

PRE-DENTISTRY

Undergraduate Credit Required	90 credit hours (UNMC); 64 credit hours (Creighton); Bachelor's degree recommended
Entrance Exam	Dental Admissions Test (DAT)
Professional Schooling Required	4 years; D.D.S. – Doctor of Dental Surgery
Local Professional Schools	UNMC College of Dentistry; Creighton School of Dentistry
Professional Organization Websites	adea.org (American Dental Education Association); ada.org (American Dental Association)

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED UNL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The following coursework recommendations fulfill the entrance requirements for UNMC College of Dentistry and Creighton University School of Dentistry. Students who are considering dental schools outside of Nebraska are encouraged to contact those schools directly for a list of entrance requirements. UNL courses that fulfill the entrance requirements are listed for each area.

Math Requirement: Some required science courses, like chemistry, require math as a prerequisite. See your pre-health advisor for math placement information.

AP/IB/CLEP: UNMC will accept AP credit if listed on undergraduate transcript, but students with AP in science areas should take courses above and beyond the minimum requirements listed here; Creighton will not accept AP credit except for English and Physics requirements.

Community College credit (Creighton): Creighton will not accept community college credit for any prerequisites except Physics.

Biological Sciences with lab—2 courses		
LIFE 120/120L & LIFE 121/121L (both LIFE courses recommended for DAT)		
Other acceptable prerequisite BIOS courses: BIOS 213/213L or 214		
Course	Term	Grade
General Chemistry with lab—1 series		
CHEM 109A/109L and 110A/110L or 113A/113L, 114, and 221		
Course	Term	Grade
CHEM		
CHEM		
Organic Chemistry with lab—1 series		
CHEM 251/253 and 252/254 or 261/263 and 262/264		
Course	Term	Grade
CHEM		
CHEM		
Physics with lab—1 series		
PHYS 141 and 142 or 211/221 and 212/222		
Course	Term	Grade
PHYS		
PHYS		
English Composition—6 hours		
ENGL 150, 151, 254, or 354		
Course	Term	Grade
ENGL		
ENGL		

Biochemistry – 1 course (NOT REQUIRED, but strongly recommended for UNMC)		
BIOC 401/401L or BIOC 431/433		
Course	Term	Grade

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

- **Physiology (DAT content):** BIOS 213/213L
- **Anatomy:** BIOS 214
- **Microbiology:** BIOS 312/314
- **Business Administration/Accounting:** ACCT 200 or 201
- **Medical Terminology:** CLAS 116
- **Comparative Anatomy:** BIOS 388
- **Cell Biology:** BIOS 302
- **Genetics:** BIOS 206
- **Functional Histology:** BIOS 408
- **Immunology:** BIOS 443
- **Dental Anthropology:** ANTH 443
- **Math/statistics**
- **Business law:** BLAW 300
- **Psychology or Sociology:** PSYC 181 or SOCI 101

4-Year Plan*	
Suggested Sequence of Required & Suggested Science Courses	
Semester 1 LIFE 120/120L Math (per MPE)	Semester 2 General Chemistry 1 with lab LIFE 121/121L
Semester 3 General Chemistry II with lab	Semester 4 Organic Chemistry I with lab BIOS 213/213L (DAT content)
Semester 5 Organic Chemistry II with lab BIOS 312/314 (suggested elective)	Semester 6 Biochemistry (suggested elective) Physics I with lab
**Take the DAT 13-15 months before you intend to start dental school	
Semester 7 Physics II with lab BIOS 214 (suggested elective) *Sequence may vary from above depending on declared major requirements	Semester 8 Suggested Electives

EXTRA CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT & ACTIVITIES

Pursuing dental school requires more than just coursework. Your extracurricular activities, employment, and healthcare experiences like shadowing and volunteering will contribute greatly to your success in this field. See your pre-health advisor in the Explore Center to plan extracurricular activities that will prepare you for this program.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

- Applications: Most dental schools, including UNMC College of Dentistry and Creighton School of Dentistry, participate in the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS). This service is usually available in May of each year. It is best to apply well before stated application deadlines.
- Entrance exam: The Dental Admissions Test (DAT) is required. It is each applicant's responsibility to provide official Dental Admissions Test score reports to each school to which they apply. DAT examinations are computer based and are coordinated by the Dental Admission Testing Program and administered at Prometric Test Centers. Information on the DAT is available at ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test.
- Additional admissions requirements: Creighton requires 65 hours of shadowing in the dental profession.

Recommended Courses for DAT

LIFE 120/120L
LIFE 121/121L
BIOS 213/213L
CHEM 109A/109L and 110A/110L or 113A/113L, 114, and 221
CHEM 251/253 and 252/254 or 261/263 and 262/264

Math section of test includes quantitative reasoning, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, probability, statistics, and applied word problems.

Note: The topics of viruses, archaeobacteria, genomics, gene expression, and epigenetics were added to the Biology section of the DAT in Jan. 2022. Updates to this course list are forthcoming.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Explore Health Careers: explorehealthcareers.org

UNMC College of Dentistry

Lincoln, NE 68583-0740
(402) 472-1363
mvogt@unmc.edu or joyce.hurst@unmc.edu
<http://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/>

Creighton University School of Dentistry

Omaha, NE 68178-0055
(402) 280-2695 or 1-800-544-5027
denschadm@creighton.edu
<http://dentistry.creighton.edu>

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Explore Center

Love Library South 127

402-472-3605

explorecenter@unl.edu

explorecenter.unl.edu

  UNL Explore Center

