

# A Short Overview of the DAT (Dental Admissions Test)

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This is the test dental schools require for admission. It should be taken a year before you plan to enroll.

*Classes you should take before taking the DAT:*

Chemistry 125, 126, 247, 248, Biology 125, 126

\*Although it is helpful to take Biology 243 before the DAT, it is not necessary. Physics 124, 125 are not tested on the DAT but are required for dental school.

*Studying Options*

Barron's Guide – in Hustad Science Library in Regent's Hall; Top Score Pro for the DAT – buy online at

<http://www.scholarware.com> ; Kaplan course

\*No one option is best. Use the one that works for you. If you need a course to stay focused, then Kaplan may be best. If you are self-driven, then Top Score Pro or Barron's are excellent aids.

*Apply to take the test and then register for a date – 2 separate processes*

The company processes applications to register for the test on Monday or Tuesday of each week so apply Sunday for prompt return. You should register to take the test about 3 months in advance of the day you plan to take it. It costs \$190 to apply to take the DAT. Apply and register at <http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp>

The test is fully computerized; you will receive your score immediately upon completion. You can take the test up to 3 times allowing 90 days between each time. The scores for each part are out of 30. 18-19 is roughly the average score of matriculated students to most dental schools

The DAT consists of 4 parts:

*Natural Sciences* – 90 minutes

Three subsections:

- Biology – 40 questions
- Chemistry – 30 questions
- Organic Chemistry – 30 questions

*Reading Comprehension*

- 60 minutes
- 50 questions

*Perceptual Ability (PAT)*

- 60 minutes
- 90 questions—6 sections of 15 questions each

*Quantitative Reasoning*

- 45 minutes
- 40 questions

The test begins with a tutorial about the computer program and there is a 15 minute break between the PAT and Reading Comprehension sections. You are allowed dry erase markers and boards, which are provided, but you are not allowed a calculator – practice without one.

*After the DAT*

Apply to dental school with the general AADSAS application at <https://portal.aadsasweb.org/> .

You can send your score to 5 dental schools free when registering. Additional score reports may be requested at <http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp>. Under step 5, click on "Request Score Report (electronic)".

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