

It is important for the pre-med student to recognize that admission to a U.S. medical school is extremely competitive. Therefore, it is essential that the student strive to obtain the highest grades possible in all courses, but especially in the courses that are pre-med requirements. For admission to an allopathic school, a GPA of at least 3.6 is usually required, and for admission to an osteopathic school, a GPA of at least 3.4 is usually required.

## **2. DENTISTRY**

In order to be considered for admission to a U.S. dental school, the applicant should have satisfactorily completed the requirements for a bachelor's degree with a major in any field as well as the "pre-dental" requirements. In addition, a score on the DAT examination must be submitted, evidence of volunteer or research work in a dental environment is highly recommended, and letters of recommendation must be submitted.

### **Pre-Dental Requirements**

For the most part, the pre-dental requirements are identical to the pre-medical requirements described in section 1. Recently, a number of dental schools have added courses to their admission requirements; some of these courses are Biochemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology. Therefore, students are urged to check with the individual dental schools to confirm that he or she is fulfilling the requirements for that particular school.

Ideally, students should enroll in all prerequisite science courses at Brooklyn College, regardless if taken in High School for AP credit. Some dental schools do not accept AP/CLEP credits, even if the student's Undergraduate Institution allowed them to be transferred onto their transcript as college credits. The student is urged to check the requirements for each specific dental school to which they may want to apply.

In the summer following SEMESTER 6, the pre-dental student will normally take the DAT examination (go to [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org) and look for information on the DAT exam) and submit an application for admission to dental school. Applications for dental school admission are handled by a centralized on-line application service, AADSAS.

Letters of recommendation are a very important part of the application process for dental school admission. It is imperative that the applicant identify at least two science professors and one non-science professor as recommenders. In addition, a letter from at least one dentist that knows the student well from the student's outside activities should be submitted. The recommender's letter should be sent to the Pre-Health Professions Advisement office, where it will be inserted as part of a letter packet that is sent to AADSAS.

## **3. PHARMACY**

Essentially all U.S. pharmacy schools offer a PharmD degree, which requires 6 years of study after high school. The first two years involve "pre-professional studies" and the remaining four years involve "professional studies." The Brooklyn College student who desires a career in pharmacy can apply for a transfer to a pharmacy school before he or she obtains a bachelor's degree, or the student can first obtain the bachelor's degree and then apply to pharmacy school. In either case, if the student has completed the pre-professional portion of the pharmacy school program at Brooklyn College, and has obtained a score on the PCAT exam, the student can apply for admission to a pharmacy school and, if accepted, will usually have to complete the remaining four years of the professional program.

Certain pharmacy schools have accelerated programs in which the transfer student can complete all the requirements for the PharmD in less than four years. Admission to the professional portion of a PharmD program as a transfer student is highly competitive. The student should strive to obtain the best grades possible in the courses listed under "pre-pharmacy requirements." In addition, a good score on the PCAT is essential for the transfer student.

The student who wishes to eventually transfer to a pharmacy school should gain some experience working in a pharmacy as an assistant.