WHAT IS PRE-DENTISTRY?

Dentistry is the profession dedicated to the highest standards of health through the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of all oral diseases and conditions. Pre-Dentistry students work one to one with an advisor to reach their goals, and they can choose any major to pair with their focus.

The Nebraska Difference

GET PAID TO DO RESEARCH AS AN UNDERGRAD

- Encourage and inspire freshmen by being a Pre-Health Peer Mentor

HUMANITIES IN MEDICINE MINOR

- Live and learn with Pre-Health peers in a learning community

MEET ONE TO ONE WITH DENTAL SCHOOL VISITORS

- Share your Pre-Health story as an Explore Center Ambassador

INTRO TO HEALTH PROFESSIONS COURSE

- Become an undergraduate teaching assistant or tutor for important Pre-Health science courses

HOW TO GET THERE

Meet with your Pre-Health Advisor at New Student Enrollment

Complete prerequisite courses and major requirements at UNL

Apply to accredited dentistry programs

Complete four years at an accredited dentistry program

Take the Dental Admissions Test 12-16 months before you intend to start dental school

Complete bachelor’s degree at UNL (preferred, but not required)

Become a Doctor of Dental Surgery

OUR STUDENTS

“From your first days on campus to your last, the Explore Center is here to help you through your Pre-Health journey. From career advising meetings to application preparation for professional health school, the Explore Center advisors will be there to help along the way.” - Brandon, ’21

UNL students were accepted to dental school at a rate 17% higher than the national average in 2020

UNL: 74%

National: 57%
Required Course Work*  |  MIN. #
---|---
Biological Sciences with Lab  | 2
General Chemistry with Lab  | 2
Organic Chemistry with Lab  | 2
Physics with Lab  | 2
English Composition  | 2

Recommended Course Work  |  MIN. #
---|---
Human Physiology (DAT Content)  | 1
Human Anatomy  | 1
Biochemistry  | 1
Microbiology  | 1
Economics  | 1
Comparative Anatomy  | 1
Cell Biology  | 1
Genetics  | 1
Functional Histology  | 1
Immunology  | 1
Math  | 1
Business Administration  | 1
Psychology or Sociology  | 1

Required & Recommended Science Courses Only

| FIRST | SECOND | THIRD | FOURTH | FIFTH | SIXTH | SEVENTH | EIGHTH |
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
Biological Sciences I w/lab  | General Chemistry I w/lab  | General Chemistry II w/lab  | Biological Sciences II w/lab  | Organic Chemistry II w/lab  | Human Physiology w/lab (DAT Content)  | Physics I w/lab  | Recommended Science Electives  |
Math (per placement)  | Biological Sciences II w/lab  | Organic Chemistry I w/lab  | Recommended Science Electives  |

* These requirements are based on those for the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)’s College of Dentistry and Creighton University’s School of Dentistry. You are encouraged to work with an advisor to determine requirements at other institutions.

* UNMC’s College of Dentistry will accept AP credit, but students with AP science should take more than the minimum required science courses; Creighton University’s School of Dentistry will not accept AP credit.

Professional School Requirements:

- **Undergraduate Credit:**
  90 credit hours (UNMC); 64 credit hours (Creighton); Bachelor’s degree preferred

- **Entrance Exam:**
  Dental Admissions Test (DAT)

- **Professional Schooling:**
  4 years; D.D.S. - Doctor of Dental Surgery

- **Local Professional Schools:**
  University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Dentistry - Lincoln; Creighton School of Dentistry - Omaha