## 1 Research

### 36–18 months before starting dental school

- Find a local general dentist in a private practice or dental school community to shadow to discover what dentistry is all about.
- Meet with a pre-dental or pre-health advisor to obtain information to keep you on track with dental school requirements & review your current transcript.
- Review dental school prerequisite classes for admissions.
- Think about geographic and location preferences.
- Consider other factors: cost, class size, fit, lab space, ease of getting patients, access to specialists, public/private, etc.
- Don’t worry about DDS vs. DMD—there’s no difference in the education (just the letters).
- Obtain information from the American Dental Association (ADA) & American Student Dental Association (ASDA)
- Join a Pre-Dental Club at your college/university—if it doesn’t exist, start one!
- Talk to current dental students, family & friends for their perspective.
- Develop an initial list of schools and visit websites.
- Start researching dental school scholarships & grants.

## 2 Prepare for the DAT®

### 24–16 months before starting dental school

- Register Early! Visit www.ada.org/dat.aspx to obtain a DENTPIN & apply for the DAT
- After notification of DAT eligibility, select a Test Date!
- Take a free DAT Practice Test with Kaplan.
- Take a free DAT Strategy Session with Kaplan.
- Enroll with Kaplan to get a higher DAT score.

## 3 The Application Process—Part I

- Create a schedule of deadlines, including test registration dates, application deadlines (you’ll have primary and secondary application deadlines) and financial aid deadlines.
- Think about appropriate people to write recommendations and contact each with the deadline for submitting references.
- Open up your application folder early.
- Begin writing your personal statement.
- Follow the application directions explicitly and have someone familiar with you review your application before submission.
- Complete and submit your AADSAS online application.
- Check on status of application: test score reports, transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- Submit secondary applications as requested/necessary.
- Wait for dental schools to contact you about interviews (interviews start in September).

## 4 The Application Process—Part II

- Prepare for your interview by further researching each school and considering your response to potential questions.
- Investigate financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
- Wait for acceptance letters - the first letters go out December 1.
- If you are waitlisted, be patient; seek the advice of your advisor and continue to engage in activities that enhance your application.
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