

4-Year Pre-Dentistry Timeline

This timeline is intended to serve as a general guide. Each student's path to dental school will look different. A Health Professions advisor can help create a plan based on your coursework, experiences, and goals.

YEAR 1

FALL	• Begin taking classes at WOU • Develop Pre-Dental academic plan with Health Professions advisor • Look for ways to get involved on campus (<i>optional</i>)
WINTER	• Begin researching dental schools • Continue developing good study habits • Utilize academic support resources
SPRING	• Finalize summer plans (taking classes, shadowing, volunteering, work) • Continuing researching dental schools
SUMMER	• Take courses if needed • Gain experience for applications (shadowing, volunteer, work) • Check in with your advisor if your plan needs adjusting
By the End of Year 1	☐ Meet with a Health Professions Advisor ☐ Research dental schools ☐ Begin gaining experience (shadowing, work, volunteer)

YEAR 2

FALL	• Continue gaining experience • Look into research opportunities (if interested)
WINTER	• Continue taking prerequisites and making progress towards degree • Discuss DAT and application timelines with Health Professions advisor
SPRING	• Finalize Summer plans • Identify faculty/mentors for future letters of recommendation • Begin to finalize list of dental schools

SUMMER	• Take courses if needed • Gain experience for application (Shadowing, volunteer, work) • Check in with advisor if plan needs adjusting
By the End of Year 2	☐ Review DAT & application timelines ☐ Finalize list of dental schools to apply to ☐ Continue gaining experience (shadowing, work, volunteer)

YEAR 3

Follow this timeline during the year in which you plan to apply to dental school

FALL	• Begin making plans to study for the DAT • Become familiar with AADSAS, application requirements, and deadlines
WINTER	• DAT prep • Confirm application deadlines (if not done already) • Talk to faculty, dentists, volunteer coordinators, mentors, etc. for letters of recommendation <u>early in the term</u>
SPRING	• Continue taking classes to complete degree • Register for the DAT • Begin dental school applications ◦ AADSAS open in May
SUMMER	• Take the DAT (shortly after the term ends) • Submit application(s) • Continue gaining experience
By the End of Year 3	☐ Request letters of recommendation ☐ Take the DAT ☐ Submit application(s) ☐ Continue gaining experience (shadowing, work, volunteer)

YEAR 4

If applying to dental school during your 4th year, follow the year 3 timeline above

FALL	• Meet with major advisor to confirm graduation timeline • Apply for graduation • Complete secondary application (if needed) • Prepare for / complete interviews (program timeline dependent)
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WINTER	• Continue taking classes for degree • Begin contingency planning (plans if you don't get into dental school first time applying) ◦ Gap year ◦ Additional experiences ◦ Course/DAT retakes
SPRING	• Finish degree requirements • Monitor email for admission decisions and next steps • Make alternate plans if waitlisted or denied admission • Graduate! 🎓
By the End of Year 4	☐ Complete degree requirements & graduate ☐ Have a plan for next steps

Tips for Success

- Utilize campus resources
 - Advisors
 - Faculty
 - Academic support (tutoring)
 - Center for Professional Pathways
- Meet with your advisor every term
- Track all clinical, volunteer, shadowing, and leadership hours
- Submit your AADSAS application early (June/July)
- Use summers wisely: experience matters as much as coursework
- Ask for help early - advisors are here to support you!