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Dentists diagnose, prevent, and treat problems with teeth or mouth tissue. They remove decay, fill cavities, examine x-rays, place protective plastic sealants on children’s teeth, straighten teeth, and repair fractured teeth. They also perform corrective surgery on gums and supporting bones to treat gum diseases. It usually takes at least 8 years to become a dentist: 4 years of college and 4 years of dental school. For some specialties, dentists may have to train for additional years.

Degree: Dental schools award the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD).

Admission to Dental Schools: Acceptance to dental school is highly competitive. In order to compete for admission, students will need to complete a Bachelor Degree at an undergraduate institution **with a reputation for academic excellence**. Although students come from a variety of undergraduate degree programs, majoring in Chemistry or Biochemistry is typical (contact the Pre-Dentistry Advisor at the four-year college for further information). Applications are often made through the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS). Fifty four U.S. dental schools participate in this service. See: http://www.adea.org/dental_education_pathways/aadsas/pages/default.aspx

Criteria of Importance for Acceptance Include:

- Undergraduate grade point average
- Dental Admissions Test (DAT) score (see: <http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp>)
- Practical experience (ex. volunteering at a dental clinic, working at a dental office)
- Research activities
- Excellent communication skills
- Evidence of maturity, integrity, service to the community
- Work experience, extra-curricular activities, proven leadership ability
- Letters of recommendation from Pre-Health Advisor and/or Professors at the 4 year college
- Personal Statement
- Personal Interview (by invitation)

Typical Minimum Prerequisite Courses for Dental School: One year of biology with laboratories; One year of physics with laboratories; Two years of chemistry with laboratories, including organic; One year of English. Calculus is required in order to take physics. Examples of MCC courses are below:

ENG 101 or ENG 200 (200 is recommended)	CHE 151 – General College Chemistry I	PHY 154 - General Physics I
ENG literature course (200 level recommended)	CHE 152 – General College Chemistry II	PHY 155 - General Physics II
MTH 210 – Calculus I	CHE 251 - Organic Chemistry I	or
BIO 155 - General Biology I	CHE 252 - Organic Chemistry II	PHY 161 - University Physics I
BIO 156 - General Biology II		PHY 261 - University Physics II

It is very important to note that Dental Schools may prefer prerequisite courses be completed at a 4-year institution. Required courses may also include additional chemistry, biochemistry and microbiology classes. Courses dealing with building interpersonal and communication skills are very important, including writing, ethics, speech communications, psychology, sociology and anthropology. Also recommended are courses in foreign language, statistics, history, business/finance, computer sciences and technology.

List of Colleges in New York State Offering a Degree in Dentistry:

Columbia University SUNY Health Science Center at Stony Brook University of Rochester (post-graduate only)
New York University SUNY University at Buffalo

For additional states, see: http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/programs/search_ddsdmd_us.asp

Partial Listing of Specialized Areas of Dentistry:

Endodontists Oral Surgery Periodontics Public Health Dentistry Oral Radiology
Orthodontics Pediatric Dentistry Prosthodontics Oral Pathology

Please note: while every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with a counselor in the MCC Career Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.