3 September 2013

PREDENTAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-FAYETTEVILLE

PREDENTAL ADVISOR:
Dr. Jerome C. Rose
Anthropology Department
Old Main, 348
Email: jcrose@uark.edu
Pre-dental Website: http://www.uark.edu/~jcrose/dentaladvising/dentaladvising.html

GENERAL:
It is important that you keep your advisor informed of any changes in address, email address and telephone number. It is frequently necessary to contact pre-dental students on short notice. All announcements, scheduled events, and deadlines are distributed by email so it is imperative that we have your UARK email address.

I have sign-up sheets for appointments to see me for pre-dental advising always posted on the bulletin board next to the entrance to the Anthropology Department Office at Old Main 330 when I am here and school is in session. Come by and sign up for a time slot and that is your appointment. I will be waiting for you in my office in Old Main 348. This is your time and I will not be busy doing anything else.

There is a student Dental Society on campus and you are encouraged to join and participate. This is an entirely student-run club for all people interested in teeth and dentistry. The officers send out notices of their meetings by email. It is important to get your address to them. Keep in mind that all dental school applications ask if you have belonged to a pre-dental club while in college. I will also send the announcement of meetings to everyone on my list as well.

MAJOR:
Although many students major in Chemistry or Biology, a pre-dental student may major in any subject such as Anthropology, Art, French, Mathematics, Sociology, etc. In fact, Dental Schools encourage a broad education and majoring in Biology or Chemistry will not provide an admission advantage. You should choose the major that you want and are interested in and then you will earn better grades in your major and the required pre-dental sciences. However, TAM-Baylor College of Dentistry favors biology majors who have had many of the same courses that the first year dental students take, and they say that being a non-science major is an extreme disadvantage for admissions and for survival in the first year curriculum.

DENTAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:
The majority of Dental Schools require the following science courses in addition to other subjects normally taken by all students: two semesters of English composition (ENGL 1013, 1023 or a combination of advanced writing courses), two semesters each of general chemistry (CHEM 1103/1101L, 1123/1121L) and organic chemistry with labs (CHEM 3603/3601L, 3613/3611L), two semesters of physics (PHYS 2013/2011L, 2033/2031L), and two semesters of introductory biology including principles of biology (BIOL 1543/1541L) along with principles of zoology (BIOL 1603/1601L). Biology majors can use one of their nonrequired (by the dental schools) advanced biology courses in place of introduction to zoology. Two or more advanced biology courses such as anatomy (BIOL 2443/2441L or BIOL 3404), physiology (BIOL 2213/2211L or BIOL 4234), microbiology (BIOL 2013/2011L), dental science (ANTH 4523), cell biology (BIOL 2533/2531L) and biochemistry (CHEM 3813) are recommended (see detailed lists by school below).

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENTS:
If the University of Arkansans puts 6 hours of English on the transcript then dental schools will consider this requirement met. Usually for this to happen the student would have to be dual enrolled in their high school and a local college or university. Advanced placement in biology, chemistry, or physics will be accepted if the student has taken a more advanced course in that subject to replace each of the required courses with advanced placement exemption.

DENTAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE:
All schools require that you have experience in the dental profession. As a guideline, we can quote from the UMKC dental school: It is strongly suggested that candidates observe in a minimum of five different dental offices such as general dentists (required by all schools) and specialists. Students should log a minimum of 80 to 100 hours of dental office observation.
DENTAL ADMISSION TEST:
The American Dental Association mandated that all pre-dental students take the D.A.T. in the computerized test format. You can get all current information about the test and register on-line at http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx

It is recommended that the D.A.T. be taken in the spring semester of the junior year after completing all the science course requirements, in particular your organic chemistry courses. This provides additional opportunities to take the test again if necessary. (Physics is not on the test). You may take the test only three times and you must wait 90 days before you can take the test again. The University of Tennessee, Memphis dental school says “Don’t apply until you are satisfied with your DAT score. We receive applications each week and make interview decisions based on when the application is first sent to us.”

PREPARING FOR THE DAT:
Preparation materials for the D.A.T can be obtained from a variety of sources such as the Kaplan preparation course http://www.kaptest.com/ and a variety of prepare-yourself books (such as New Rudman’s Questions and Answers on the D.A.T.- see the following website for this book and others: http://www.ebout.net/study_DAT.html) and software such as that produced by ScholarWare (www.scholarware.com) which is highly recommended by dental schools. UMKC suggests, students use the scope of examination section in the front of the D.A.T. book or another reference book to find out about the structure of the test and its content. I suggest that each student take a practice test (always on a computer) and then review all of the wrong answers. You may find that you got the question wrong because you did not read all of the choices or that you interpreted the question is a positive one rather than negative. If you got the question wrong because you did not know the answer, then stop right then and study that concept. If you do this for 10 practice tests or more you will have studied the material that you know by getting the questions right and have studied the material that you did not know because you looked up the answer and studied the concept when you got the questions wrong. Additional practice test companies recommended by our own students are: Crack the DAT - www.crackdat.com/; Dat Destroyer - www.orgoman.com/datdestroyer.html

RECOMMENDED BOOK PURCHASE:
New Rudman’s Questions and Answers on the D.A.T. - available at many bookstores and online sources such as Amazon

WEB SITES THAT ARE USEFUL:
www.adea.org the American Dental Education Association has many links to sites about dental schools (http://www.ada.org/267.aspx), application procedures, the AADSAS unified application process, and testing, etc.
www.scholarware.com Provides materials used to prepare for the D.A.T.
www.ada.org The American Dental Association provides information about testing and admissions.

ARKANSAS RESIDENTS:
Arkansas does not have a dental school and thus Arkansas residents have access to seven dental schools that have agreements with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. The seven schools, their requirements, and contact information are listed below:

DENTAL SCHOOLS FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS:

1. University of Louisville (ARHEG Slots: 1)

Dianne D. Foster, Director of Student Affairs or Robin Benningfield, Admissions Counselor
School of Dentistry
Office of Student Affairs, Room 234
501 S. Preston St.
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292
Phone 502-852-5081/800-334-8635 extension 5081; Fax 502-852-1210; email: dmdadms@louisville.edu;
website: www.dental.louisville.edu

The University of Louisville requires only the first semester of physics (mechanics) and three semesters of biology beyond the introductory course (principles of biology) to be chosen from: biochemistry (strongly recommended), comparative anatomy, physiology, cell biology, microbiology, and immunology (for a total of 16 biology credits).
2. Louisiana State University (ARHEG slots: 4)

Dr. Toby Cheramie, Director
Office of Admissions
LSUHSC School of Dentistry
1100 Florida Ave. Box 228, Room 2201
New Orleans, LA 70119
Phone 504-941-8124; Fax 504-941-8123; email ds-admissions@lsuhsc.edu; website www.lsusd.lsuhsc.edu

The Louisiana State University requires an additional 3 credits of English be taken for a total of 9 credits in English Composition (the third course can be any with ENGL designation), 3 courses beyond the principles of biology course to be chosen from: cell biology, molecular biology, comparative anatomy, and physiology with their associated labs, as well as biochemistry. LSU will also have pre-requisite requirements of biochemistry (3 credit hours of lecture) and microbiology (3 credit hours of lecture) beginning in June 2014 for the 2015 cycle. Additionally, be aware that LSU is the only school in the US that still has a chalk-carving exercise to test manual dexterity on interview day. The information and video demonstrating the process is available on their website.

3. Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry (ARHEG slots: 3)

Dr. Barbara Miller, Executive Director
Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry
Office of Recruitment & Admissions, Room 525
Baylor College of Dentistry
3302 Gaston Ave.
Dallas, TX. 75246
Phone 214-828-8231; fax 214-874-4521;
e-mail admissions-bcd@bcd.tamhsc.edu; website http://www.bcd.tamhsc.edu

Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry also requires 3 hours of biochemistry, 3 hours of statistics, and a total of 10 hours of biology beyond the introductory course (9 lecture and 1 laboratory) to be taken from: physiology, anatomy, cell biology, microbiology, immunology, biochemistry II, neuroscience, cellular and molecular biology, and embryology. TAM-Baylor College of Dentistry favors biology majors who have had many of the same courses that the first year dental students take. Being a non-science major is an extreme disadvantage for admissions and for survival in the first year curriculum. Arkansas residents apply through the AADSAS application system (1 June - 30 September). In addition, TAM-Baylor College of Dentistry requires the submission of a secondary application which can be obtained from their website http://www.bcd.tamhsc.edu

Two recommendation letters are required: a letter from the predental advisor/committee, including comments from at least 2 faculty members; and a letter from a practicing dentist.

4. University of Missouri-Kansas City (ARHEG slots: 2)

Mr. Wes Parham
Ms. Sarah Majors
Director of Dental Admissions
Enrollment Services Coordinator
Office of Student Programs
Office of Student Programs
School of Dentistry
School of Dentistry, Room 420
University of Missouri-Kansas City
University of Missouri-Kansas City
650 East 25th Street
650 East 25th Street
Kansas City, MO. 64108-2784
Kansas City, MO. 64108-2784
816-235-2094 or 800-776-8652
phone 816-235-6322 or 800-776-8652; fax 816-235-2157
website: www.umkc.edu/dentistry/
e-mail: parhamw@umkc.edu
email: majorsj@umkc.edu

The University of Missouri at Kansas City requires a total of 4 semesters of biology including principles of biology, anatomy with laboratory, physiology with laboratory, cell biology with laboratory, biochemistry (without laboratory is ok) and recommends additional courses such as microbiology, molecular biology/genetics, business courses, jewelry making, ceramics, and Spanish. Dental observing must be at least five offices for 80 to 100 hours. Dental observing is required at a minimum of five offices for 80 to 100 hours. Active and ongoing volunteerism for a minimum of 80 to 100 hours is needed.
5. University of Oklahoma (ARHEG slots: 1)

University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry
Office of Admissions
P.O. Box 26901
Oklahoma City, OK. 73190
phone 405-271-3530; fax 405-271-3423; website http://dentistry.ouhsc.edu/
Sally Davenport, admissions coordinator, e-mail: sally-davenport@ouhsc.edu

The University of Oklahoma requires a total of at least 16 credits of biology (including lab), 3 credits of psychology, and 3 credits of biochemistry in addition to the standard courses. Applicants must complete at least 100 hours of observation with the majority being completed with a general dentist. A separate supplemental application must be submitted directly to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

6. University of Tennessee-Memphis (ARHEG slots: 23 with an additional 10 slots reserved for Arkansans paying out of state tuition)

Dr. J. Stansill Covington, III, Associate Dean for Admissions
Office of Admissions and Student Affairs
875 Union Avenue S-102 Dunn Bldg. University of Tennessee-Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee 38163
Phone 901-448-6200; 1-800-788-0040; Fax 901-448-1625; email dentaladmissions@uthsc.edu

The University of Tennessee, Memphis requires 3 credits of biochemistry and 1 semester of an additional biology course that must be one of the following courses and its associated lab component: Cell Biology, Microbiology, or Comparative Anatomy. Human Anatomy is an acceptable substitute for Comparative Anatomy as long as the course has a laboratory component.

7. Meharry Medical College (ARHEG slots: 1)

Director of Admissions
Meharry Medical College
Admissions and Records
1005 Dr. D.B. Todd, Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, Tennessee 37208-3599
phone: 615-327-6223; Fax: 615-327-6228; e-mail: admissions@mmc.edu;
website: http://www.mmc.edu/admissions/applydental.html

The Meharry School of Dentistry requires the standard courses only.

FOR TEXAS RESIDENTS:
Texas residents apply through the TMDSAS application system (1 May - 30 September). Website: http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/dental/homepage.html

1. University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio

University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio
Dental Admissions, Office of the Registrar
7703 Floyd Curl Dr.
San Antonio TX 78229-3900
Associate Dean for Student Affairs 210-567-3752
e-mail dsmprospect@uthscsa.edu; website http://dental.uthscsa.edu/

The University of Texas, San Antonio Branch requires three additional biology courses with labs beyond principles of biology, three credits of biochemistry, and three credits of statistics.
2. University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston

University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston
Office of Student Affairs
6516 M. D. Anderson Blvd. Suite 155
Houston TX 77030
Phone: 713-500-4151; Fax. 713-500-4425
e-mail: db-studentaffairs@uth.tmc.edu; Website: www.db.uth.tmc.edu/education/doctor-dental-surgery/admissions

The University of Texas, Houston Branch requires 16 credits of biology courses with 4 hours of microbiology being required along with one semester of biochemistry, and one three credit course in statistics.

3. Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry

Dr. Barbara Miller, Executive Director
Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry
Office of Recruitment & Admissions, Room 525
Baylor College of Dentistry
3302 Gaston Ave.
Dallas, TX. 75246

Phone 214-828-8231; fax 214-874-4521;
e-mail admissions-bcd@bcd.tamhsc.edu; website http://www.bcd.tamhsc.edu

Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry also requires 3 hours of biochemistry, 3 hours of statistics, and a total of 10 hours of biology beyond the introductory course (9 lecture and 1 laboratory) to be taken from: physiology, anatomy, cell biology, microbiology, immunology, biochemistry II, neuroscience, cellular and molecular biology, and embryology. TAM-Baylor College of Dentistry favors biology majors who have had many of the same courses that the first year dental students take. Being a non-science major is an extreme disadvantage for admissions and for survival in the first year curriculum. Texas residents apply through the TMDSAS application system (1 May - 30 September). In addition, TAM-Baylor College of Dentistry requires the submission of a secondary application which can be obtained from their website http://www.bcd.tamhsc.edu
Two recommendation letters are required: a letter from the predental advisor/committee, including comments from at least 2 faculty members; and a letter from a practicing dentist.

FOR MISSOURI AND KANSAS RESIDENTS:

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Mr. Wes Parham         Sarah Majors
Director of Dental Admissions  Enrollment Services Coordinator
Office of Student Programs  Office of Student Programs
School of Dentistry  School of Dentistry, Room 420
University of Missouri-Kansas City  University of Missouri-Kansas City
650 East 25th Street  650 East 25th Street
Kansas City, MO. 64108-2784  Kansas City, MO. 64108-2784
816-235-2094 or 800-776-8652  phone 816-235-6322 or 800-776-8652; fax 816-235-2157
website: www.umkc.edu/dentistry/  e-mail: majorsj@umkc.edu
email: parhamw@umkc.edu

The University of Missouri at Kansas City requires a total of 4 semesters of biology including principles of biology, anatomy with laboratory, physiology with laboratory, cell biology with laboratory, biochemistry (without laboratory is ok) and recommends additional courses such as microbiology, and molecular biology/ genetics. Dental observing at a minimum of five offices for 80 to 100 hours. Active and ongoing volunteerism for a minimum of 80 to 100 hours.

The Reserved Admission Program for the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree at the UMKC School of Dentistry enables highly motivated, ambitious, talented Missouri and Kansas residents to have a reserved seat in a future UMKC DDS Program
class. As a Reserved Admission Program student, you can apply for admission directly to the School of Dentistry without going through the national computerized application service required of traditional DDS candidates. To be eligible for Reserved Admission you must have completed four semesters of college credit while being continuously enrolled in full-time course loads (a minimum of 15-18 credit hours per semester). Your science grade point average must be at least 3.60 in a degree-seeking program including prerequisite courses.

D.D.S. and Reserved Admissions Program Information: For more information regarding the program email dds@umks.edu or call 800-776-8652 or 816-235-2080.

FOR OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS:

University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry
Office of Admissions
P.O. Box 26901
Oklahoma City, OK. 73190
phone 405-271-3530; fax 405-271-3423; website http://dentistry.ouhsc.edu/
Sally Davenport, admissions coordinator, e-mail: sally-davenport@ouhsc.edu

The University of Oklahoma requires a total of at least 16 credits of biology (including lab), 3 credits of psychology, and 3 credits of biochemistry in addition to the standard courses. Applicants must complete at least 100 hours of observation with the majority being completed with a general dentist. A separate supplemental application must be submitted directly to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

FOR TENNESSEE RESIDENTS:

Dr. J. Stansill Covington, III, Associate Dean for Admissions
Office of Admissions and Student Affairs
875 Union Avenue S-102 Dunn Bldg. University of Tennessee-Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee 38163
Phone 901-448-6200; 1-800-788-0040; Fax 901-448-1625; email dentaladmissions@uthsc.edu

The University of Tennessee, Memphis requires 3 credits of biochemistry and 1 semester of an additional biology course that must be one of the following courses and its associated lab component: Cell Biology, Microbiology, or Comparative Anatomy. Human Anatomy is an acceptable substitute for Comparative Anatomy as long as the course has a laboratory component.

FOR LOUISIANA RESIDENTS:

Dr. Toby Cheramie, Director
Office of Admissions
LSUHSC School of Dentistry
1100 Florida Ave, Box 228, Room 2201
New Orleans, LA 70119
Phone 504-941-8124; Fax 504-941-8123; email ds-admissions@lsuhsc.edu; website www.lsusd.lsuhsc.edu

The Louisiana State University requires an additional 3 credits of English be taken for a total of 9 credits in English Composition (the third course can be any with ENGL designation), 3 courses beyond the principles of biology course to be chosen from: cell biology, molecular biology, comparative anatomy, and physiology with their associated labs, as well as biochemistry. LSU will also have pre-requisite requirements of biochemistry (3 credit hours of lecture) and microbiology (3 credit hours of lecture) beginning in June 2014 for the 2015 cycle. Additionally, be aware that LSU is the only school in the US that still has a chalk-carving exercise to test manual dexterity on interview day. The information and video demonstrating the process is available on their website.
WHEN AND WHERE TO APPLY TO DENTAL SCHOOL:

You will apply to dental school one year (12 months) prior to the time you wish to begin. If you are pursuing a degree you will begin the process of application the spring semester of your junior year. At this time you will see your preclinical advisor to obtain the forms and information necessary to prepare your preclinical committee letter of recommendation. It is recommended that you not finish your application until you are satisfied with your DAT scores. By the end of September it is probably too late to apply or to add new DAT scores etc.

Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kansas, and Louisiana residents will apply through the AADSAS application system (1 June - 30 September): http://www.adea.org/dental_education_pathways/aadsas/

Texas residents will apply through the TMDSAS application system (1 May - 30 September).
Website: http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/dental/homepage.html
Please note the earlier starting date for Texas.

WHEN TO TAKE THE D.A.T.:

All dental schools require you to take the Dental Aptitude Test. You should take the test during the spring semester of your junior year so that you have the opportunity to take it again in the summer before your senior year. Early admission applicants will take the test during the spring semester of their sophomore year. The University of Missouri-Kansas City says that it is important that a student apply early, so if you are taking the DAT in the late summer, apply by July 1 and then as soon as the DAT is completed update UMKC with your unofficial scores. August 1 is the last day suggested for submitting DAT scores to UMKC. Applications will not be reviewed until DAT scores are on file. Suggest that students should have taken the test prior to sending in their applications. On the application they ask you to mark the schools to which you wish to send your scores. Check off all the schools to which you might apply and also have them sent to your pre-dental advisor. This way there is a copy of your scores for emergencies.

APPLICATION STEP ONE:

Fill out the AADSAS and TMDSAS application forms and any required supplementary application forms. Do this completely and neatly. You should begin on 1 June or for Texas residents 1 May.

APPLICATION STEP TWO:

Most schools require a letter of evaluation from the pre-dental advisor or a premedical advisory committee. These committee letters will be written between 1 May and 1 September. During the spring semester of your junior year, you will each make an appointment for an interview with the pre-dental advisor and bring the following items: list of all dental schools to which you intend to apply, a copy of your transcript, names of three faculty members who know you well, and a complete semester by semester list of all your activities including: social clubs, offices held, leisure activities, jobs during school and summers as well as other things that you would like us to know about you. Make sure that you have filled in the information concerning your name, address, and your AADSAS pin number or your TMDSAS number. Texas residents will have to supply the preclinical advisor with a letter recommendation sheets printed during your application process.

APPLICATION STEP THREE:

The dental schools will be in touch with you for various reasons: to verify receiving materials, to ask you to send transcripts, pictures, letters of recommendation, etc. ALWAYS REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

The dental schools will contact you by e-mail or telephone or letter to schedule an interview. Remember to DRESS NEATLY and to be yourself when you go for the interview. This should be an enjoyable experience.

APPLICATION STEP FOUR:

Wait patiently for invitations for an interview.
APPLICATION STEP FIVE:

Certify your Arkansas residency for the Arkansas Health Education Grant Program (ARHEG), which is funded by the state of Arkansas, with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE). The ARHEG provides assistance for Arkansas residents attending certain out-of-state accredited health-dental-professional schools that are unavailable in Arkansas. The ARHEG is administered by the ADHE and assistance is provided pursuant to rules established under Act 1218 of 1999. Such assistance is currently available for attendance at certain accredited schools of dentistry. The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) determines the priorities for the applicable programs. Based upon these priorities and the availability of funding, the Board establishes the number of student places (contract slots) for entering students in dentistry. Based upon these determinations, the ADHE negotiates contracts with participating schools either (1) through the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) or (2) directly with the institutions.

The AHECB allocates a number of contract slots to each participating school, and each school selects students certified as bona fide Arkansas residents to fill its allocated slots. If the school participates in the SREB contract program, the State pays a set fee per student to the SREB which is adjusted each year by SREB. In return, the SREB negotiates a contract with the school to hold a certain number slots open for Arkansas students and to charge those students resident tuition. (Exceptions: students attending the University of Tennessee, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, and the University of Louisville are charged resident tuition plus the difference between the non-resident tuition and the sum of the resident tuition and the SREB contract fee. Schools, which do not have a resident-non-resident tuition differential, agree to hold a number of slots open for Arkansas students at reduced tuition.

ADHE Contracts: If the school has a direct contract with the ADHE, the contract basically provides that the State will pay to the schools that charge different resident and non-resident tuition an amount equal to the difference between the resident and non-resident tuition, which the school will apply to the tuition and fees of such students. Should the differential exceed the contract price approved for similar programs by the SREB, the lesser amount will be paid.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS:

Certification is a procedural process in order to determine bona fide Arkansas residency of the applicant applying for the ARHEG grant at contracting dental schools in the Program. The process begins with the prospective student applying online through the ADHE Universal Financial Aid System at www.adhe.edu and submitting supporting documentation as determined by ADHE to the ARHEG coordinator. Documentation must be mailed to:

Arkansas Department of Higher Education
ATTN: ARHEG Coordinator
423 Main Street, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

Students may apply for the ARHEG beginning January 1 of the calendar year. The deadline to apply online is June 1 of the calendar year, and the deadline to receive supporting documentation is June 15 of the same year. Once a student has been certified, a notice of certification is sent to the student via the email address in the student’s ADHE online account. The student’s name is then added to the list of other eligible AR residents and sent to all ARHEG participating institutions in dentistry on a monthly basis.

Participating institutions have sole discretion in selecting grant recipients from the list of certified students using the same criteria they use in determining those students that will be accepted for enrollment.

The prospective student also must apply to and be accepted by a school that is under contract with the State. The total number of contract slots is limited by available funds, so it is important to apply and gain acceptance by the school at the earliest possible time.

Students may contact june.morgan@adhe.edu OR chris.wilson@adhe.edu or telephone (501) 371-2000.

Complete information regarding the AR Health Education Grant Program is available on the ADHE website at: http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/financialaid/Pages/fa_arheg.aspx.