

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Detroit Mercy Dental Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) Program

Applying to dental school can be a long and complicated process. We want to answer all of your questions. If your question doesn't appear on this list, please email us your question at dental@udmercy.edu

As you read through our FAQs, please keep our admissions website open for reference. <https://dental.udmercy.edu/programs/dental/dds/admission.php>

Dates and Timing

When should I apply?

You should apply when you are ready, and you can put forward the strongest application package possible. The earlier you apply, the better chance you have of earning an interview spot, as available interview spots quickly fill up.

When does the cycle open/close?

The admissions cycle opens around mid-May as a soft open. This means you may begin to fill out your application and gather materials in the portal. Around June 1st, the cycle officially opens and you may submit your application and pay the associated fees. These dates are subject to change annually; for specific dates for the current year please visit:

https://www.adea.org/GoDental/The_application_to_dental_school__ADEA_AADSAS.aspx

The deadline for consideration at Detroit Mercy Dental is December 31. All materials must be received and verified by AADSAS by this date.

Prerequisites

Do I have to complete all of the prerequisites before I apply?

No. If accepted, prerequisites must be completed before you matriculate. At the time of application, it is normal to have one or two prerequisites outstanding. However, any outstanding prerequisite courses should be in your planned/in progress section of your AADSAS application.

Please be aware that many other applicants will have most, if not all, of the prerequisite coursework completed at the time of application. The more prerequisite coursework you have completed, the better we can evaluate your candidacy as a dental school applicant.

Do you accept AP/IB/CLEP credits to fulfill prerequisites?

We will accept AP/IB/CLEP credits to fulfill, in part, prerequisites. These courses must appear on an applicant's undergraduate transcript as equivalent to a specific course at the applicant's undergraduate institution. Letter grades are typically not associated to these credits, so that will have an impact on an applicant's overall GPA.

Do you accept dual enrollment credits to fulfill prerequisites?

We will accept dual enrollment credits to fulfill prerequisites. If you are at a different institution than where you earned your dual enrollment credits, please ensure that you request transcripts and send them to AADSAS.

Do prerequisites expire?

Prerequisite coursework must have a completion date within five (5) years the date of application in AADSAS.

How does Detroit Mercy Dental view community college/two-year institution credits, especially with respect to prerequisites?

We will accept coursework completed at a community college or two-year institution as part of a two-year degree completion and/or transfer credit into a four-year undergraduate institution. Candidates may also take select courses at a two-year institution, if the course is not available at their home institution or does not fit into their academic plan.

If you are unsure if your completed coursework at a community college or two-year institution will satisfy Detroit Mercy Dental's admissions requirements., please contact us dental@udmercy.edu.

Does Detroit Mercy Dental accept online courses?

We do not accept online courses. Currently, exceptions are made for courses taken online in 2020 and 2021 and likely Winter 2022, due to the impact of COVID 19 on higher education institutions. Please see our guidance document for coursework impacted by COVID-19 on our admissions website. <https://dental.udmercy.edu/programs/dental/dds/admission.php>

What is considered full-time? Do I have to be full-time every semester/quarter?

Students generally take 15 credits/semester (fall, winter) or 15 credits/quarter (fall, winter, spring).

Because you will be taking a very packed science curriculum in dental school, we are looking for evidence that you can manage full-time coursework, weighted heavily toward senior level science courses. If you have circumstances where you could not maintain full-time status, that should be explained in your personal statement.

Does Detroit Mercy Dental require 3 or 4 hours of microbiology or biochemistry? Do I need to take the laboratory associated with each class?

Some schools do not offer laboratories for these classes. In these cases, we will accept 3 credit hours as fulfilling the prerequisite in each category. Some schools will offer these courses as 4 (or more) credit hours, with laboratories integrated into the course itself. We will also accept these courses as fulfilling the prerequisite in each category.

If the option exists at your school, we encourage you to take the laboratory course. This will reinforce what you are learning in lecture. You are not required to take the laboratory to apply.

I'm a student at a Canadian university and I don't have the 8 credit hours required for prerequisites.

We are aware that Canadian schools offer their laboratories differently than U.S. schools. Because laboratories are integrated into lectures and are not separate credits, we will accept 6 credit hours instead of the stated 8, for applicants from Canadian schools.

Dental Admissions Test (DAT)

For specific information on the Dental Admissions Test (DAT), Please consult the ADEA website:

[https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Application_Prep/The_Admissions_Process/DAT_\(Dental_Admission_Test\).aspx](https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Application_Prep/The_Admissions_Process/DAT_(Dental_Admission_Test).aspx)

Can I apply without having completed the DAT yet?

Yes, you can apply as soon as you are ready and indicate your intended exam date. We will conduct a partial review of your file until we receive your DAT scores. When you finish the exam, you will receive a printout of your unofficial score. Send us an email with a picture of that sheet attached to dental@udmercy.edu, informing us that you've completed the DAT and you would like your unofficial scores to be added to your file. These unofficial DAT scores can then be used to complete a review of your application materials as part of consideration for admission to Detroit Mercy Dental.

When should I take my DAT?

The ideal time is to take the exam the spring/summer of the year you apply. In addition, you should take the exam when you complete your organic chemistry sequence.

How many times can I take the DAT?

You can take the test three times. If you wish to take it again after three attempts, you must get special permission from the American Dental Association . Please consult the American Dental Education Association's website for more information.

[https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Application_Prep/The_Admissions_Process/DAT_\(Dental_Admission_Test\).aspx](https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Application_Prep/The_Admissions_Process/DAT_(Dental_Admission_Test).aspx)

Do DAT scores expire?

DAT scores are considered current for the purpose of dental school admissions for two years. We will consider DAT scores two years from the date of application in AADSAS. All DAT attempts and scores may be viewed however, only scores from the last two years will be used to make an admissions decision.

Can I write the Canadian DAT instead?

The Canadian DAT is accepted for students enrolled at a Canadian college or university. Students at colleges or universities in the U.S. are expected to take the U.S. DAT.

How long should I study for the DAT?

You will see lots of suggestions online, ranging from 1 month to 6 months. You know your abilities and your schedule the best, so you need to figure out protected time to study for the DAT on a regular basis.

A word of caution, do not base your study habits on other people, even if they said they got into dental school. You're not them and you know what is best for you.

Do you recommend any courses or books to study for the DAT?

We do not endorse any specific test preparation programs. What is important is you carve out protected time on a regular basis to study.

Letters of Recommendation

How many letters does Detroit Mercy Dental require?

We require three (3) letters total: two (2) must be from a science professor who has taught you in a graded course⁺ and one (1) must be from a practicing general dentist in the U.S. or Canada whom you have shadowed.

⁺ if your school grants committee letters, then that committee letter may replace the two (2) letters from a science professor

What counts as a science professor, when it comes to letters of recommendation?

Biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics professors are all considered science professors. There is a preference for letters from professors who teach subjects related to human biology (e.g. human genetics, biochemistry, human anatomy, etc.).

What needs to be included in the letters of recommendation?

Please let your recommenders know that we would like the letters (1) on official letterhead, (2) dated, and (3) signed. You are waiving your rights to see these letters, so ensure you are giving your recommenders sufficient time to write you letters and upload them to AADSAS. As well, ensure they have sufficient information from you to write a strong letter (e.g. CV, copy of your personal statement, ask to meet with them, etc.)

Supplemental Fee and Photo

I already paid AADSAS. Why do I need to pay Detroit Mercy Dental another fee?

The fee you paid when you applied goes directly to AADSAS and not the individual school. The AADSAS fee is a cost associated with the centralized application service and the verification process of all your application materials. The supplemental fee is paid directly to the school to process your application to that school.

Do you offer a fee waiver for the \$125.00 supplemental application fee?

If you receive a fee waiver from ADEA/AADSAS, please forward the email confirmation to dental@udmercy.edu. We will then consider a waiver request for the Detroit Mercy Dental supplemental application fee.

Is there a separate supplemental application that I must submit?

No, there is no separate application or supplemental materials. It is the fee that is supplemental.

How do I pay my fees?

Currently, we only accept certified checks or money orders. Certified checks are usually available (for a small fee) from your bank. Money orders can be obtained from post offices and grocery stores. We do not accept personal checks. Personal checks will be returned to you and will delay processing of your file.

Please make the check payable to **UDM School of Dentistry** and send to:

University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry
Office of Dental Admissions
2700 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48208

Please ensure you write your name and AADSAS ID on the front of the check.

What kind of photo do you need from me and why?

We interview a lot of people and a picture attached to your file helps us remember who you are. Please send us a 2"x2" photo (color, if possible) with your supplemental fee. Dimensions are the same as passport photos (Canada or US). Please print and sign your name on the back of your photo.

International Applicants

Do you accept international applicants?

As a private institution, we do not have restrictions on international or domestic students.

I was trained as a dentist in another country. How do I apply to Detroit Mercy Dental's Doctor of Dental Surgery program?

Currently, we do not have an advanced standing program for internationally trained dentists.

Internationally-trained dentists may apply as a traditional DDS applicant, if you complete prerequisite coursework at a school in the U.S. or Canada.

Alternatively, you may apply to our Accelerated Dental Program, where you will take a special 2-year curriculum while also teaching part-time. More information is at

<https://dental.udmercy.edu/programs/dental/accelerated/>

General Questions

How long is your program?

45 months.

When does your program start?

The D1 year starts around mid-August.

Can I do the program part-time?

No. We do not have a part-time option for our DDS program.

What is the breakdown of in-state vs. out-of-state?

As a private institution, we do not have restrictions on in-state or out-of-state students. For a profile, please see the section called Class Profile, on our admissions page.

<https://dental.udmercy.edu/programs/dental/dds/admission.php>

I'm a student at another dental school in the US or Canada. Can I transfer to your school?

Detroit Mercy Dental will consider transfer requests on a case-by-case basis into the D2 year only. Transfer requests are only considered for applicants who have completed the D1 year at another CODA-accredited DDS or DMD program. Transfer inquiries should be directed to the Director of Admissions, Dr. Steven Chang at changst@udmercy.edu

Do you have a master's program?

The School of Dentistry at the University of Detroit Mercy does not currently offer master's degree programs in the biomedical sciences.

We offer master's post-doctoral specialty degrees in: endodontics, periodontics, and orthodontics.

I've read online about your accelerated/7-year program, where you earn your bachelor's and your D.D.S. How do I apply?

This program is for new, incoming undergraduate students. It is not possible to transfer into this program from another school. For more information, please see <https://eng-sci.udmercy.edu/academics/science/pre-health/seven-year-dental.php>