

CERRITOS COLLEGE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Dentistry

Every professional degree program has specific admissions requirements including prerequisite courses that must be successfully completed. The courses listed below are **common prerequisites** for this pre-professional pathway. They are **subject to change**. It is the student's responsibility to check the specific school for prerequisite details.

The following courses **do not lead to an associate degree specific to Dentistry**; however, the courses overlap with major requirements for the **Associate of Arts in Natural Sciences**, which requires a minimum of 18 units of science and mathematics courses to include at least 4 units in the Physical Sciences, at least 4 units in the Biological Sciences, and at least 3 units in Mathematics. Please refer to the Cerritos College catalog for more information.

Admission to **Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.)** and **Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.)** programs is very competitive. Competitive applicants will have completed the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, which may be in any major. In addition to a bachelor's degree, college grades (GPA) and Dental Admissions Test (DAT) scores are used in preliminary screening. The DAT evaluates knowledge in biology, chemistry, perceptual ability, reading comprehension, and quantitative reasoning.

Job shadowing and volunteer work is highly recommended in preparation for dental school. This experience is helpful to you as a prospective dentist as it may help you demonstrate tangible proof of your commitment to, as well as understand the demands of, the field of dentistry. Such experiences can also help you gain valuable insight into your decision whether dentistry is the career path for you. In addition, it may provide an opportunity to receive a letter of support from professionals in the field, which is a vital element of your application.

Common Lower Division Preparation for Schools of Dentistry

Prefix	Number	Title	Units
BIOL	200	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	201	Principles of Biology	5
CHEM	111	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	112	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	211	Organic Chemistry	5
CHEM	212	Organic Chemistry	5
ENGL	C1000	Academic Reading and Writing	4
or ENGL	C1000E	Academic Reading and Writing	(4.5)
ENGL	C1001	Critical Thinking and Writing	4
or ENGL	C1002	Introduction to Literature	(3)
MATH	170	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I	4
PHYS	101	General Physics	4
or PHYS	201	Engineering Physics	(4)

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Prefix	Number	Title	Units
PHYS	102	General Physics	4
<i>or</i> PHYS	202	Engineering Physics	(4)
PSYC	C1000	Introduction to Psychology	3
STAT	C1000	Introduction to Statistics	4
<i>or</i> STAT	C1000E	Introduction to Statistics	(4.5)

Dental schools also commonly require biochemistry, which is not offered at Cerritos College. Additionally, while not required, it may be helpful to take some studio art courses to help you develop your manual dexterity.

California Dental Schools

- [Loma Linda University](#)
- [University of California, San Francisco](#)
- [University of California, Los Angeles](#)
- [University of Southern California](#)
- [University of the Pacific](#)
- [Western University of Health Sciences](#)

Additional Resources

- [American Dental Association](https://www.ada.org) (https://www.ada.org)
- [Explore Health Careers](https://explorehealthcareers.org) (https://explorehealthcareers.org)
- [CSULB Health Professions Advising Office](https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao) (https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao)