



Dental School Application Process

Choosing Dental Schools:

ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools (PDF book) and **Dental School Explorer** (online database) – includes both for \$35: www.adea.org/officialguide.

Admissions Test: DAT (Dental Admission Test)

DAT Program Guide: <http://www.ada.org/dat> → DAT Guide

Registration Timeline: Tests are administered year-round. You must first apply for and obtain a DENTPIN www.ada.org/dat. After your DENTPIN application is processed, you may contact a Prometric Test Center (www.prometric.com) to schedule your test date within the six-month testing window.

Release Scores: Prior to signing up for the test, you have the option of releasing your scores to an undergraduate pre-health advisor. If you miss this step, please print an official score report and send to the GVSU preprofessional advisor.

Fee: \$510 per test

- * Payment by credit card, money order, or certified check; fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable
- * Fee includes official score transcripts to all schools requested at the time of test registration; \$50 per school for those added after test date (please list preprofessional advisor as score recipient)

Fee Assistance: Partial fee waivers are available for first-time test takers which cover 50% of the DAT fee; see DAT Program Guide for more information—must apply BEFORE scheduling test date

Limit: 90 days between tests; maximum of 3 total tests or special permission

Subtests	
Tutorial (optional)	15 minutes
Survey of Natural Sciences: Biology (40 items), General Chemistry (30 items), Organic Chemistry (30 items) = 100 total items *Biology section changed in 2022	90 minutes
Perceptual Ability Test: 90 items	60 minutes
Scheduled Break (optional)	30 minutes
Reading Comprehension Test: 50 items across 3 reading passages	60 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning Test: 40 items	45 minutes
Post Test Survey (optional)	15 minutes
Total time	5 hours 15 minutes

Scoring: 1-30, standardized with a national average of 19 (scores are based on the number of correct responses, so there is no penalty for guessing). Unofficial score report will be given to you upon leaving the testing center; official scores will take 3-4 weeks to be reported and will be reported electronically.

Practice Tests: www.ada.org/dat → Test Preparation. There are Individual Modules, Full Practice Tests and Sample Test Items available



616.331.8585 | www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising | C-1-120 MAK

Application Service: American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS)

Contact AADSAS customer service with questions: 617-612-2045 or aadsasinfo@aadsasweb.org

AADSAS Applicant Help Center: https://help.liaisonedu.com/ADEA_AADSAS_Applicant_Help_Center (includes a Quick Start Guide, FAQs, and other instructions on completing your AADSAS)

Fee: \$259 for one school; \$112 for each additional school

*Fee is non-refundable, must be paid online by credit/debit card

*Fee assistance is available and provides a \$483 fee waiver that covers up to 3 total schools; it must be applied for and approved BEFORE submitting the application (allow 10 business days for approval)

Re-applicants: You can roll over certain parts of your previous application. There is space in AADSAS to explain what changed since you last applied to dental school.

Transcripts: Transcripts must be sent from EACH school you have attended. GVSU transcripts can be sent electronically (see [Registrar's Office](#) for info). If sending through mail, a Transcript Request Form (download from AADSAS) MUST accompany official transcripts by application deadline—can be submitted in May.

Repeat Grades: Enter ALL attempts at courses, regardless of repeats or grades of W; ALL coursework is used in GPA calculations (including initial and repeated coursework).

Personal Statement: Up to 4500 characters, including spaces; express your motivation or desire to pursue dentistry.

Professional Experience: Space to enter relevant dental shadowing, extracurricular activities, employment, research, volunteer, and any academic enrichment programs (i.e. SHPEP); **600 characters** are allotted for each activity description. You can select up to 6 experiences to highlight as “most important.” There is a separate section for entering achievements (i.e. awards/honors/scholarships) and certifications (i.e. RDH, CDA, CDT—can upload a copy of the certificate). You can select up to 4 “most important” achievements. You also get 600 characters to describe manual dexterity activities.

Letters of Evaluation (LOEs): See the next page.

Verification: Process of verification of grades through AADSAS takes 2-4 weeks once ALL required materials are received (this excludes LOEs and supplemental applications).

Supplemental Applications: Supplemental applications vary and may include additional fees and essays; more info can be found in the AADSAS application under Program Materials. Some supplemental apps require you to submit a photo of yourself; therefore, it's a good idea to have a nice/professional photo taken of yourself wearing business-style clothing.

Acceptances: Make sure you are meeting any school deadlines and withdraw applications from all schools following a final decision on attendance.

Schools also conduct a criminal background check and undergraduate disciplinary checks prior to final matriculation.

Apply EARLY (in June!), check your SPAM folder in your email so you don't miss anything, clean up your SOCIAL MEDIA, and stay ORGANIZED.

Letters of Evaluation (LOEs) and Committee Letter:

GVSU uses a Committee Letter format. The applicant's individual LOEs, application, and student questionnaire will be used to compose a committee letter that summarizes their application and all LOEs. The committee letter also includes a rubric based on the AAMC Core Competencies. Individual letters are then ranked in order of strength, attached to the committee letter in one PDF, then submitted to AADSAS for schools to download (Alexis Schewe submits). The Committee Letter will not be started until your Committee Letter Application is complete (see below)

In AADSAS, enter "Committee Letter" for type of letter and list **Alexis Schewe** (scheweal@gvsu.edu) as the **Letter Writer**. AADSAS will send Alexis a notification once you have completed the request.

**Complete the Committee Letter Application between
March 1st - August 1st at:
www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/apply**

A complete application (**due August 1st**) initiates your GVSU Committee Letter. The online Committee Letter Application includes the following (required for a committee letter):

1. Complete the [Committee Letter Self-Assessment](#) to determine your readiness to apply
2. Waive your rights to view your letters of evaluation and committee letter
3. Request a minimum of three letters of evaluation
4. Complete a questionnaire
5. Upload a photo/headshot of yourself (optional)
6. Submit a copy of your completed AADSAS application

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I need my committee letter to be done before I submit AADSAS?

Answer: No, the committee letter/LOEs are included as part of secondary/supplemental applications. The AADSAS application(s) should be submitted prior to receipt of all letters so the verification process can begin.

How many LOEs should I request, and who should write them?

Answer: Look at individual schools for specific requirements of number and type of letters. It's recommended to ask 3 faculty who have taught you in class (two science, one non-science) and one practicing clinician (preferably one who has observed you in a clinical setting).

If I'm reapplying, can I use letters from last year?

Answer: Ideally, reapplicants should update all of their letters. A new Committee Letter Application is required each year and a new committee letter is written each year.

If I graduated from GVSU, am I still eligible for a committee letter?

Answer: Students who have graduated from GVSU may still be eligible for a committee letter if they are not currently attending another institution for a post-baccalaureate or graduate program. If a student is attending another school, a committee letter and letters of evaluation should be sought from the current program.

Application Process Timeline

This process begins 2 years before you plan to start dental school

