

DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY ADMISSION FACT SHEET



ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Admission to the four-year Doctor of Dental Surgery program requires the completion of a minimum of 10 full-year academic classes at the undergraduate level. These classes must be completed by May 1 of the year of expected entry to the Faculty of Dentistry. Two one-term academic classes are considered equal to one full-year academic class (6 credit hours).

Applicants may apply using the Dalhousie online application form or the American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) by October 1. Applications from all students, including those who have attended Dalhousie or King's, must be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee. This fee cannot be applied towards tuition fees. A new application form and fee must be submitted each year in which an application is made.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite university science courses

- **6** credit hours each of intro biology, chemistry and physics with lab
- **6** credit hours of organic chemistry (with lab)
- **6** credit hours of human physiology
- **3** credit hours each of intro biochemistry and microbiology

Other prerequisite university courses

- **6** credit hours of writing courses
- **12** additional credit hours of humanities/social sciences courses

Applicants must achieve a minimum A- average (3.7) in the last 60 credit hours of study and in their higher sciences courses (biochemistry, microbiology, and human physiology). Candidates who have not met these requirements will not be considered for admission. Applicants may complete some academic prerequisites through online classes.

Academic preferences

Applicants who demonstrate a strong academic standing while taking a full course load of five classes in each semester in an in-class university setting will generally be regarded as the most competitive, particularly those who take a full in-person course load for the last 60 credit hours.

Academic recommendations

While minimum entrance requirements have been set, students are encouraged to exceed those minimum requirements and obtain a bachelor's degree before seeking admission to the Faculty of Dentistry. This is particularly important if there is the potential for students to proceed to graduate programs in dentistry or associated sciences. Truly outstanding candidates may still be admitted after completion of the minimum entrance requirements.

NON-ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Applicants with the best academic record have the greatest chance of being admitted to the program. However, the Admissions Committee can and does make use of other academic and non-academic factors to decide which applicants are admitted (e.g. Dental Aptitude Test, interview results, references, and other admission criteria).

Dental aptitude test (DAT) requirements

The Admissions Committee uses DAT scores as a criterion when evaluating student qualifications. A minimum score of 17 is required in each of the following: Perceptual Ability Test (PAT), Survey of Natural Sciences (SNS), and Reading Comprehension Test (RCT). These minimum scores must be achieved in not more than two DAT attempts. Most successful applicants have achieved a score of 20 or better on each component of the DAT.

Applicants must submit DAT scores no later than October 1 to be considered for admission in the following academic year. Results are valid for a period of two years. For the 2026 intake, DAT tests must be written on or after October 1, 2023.

Information regarding the Canadian Dental Aptitude Testing program can be found at www.cda-adc.ca/dat.



DALHOUSIE
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Interviews

Competitive applicants will be invited to participate in an admission interview. The results of the interview are considered in the final selection of applicants.

Admission profile

The following profile of accepted applicants to the Doctor of Dental Surgery program should help applicants to judge the level of competition for places in the program:

- Approximate number of applications: **500**
- Number accepted: **44**
- Canadian seats: 26; international seats: **18**
- Average in higher science courses (microbiology, biochemistry, physiology): **A**
- Average in the final 60 credit hours of university study: **A**
- Average DAT scores: **20 or better**

INFORMATION FOR CANADIAN SEAT APPLICANTS

Admission to the Doctor of Dental Surgery program is limited to a specific number of seats in any one year. For Canadian seats, preference will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada who are residents of Nova Scotia. Applications from qualified students from other provinces will be considered.

Important application dates for Canadian seat applicants

- **October 1** DDS application deadline through AADSAS or Dalhousie portal
- **October 1** Deadline for submission of DAT scores and supporting documents
- **October 15** Official transcript(s) due
- **January 15** Updated official transcripts due
- **March–May** Interviews for Canadian students
- **May 1** Final official transcript(s) due for interviewed candidates
- **May–June** Final decisions
- **June 30** Deadline for accepted students to submit their Immunization Record forms and CPR-HCP certificates.

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL SEAT APPLICANTS

Applicants who hold international citizenship are considered for admission to the Doctor of Dental Surgery program. International seat students must pay international tuition and fees for all years of the program.

Canadian citizens or permanent residents who hold international citizenship are eligible to apply for an international seat. These students can must choose whether they will apply for a domestic or international seat at the time of application.

International applicants must complete the Canadian or U.S. Dental Aptitude Test. Applicants whose first language is not English must complete an English-language proficiency test and achieve scores acceptable to Dalhousie University (please see dal.ca/international-students).

Important application dates for international seat applicants

- **October 1** DDS application deadline through AADSAS or Dalhousie portal
- **October 1** Deadline for submission of DAT scores and supporting documents
- **October 15** Official transcript(s) due
**WES report due for applicants from outside Canada and US*
- **November–January** Interviews for international seats
- **January 15** If requested, updated official transcripts due
- **February** Conditional Letters of Acceptance sent for International seats
- **May 1** Final official transcript(s) due for applicants receiving conditional acceptance
- **June 30** Deadline for accepted students to submit their Immunization Record forms and CPR-HCP certificates.

Applicants who have completed post-secondary studies outside of Canada or the US must provide a course-by-course World Education Services (WES) evaluation report (document-by-document evaluation will not be considered). Please visit their website for more information: www.wes.org

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Additional information, including awards, work and volunteer experience, and personal statements, may be included with the application form if an applicant wishes. Names of references will be requested at the time of interview invitations.

Shadowing in a dental office is not required for dental school admission. Shadowing is highly encouraged to ensure applicants have a good understanding of the profession.

Costs*

The tuition fee schedule can be found at dal.ca/tuition.

Deposit

On notice of acceptance to the Faculty of Dentistry, applicants must forward a non-refundable tuition deposit to the Registrar's Office before a specified date, which is credited toward tuition fees.

INQUIRIES

Inquiries for admission material should be directed to:

The Registrar's Office, Dalhousie University

902.494.2450 | Fax: 902.494.1630

admissions@dal.ca | dal.ca/registrar

Questions regarding your individual application may be addressed to:

Admissions Office, Faculty of Dentistry
Dalhousie University

902.494.2824 | admissions.dentistry@dal.ca

dal.ca/dds-admissions

Doctor of Dental Surgery Program Admission Requirements*

Dalhousie University Applicants

Minimum Academic Requirements:** Completion of 60 credits hours at Dalhousie or an accredited university including the following university classes by the end of May 1 of the year of expected entry to the Faculty of Dentistry is required:

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Dalhousie University</u>
Introductory Biology with Lab (6 credits)	BIOL 1010 & 1011 or BIOL 1020 & 1021
Introductory Chemistry with Lab (6 credits)	CHEM 1011 & 1012
Introductory Physics with Lab (6 credits)	PHYS 1190 & 1290 or PHYS 1310 & 1320
Organic Chemistry with Lab (6 credits)	CHEM 2401 & 2402
Human Physiology (6 credits)	PHYL 1011 & 1012, or PHYL 1001 & 1002 (online) or PHYL 2041 & 2044 or PHYL 1400 (Pharmacy Students)
Microbiology (3 credits)	MICI 2100
Biochemistry (3 credits)	BIOC 2300
Humanities/Social Science	12 credit hours
Writing Course*** (6 credits)	Examples of courses that fulfill the writing requirement are ENGL 1030, ENGL 1005, ENGL 1015, ENGL 1025, ENGL 1040, ENGL 1050, ENGL 1060, and ENGL 1100. Note courses ending in -1 (i.e., ENGL 1051) do not fulfill the writing requirement.

*Admissions requirements are reviewed annually and the admissions requirements from previous years may not apply. Please monitor our website for up-to-date information. www.dal.ca/dds-admissions

**applicants need to achieve a minimum A- average (3.7 on a 4.3 scale) in the last 60 credit hours of study AND in their higher sciences courses (biochemistry, microbiology, and human physiology). Candidates who have not met these requirements will not be considered for admission.

***Writing course: Any English course(s) or any course requiring a significant amount of written work that is evaluated for composition, structure, spelling, grammar, etc. as indicated in the course outline (must be approved by Admissions Committee).

Please use our [TRANSFER CREDIT EQUIVALENCY TABLE](#) to find the equivalent courses offered at other institutions.



Looking for the complete admission requirements and process?

Visit www.dal.ca/dds-admissions or scan the QR now to complete the Dentistry Admission Information Request form.