at the University of South Alabama. A student can major in any subject area and apply to dental school. If the desired career path changes students need to be in a major that will allow them parallel opportunities for success. Academic and Pre-Health advisors work together to help students with the coordination of courses for both the major and dental school.

### **IMPORTANCE OF GPA**

Dental schools will require students to provide their academic GPA which includes all grades earned at any institute of higher learning and dual enrollment. In addition, a second GPA will be calculated which includes only those courses in biology, chemistry, math and physics (BCPM). For the 2017-18 application cycle, the mean GPA of those students who are accepted into a dental school program is 3.56. The mean BCPM GPA of accepted students is 3.50.

Dental schools desire students with diverse backgrounds and experiences, strong GPAs (especially in math and sciences), sustained volunteer activities, leadership skills and most especially shadowing or experience in the health profession of interest. The UAB SOD strongly recommends that all applicants shadow for a minimum of one hundred (100) hours in diverse practice settings.

Pre-Dental students are entering fields with very strong and well established service orientations. Students need to get involved in service at the start of their college career. There are volunteer activities that one can participate in during the semester as well as during the summer break. Dentists are part of a team as a health professional and one way to learn how to be part of a team is to get involved and develop leadership skills. UAB SOD expects applicants to have substantial community service experience. A letter of recommendation from a community services supervisor should be a part of your supplemental application.

Students also need to be culturally aware and actively pursue experiences that allow them to learn about themselves and others. It is important for pre-dental students to choose experiences that will allow them to stand out, demonstrate their value, and enable them to work with diverse populations at home and abroad. For instance, if a student studies abroad at some point during your academic career, they will learn the issues affecting the health and well-being of populations in other countries.

### **USA PRE-DENTAL SOCIETY**

The USA Pre-Dental Society was created to help pre-dental students stay informed about dental school admissions. In addition the organization provides pre-dental students the opportunity to stay connected with one another while participating in monthly meetings and volunteer activities.

### **ALPHA EPSILON DELTA (AED)**

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is the national honor society for pre-health students. The University of South Alabama has a very active AED chapter, Alabama Zeta. In addition to providing service activities for pre-health students, health care professionals and professional school admissions officers present at bi-monthly meetings. All pre-health students are encouraged to become actively involved in the University’s chapter of AED. In order to become a national member, students must have a minimum 3.2 GPA and have been a local member of the Zeta chapter for three consecutive semesters.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

University of South Alabama  
Pre-Health Advising  
Academic Advising and Transfer Services  
111 Jaguar Drive, Suite 1375,  
Mobile, AL 36688  
(251) 445-9280  
prehealth@southalabama.edu

University of Alabama Birmingham School of Dentistry  
Office of Admissions and Records  
SDB 125  
1720 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Birmingham, AL 35294-0007  
(205) 934-3387

American Dental Education Association (ADEA)  
<https://www.adea.org/GoDental/>