

UCA Predental Student Guidelines

Predental Advisor

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GENERAL:

Welcome to the predental track at UCA! This handout contains information that may be helpful to you as you plan your academic progress towards successfully entering a dental school. It is a good idea to get involved with like-minded students along the way, and to keep me updated on your progress and send me any questions you may have about the predental track.

There is a student Predental Society on campus (you can find this on Orgsync in MyUCA) to help you along the way. This is an entirely student-run club for all people interested in teeth and dentistry. The officers send out notices of their meetings by email. It is important to get your address to them. Keep in mind that all dental school applications ask if you have belonged to a pre-dental club while in college. The officers are typically seniors who have applied to dental schools, and can provide lots of good advice based on their experiences! One important bit of advice is – when you are ready to apply, it is highly recommended that you apply early in the application cycle! Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, so applying early helps ensure that there are still slots open when your application is reviewed. If you apply late in the cycle, even if you are highly qualified, all the slots may have already been filled.

MAJOR:

Typically, most predental students major in Biology or Chemistry, a pre-dental student may major in any subject such as Art, French, Mathematics, Sociology, etc. In fact, dental schools encourage a broad education and majoring in Biology or Chemistry will not automatically provide an admission advantage. You should choose the major that you want and are interested in and then you will earn better grades in your major and the required pre-dental sciences. [Caveat: Baylor College of Dentistry favors biology majors who have had many of the same courses that the first year dental students take, and they indicate that being a non-science major is an extreme disadvantage for admissions and for survival in the first year curriculum.] To be a competitive applicant for *any* dental school, your undergraduate GPA must indicate very solid performance (~3.8 or higher).

TYPICAL DENTAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:

The majority of Dental Schools require the following courses:

Two semesters of English composition (ENGL 1301, 1302 or a combination of other writing courses), two semesters each of general chemistry (CHEM 1450/1451) and organic chemistry with labs (CHEM 2401, 3411), two semesters of physics (PHYS 1410, 1420), and two semesters of introductory biology including principles of biology (BIOL 1440/1441) along with principles of zoology (BIOL 3410). Biology majors can use one of their nonrequired (by the dental schools) advanced biology courses in place of introduction to zoology. Two or more advanced biology courses such as physiology (BIOL 4460), microbiology (BIOL 3420), cell biology (BIOL 3402, BIOL 4475) and biochemistry (4320 and 4121) are recommended (see detailed lists by school below). Some schools may recommend anatomy and physiology (BIOL 2405; BIOL 2406 and 2407), but generally it seems that higher level courses are preferred.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE:

All schools require that you have experience in the dental profession. As a guideline, we can quote from the UMKC dental school: It is strongly suggested that candidates observe in a minimum of five different dental offices such as general dentists (required by all schools) and specialists. Students should log a minimum of 80 to 100 hours of dental office observation. How to get started? Choose a dentist to ask –

many people start with their own family dentist. Write up a clear statement that indicates your background and goals, and that you wish to shadow for experience. Many dentists in Conway are very open to this. Sometimes a visit in person for the first contact is okay; too – but always bring your written statement, too. If you are highly motivated, carry yourself professionally, and politely ask if they would be willing to allow you to shadow them, most dentists are extremely nice and happy to help you.

DENTAL ADMISSION TEST:

The American Dental Association requires all pre-dental students to take the D.A.T. in the computerized test format. Please see <http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx> for more information about test dates and registration.

It is best to take the D.A.T. in your junior year, once you have taken most of your required science courses. This will give you time to retake it if necessary. Please note that Physics is not on the D.A.T. You may take the test only three times and you must wait 90 days before you can take the test again. The University of Tennessee, Memphis dental school says “Don’t apply until you are satisfied with your D.A.T. score. We receive applications each week and make interview decisions based on when the application is first sent to us.” Successful applicants to dental schools typically have strong D.A.T. scores (20 or higher), so it is important that you prepare well.

PREPARING FOR THE D.A.T.:

Preparation materials for the D.A.T can be obtained from a variety of sources such as the Kaplan preparation course <http://www.kaptest.com/> and a variety of prepare-yourself books (such as *New Rudman’s Questions and Answers on the D.A.T.*- see the following website for this book and others: http://www.ebout.net/study_DAT.html) and software such as that produced by ScholarWare (www.scholarware.com) which is highly recommended by dental schools. UMKC suggests students use the scope of examination section in the front of the D.A.T. book or another reference book to find out about the structure of the test and its content. I suggest that each student take a practice test (always on a computer) and then review all of the wrong answers. You may find that you got the question wrong because you did not read all of the choices or that you interpreted the question is a positive one rather than negative. If you got the question wrong because you did not know the answer, then stop right then and study that concept. If you do this for 10 practice tests or more you will have studied the material that you know by getting the questions right and have studied the material that you did not know because you looked up the answer and studied the concept when you got the questions wrong. Additional practice test companies recommended by our own students are:
Crack the DAT - www.crackdat.com/; DAT Destroyer - www.orgoman.com/datdestroyer.html

RECOMMENDED BOOK PURCHASE:

ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools. Purchase on line:

<http://www.adea.org/publications/Pages/OfficialGuide.aspx>

New Rudman’s Questions and Answers on the D.A.T. - available at many bookstores and online sources such as Amazon

WEB SITES THAT ARE USEFUL:

www.adea.org the American Dental Education Association has many links to sites about dental schools (<http://www.ada.org/267.aspx>), application procedures, the AADSAS unified application process, and testing, etc.

www.scholarware.com Provides materials used to prepare for the D.A.T.

www.ada.org The American Dental Association provides information about testing and admissions.

ARKANSAS RESIDENTS:

Arkansas does not have a dental school and thus Arkansas residents have access to seven dental schools that have agreements with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education

http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/financialaid/Pages/fa_arheg.aspx . The seven schools, their requirements, and contact information are listed below:

DENTAL SCHOOLS FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS:

1. University of Tennessee-Memphis (ARHEG slots: 23 with an additional 10 slots reserved for Arkansans paying out of state tuition)

Dr. J. Stansill Covington, III, Associate Dean for Admissions
Office of Admissions and Student Affairs
875 Union Avenue S-102 Dunn Bldg. University of Tennessee-Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee 38163
Phone 901-448-6200; 1-800-788-0040; Fax 901-448-1625; email dentaladmissions@uthsc.edu

The University of Tennessee, Memphis requires 3 credits of biochemistry and 1 semester of an additional biology course that must be one of the following courses and its associated lab component: Cell Biology, Microbiology, or Comparative Anatomy. Human Anatomy is an acceptable substitute for Comparative Anatomy as long as the course has a laboratory component.

2. Louisiana State University (ARHEG slots: 4)

Dr. Toby Cheramie, Director
Office of Admissions
LSUHSC School of Dentistry
1100 Florida Ave, Box 228, Room 2201
New Orleans, LA 70119
Phone 504-941-8124; Fax 504-941-8123; email ds-admissions@lsuhsc.edu; website www.lsusd.lsuhs.edu

The Louisiana State University requires an additional 3 credits of English be taken for a total of 9 credits in English Composition (the third course can be any with ENGL designation), 3 courses beyond the principles of biology course to be chosen from: cell biology, molecular biology, comparative anatomy, and physiology with their associated labs, as well as biochemistry. LSU will also have pre-requisite requirements of biochemistry (3 credit hours of lecture) and microbiology (3 credit hours of lecture) beginning in June 2014 for the 2015 cycle. Additionally, be aware that LSU is the only school in the US that still has a chalk-carving exercise to test manual dexterity on interview day. The information and video demonstrating the process is available on their website.

3. Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry (ARHEG slots: 3)

Dr. Barbara Miller, Executive Director
Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry
Office of Recruitment & Admissions, Room 525
Baylor College of Dentistry
3302 Gaston Ave.
Dallas, TX. 75246

Phone 214-828-8231; fax 214-874-4521;
e-mail admissions-bcd@bcd.tamhsc.edu; website <http://www.bcd.tamhsc.edu/>

Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry also requires 3 hours of biochemistry, 3 hours of statistics, and a total of 10 hours of biology beyond the introductory course (9 lecture and 1 laboratory) to be taken from: physiology, anatomy, cell biology, microbiology, immunology, biochemistry II, neuroscience, cellular and molecular biology, and embryology. TAM-Baylor College of Dentistry favors biology majors who have had many of the same courses that the first year dental students take. Being a non-science major is an extreme disadvantage for admissions and for survival in the first year curriculum. Arkansas residents apply through the AADSAS application system (1 June - 30 September). In addition, TAM-Baylor College of Dentistry requires the submission of a secondary application which can be obtained from their website <http://www.bcd.tamhsc.edu>

Two recommendation letters are required: a letter from the pre dental advisor/committee, including comments from at least 2 faculty members; and a letter from a practicing dentist.

4. University of Missouri-Kansas City (ARHEG slots: 2)

Mr. Wes Parham Ms. Sarah Majors
Director of Dental Admissions Enrollment Services Coordinator
Office of Student Programs Office of Student Programs
School of Dentistry School of Dentistry, Room 420
University of Missouri-Kansas City University of Missouri-Kansas City
650 East 25th Street 650 East 25th Street
Kansas City, MO. 64108-2784 Kansas City, MO. 64108-2784
816-235-2094 or 800-776-8652 phone 816-235-6322 or 800-776-8652; fax 816-235-2157
website: www.umkc.edu/dentistry/
email: parhamw@umkc.edu e-mail: majorsj@umkc.edu

The University of Missouri at Kansas City requires a total of 4 semesters of biology including principles of biology, anatomy with laboratory, physiology with laboratory, cell biology with laboratory, biochemistry (without laboratory is ok) and recommends additional courses such as microbiology, molecular biology/genetics, business courses, jewelry making, ceramics, and Spanish. Dental observing must be at least five offices for 80 to 100 hours. Dental observing is required at a minimum of five offices for 80 to 100 hours. Active and ongoing volunteerism for a minimum of 80 to 100 hours is needed.

5. University of Oklahoma (ARHEG slots: 1)

University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry
Office of Admissions
P.O. Box 26901
Oklahoma City, OK. 73190
phone 405-271-3530; fax 405-271-3423; website <http://dentistry.ouhsc.edu/>
Sally Davenport, admissions coordinator, e-mail: sally-davenport@ouhsc.edu

The University of Oklahoma requires a total of at least 16 credits of biology (including lab), 3 credits of psychology, and 3 credits of biochemistry in addition to the standard courses. Applicants must complete at least 100 hours of observation with the majority being completed with a general dentist. A separate supplemental application must be submitted directly to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

6. University of Louisville (ARHEG Slots: 1)

Dianne D. Foster, Director of Student Affairs or Robin Benningfield, Admissions Counselor
School of Dentistry
Office of Student Affairs, Room 234
501 S. Preston St.
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292
Phone 502-852-5081/800-334-8635 extension 5081; Fax 502-852-1210; email: dmdadms@louisville.edu;
website: www.dental.louisville.edu

The University of Louisville requires only the first semester of physics (mechanics) and three semesters of biology beyond the introductory course (principles of biology) to be chosen from: biochemistry (strongly recommended), comparative anatomy, physiology, cell biology, microbiology, and immunology (for a total of 16 biology credits).

7. Meharry Medical College (ARHEG slots: 1)

Director of Admissions
Meharry Medical College

Admissions and Records
1005 Dr. D.B. Todd, Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, Tennessee 37208-3599
phone: 615-327-6223; Fax: 615-327-6228; e-mail: admissions@mmc.edu;
website: <http://www.mmc.edu/admissions/applydental.html>

The Meharry School of Dentistry requires the standard courses only.

FOR TEXAS RESIDENTS:

Texas residents apply through the TMDSAS application system (1 May - 30 September). Website:
<http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/dental/homepage.html>

1. University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio

University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio
Dental Admissions, Office of the Registrar
7703 Floyd Curl Dr.
San Antonio TX 78229-3900
Associate Dean for Student Affairs 210-567-3752
e-mail dsprospect@uthscsa.edu; website <http://dental.uthscsa.edu/>

The University of Texas, San Antonio Branch requires three additional biology courses with labs beyond principles of biology, three credits of biochemistry, and three credits of statistics.

2. University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston

University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston
Office of Student Affairs
6516 M. D. Anderson Blvd. Suite 155
Houston TX 77030
Phone: 713-500-4151; Fax: 713-500-4425
e-mail: db-studentaffairs@uth.tmc.edu; Website: www.db.uth.tmc.edu/education/doctor-dental-surgery/admissions

The University of Texas, Houston Branch requires 16 credits of biology courses with 4 hours of microbiology being required along with one semester of biochemistry, and one three credit course in statistics.

3. Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry

Dr. Barbara Miller, Executive Director
Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry
Office of Recruitment & Admissions, Room 525
Baylor College of Dentistry
3302 Gaston Ave.
Dallas, TX. 75246

Phone 214-828-8231; fax 214-874-4521;
e-mail admissions-bcd@bcd.tamhsc.edu; website <http://www.bcd.tamhsc.edu/>

Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry also requires 3 hours of biochemistry, 3 hours of statistics, and a total of 10 hours of biology beyond the introductory course (9 lecture and 1 laboratory) to be taken from: physiology, anatomy, cell biology, microbiology, immunology, biochemistry II, neuroscience, cellular and molecular biology, and embryology.
TAM-Baylor College of Dentistry favors biology majors who have had many of the same courses that the first year dental students take. Being a non-science major is an extreme disadvantage for admissions and for survival in the first year curriculum.

Texas residents apply through the TMDSAS application system (1 May - 30 September). In addition, TAM-Baylor College of Dentistry requires the submission of a secondary application which can be obtained from their website <http://www.bcd.tamhsc.edu>
Two recommendation letters are required: a letter from the predoctoral advisor/committee, including comments from at least 2 faculty members; and a letter from a practicing dentist.

FOR MISSOURI AND KANSAS RESIDENTS:

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Mr. Wes Parham Sarah Majors
Director of Dental Admissions Enrollment Services Coordinator
Office of Student Programs Office of Student Programs
School of Dentistry School of Dentistry, Room 420
University of Missouri-Kansas City University of Missouri-Kansas City
650 East 25th Street 650 East 25th Street
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816-235-2094 or 800-776-8652 phone 816-235-6322 or 800-776-8652; fax 816-235-2157
website: www.umkc.edu/dentistry/
email: parhamw@umkc.edu e-mail: majorsj@umkc.edu

The University of Missouri at Kansas City requires a total of 4 semesters of biology including principles of biology, anatomy with laboratory, physiology with laboratory, cell biology with laboratory, biochemistry (without laboratory is ok) and recommends additional courses such as microbiology, and molecular biology/ genetics. Dental observing at a minimum of five offices for 80 to 100 hours is expected.

The Reserved Admission Program for the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree at the UMKC School of Dentistry enables highly motivated, ambitious, talented Missouri and Kansas residents to have a reserved seat in a future UMKC DDS Program class. As a Reserved Admission Program student, you can apply for admission directly to the School of Dentistry without going through the national computerized application service required of traditional DDS candidates. To be eligible for Reserved Admission you must have completed four semesters of college credit while being continuously enrolled in full-time course loads (a minimum of 15-18 credit hours per semester). Your science grade point average must be at least 3.60 in a degree-seeking program including prerequisite courses.
D.D.S. and Reserved Admissions Program Information: For more information regarding the program email dds@umks.edu or call 800-776-8652 or 816-235-2080.

FOR OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS:

University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry
Office of Admissions
P.O. Box 26901
Oklahoma City, OK. 73190
phone 405-271-3530; fax 405-271-3423; website <http://dentistry.ouhsc.edu/>
Sally Davenport, admissions coordinator, e-mail: sally-davenport@ouhsc.edu

The University of Oklahoma requires a total of at least 16 credits of biology (including lab), 3 credits of psychology, and 3 credits of biochemistry in addition to the standard courses. Applicants must complete at least 100 hours of observation with the majority being completed with a general dentist. A separate supplemental application must be submitted directly to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

FOR TENNESSEE RESIDENTS:

Dr. J. Stansill Covington, III, Associate Dean for Admissions
Office of Admissions and Student Affairs
875 Union Avenue S-102 Dunn Bldg. University of Tennessee-Memphis

Memphis, Tennessee 38163

Phone 901-448-6200; 1-800-788-0040; Fax 901-448-1625; email dentaladmissions@uthsc.edu

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Human Anatomy is an acceptable substitute for Comparative Anatomy as long as the course has a laboratory component.

FOR LOUISIANA RESIDENTS:

Dr. Toby Cheramie, Director

Office of Admissions

LSUHSC School of Dentistry

1100 Florida Ave, Box 228, Room 2201

New Orleans, LA 70119

Phone 504-941-8124; Fax 504-941-8123; email ds-admissions@lsuhsc.edu; website

www.lsusd.lsuhs.edu

The Louisiana State University requires an additional 3 credits of English be taken for a total of 9 credits in English Composition (the third course can be any with ENGL designation), 3 courses beyond the principles of biology course to be chosen from: cell biology, molecular biology, comparative anatomy, and physiology with their associated labs, as well as biochemistry. LSU will also have pre-requisite requirements of biochemistry (3 credit hours of lecture) and microbiology (3 credit hours of lecture) beginning in June 2014 for the 2015 cycle. Additionally, be aware that LSU is the only school in the US that still has a chalk-carving exercise to test manual dexterity on interview day. The information and video demonstrating the process is available on their website.

WHEN AND WHERE TO APPLY TO DENTAL SCHOOL:

You will apply to dental school one year (12 months) prior to the time you wish to begin. If you are pursuing a degree you will begin the process of application the **spring semester of your junior year**. At this time you will see your pre-dental advisor to obtain the forms and information necessary to prepare your pre-dental committee letter of recommendation. It is recommended that you not finish your application until you are satisfied with your D.A.T. scores. By the end of September it is probably too late to apply or to add new D.A.T. scores etc.

Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kansas, and Louisiana residents will apply through the AADSAS application system (1 June - 30 September):

http://www.adea.org/dental_education_pathways/Pages/default.aspx

Texas residents will apply through the Texas residents apply through the TMDSAS application system (1 May - 30 September). Website: <http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/dental/homepage.html>

Please note the earlier starting date for Texas.

WHEN TO TAKE THE D.A.T.:

All dental schools require you to take the Dental Aptitude Test. You should take the test during the spring semester of your junior year so that you have the opportunity to take it again in the summer before your senior year. Early admission applicants will take the test during the spring semester of their sophomore year. The University of Missouri-Kansas City says that it is important that a student apply early, so if you are taking the D.A.T. in the late summer, apply by July 1 and then as soon as the D.A.T. is completed update UMKC with your unofficial scores. August 1 is the last day suggested for submitting D.A.T. scores to UMKC. Applications will not be reviewed until D.A.T. scores are on file. Suggest that students should have taken the test prior to sending in their applications. On the application they ask you to mark the schools to which you wish to send your scores. Check off all the schools to which you

might apply and also have them sent to your pre-dental advisor. This way there is a copy of your scores for emergencies.

APPLICATION STEP ONE:

Fill out the AADSAS and TMDSAS application forms and any required supplementary application forms. **Do this completely and neatly. You should begin on 1 June or for Texas residents 1 May.**

APPLICATION STEP TWO:

Most schools require a letter of evaluation from the pre-dental advisor or a premedical advisory committee. These committee letters will be written between 1 May and 1 September. During the spring semester of your junior year, you will each make an appointment for an interview with the pre-dental advisor and bring the following items: list of all dental schools to which you intend to apply, a copy of your transcript, names of three faculty members who know you well, and a complete semester by semester list of all your activities including: social clubs, offices held, leisure activities, jobs during school and summers as well as other things that you would like us to know about you. Make sure that you have filled in the information concerning your name, address, and your AADSAS pin number or your TMDSAS number. Texas residents will have to supply the pre-dental advisor with a letter recommendation sheets printed during your application process.

APPLICATION STEP THREE:

The dental schools will be in touch with you for various reasons: to verify receiving materials, to ask you to send transcripts, pictures, letters of recommendation, etc. **ALWAYS REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

The dental schools will contact you by e-mail or telephone or letter to schedule an interview. Remember to **DRESS NEATLY** and to be yourself when you go for the interview. This should be an enjoyable experience.

APPLICATION STEP FOUR:

Wait patiently for invitations for an interview.

APPLICATION STEP FIVE:

Certify your Arkansas residency for the Arkansas Health Education Grant Program (ARHEG), which is funded by the state of Arkansas, with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE). The ARHEG provides assistance for Arkansas residents attending certain out-of-state accredited health-dental-professional schools that are unavailable in Arkansas. The ARHEG is administered by the ADHE and assistance is provided pursuant to rules established under Act 1218 of 1999. Such assistance is currently available for attendance at certain accredited schools of dentistry. The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) determines the priorities for the applicable programs. Based upon these priorities and the availability of funding, the Board establishes the number of student places (contract slots) for entering students in dentistry. Based upon these determinations, the ADHE negotiates contracts with participating schools either (1) through the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) or (2) directly with the institutions.

The AHECB allocates a number of contract slots to each participating school, and each school selects students certified as bona fide Arkansas residents to fill its allocated slots. If the school participates in the SREB contract program, the State pays a set fee per student to the SREB, which is adjusted each year by SREB. In return, the SREB negotiates a contract with the school to hold a certain number slots open for Arkansas students and to charge those students resident tuition. (Exceptions: students attending the University of Tennessee, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, and the University of Louisville are charged the resident tuition plus the difference between the non-resident tuition and the sum of the resident tuition and the SREB contract fee. Schools, which do not have a resident-non-resident tuition differential, agree to hold a number of slots open for Arkansas students at reduced tuition.

ADHE Contracts: If the school has a direct contract with the ADHE, the contract basically provides that the State will pay to the schools that charge different resident and non-resident tuition an amount equal to the difference between the resident and non-resident tuition, which the school will apply to the tuition and fees of such students. Should the differential exceed the contract price approved for similar programs by the SREB, the lesser amount will be paid.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS:

Certification is a procedural process in order to determine bona fide Arkansas residency of the applicant applying for the ARHE grant at contracting dental schools in the Program. The process begins with the prospective student applying online through the ADHE Universal Financial Aid System at www.adhe.edu and submitting supporting documentation as determined by ADHE to the ARHEG coordinator. Documentation must be mailed to:

Arkansas Department of Higher Education
ATTN: ARHEG Coordinator
423 Main Street, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

Students may apply for the ARHEG **beginning January 1 of the calendar year. The deadline to apply online is June 1** of the calendar year, and the deadline to receive supporting documentation is June 15 of the same year. Once a student has been certified, a notice of certification is sent to the student via the email address in the student's ADHE online account. The student's name is then added to the list of other eligible AR residents and sent to all ARHEG participating institutions in dentistry on a monthly basis.

Participating institutions have sole discretion in selecting grant recipients from the list of certified students using the same criteria they use in determining those students that will be accepted for enrollment.

The prospective student also must apply to and be accepted by a school that is under contract with the State. The total number of contract slots is limited by available funds, so it is important to apply and gain acceptance by the school at the earliest possible time.

Students may contact june.morgan@adhe.edu OR chris.wilson@adhe.edu or telephone (501) 371-2000.

Complete information regarding the AR Health Education Grant Program is available on the ADHE website at: http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/financialaid/Pages/fa_arheg.aspx.

Acknowledgements:

Special thanks to Dr. Jerry Rose at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, for sharing his informational resources!

Every effort is made to keep this document current. However, admission requirements for individual schools may change, so it is imperative that pre-dental students verify the application requirements with each school before applying to that school.