

DENTIST

The field of dentistry aims to maintain the health of teeth, gums, and other various tissues of the mouth. Dentists are vital to overall health including the prevention of cancer and heart disease. Dentists are dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of all oral diseases and conditions. They are licensed in each state and can prescribe medicine.

CAREER DESCRIPTION*

- » National median salary: \$170,910
- » National projected career growth: 5%
- » Diagnose and treat problems with patient's teeth, gums, and related parts of the mouth
- » Provide instruction on oral care and choices affecting oral health
- » Examine x-rays to diagnose problems
- » Make models and measurements for dental appliances

TYPICAL EDUCATION**

- » Years of School (including undergraduate): 8 years
- » Average Entering GPA: 3.74; Science GPA: 3.66
- » Bachelor's degree is strongly recommended
- » Average Dental Admission Test (DAT): 20

NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Nebraska Medical Center
- » Creighton University
- » University of Iowa
- » University of Colorado
- » University of Missouri-Kansas City
- » University of Illinois at Chicago

COMPETITIVE STUDENTS ALWAYS...

- » Maintain a competitive academic record
- » Take BIOL 1060 Intro to Medical Careers and Ethics
- » Shadow professionals in the field
- » Obtain direct patient health care experience
- » Stay active in volunteer and leadership opportunities
- » Obtain competitive DAT Score
- » Gain hands on experience in dental care

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL SAY



"[Dentistry] is one of the best healthcare professions to provide immediate confidence and pain relief for our patients...sometimes both at the same time."

-Dr. Hubert J. Park, DDS



"Dentistry is a perfect blend of art and science encompassing the knowledge of a doctor, the skills of a surgeon and the creativity of an artist. It is as much an avocation as it is a vocation."

-Dr. Michael Sinkin, DDS

CAREER OPTIONS

- » General Practice
- » Dental Public Health
- » Endodontics
- » Oral Pathology
- » Oral Surgery
- » Orthodontics
- » Pediatric Dentistry
- » Periodontics
- » Prosthodontics

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*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Data and information from UNMC

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Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

University of Nebraska Medical Center	Creighton University
University of Missouri-Kansas City	University of Iowa
University of Colorado	University of Illinois at Chicago

*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

*Most schools prefer science classes to be taken in-person versus online.

UNMC's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 8-10)			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 1450 Biology I & Lab	5	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 1750 Biology II & Lab	5	F, S, M	BIOL 1450

Chemistry (minimum credits: 16)			
CHEM 1180 & 1184 General Chemistry I & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 or CHEM 1140 & 1144
CHEM 1190 & 1194 General Chemistry II & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 and CHEM 1180 & 1184
CHEM 2250 Organic Chemistry I*	3	F, S, M	CHEM 1190 & 1194
CHEM 2260 & 2274 Organic Chemistry II & Lab	5	F, S	CHEM 2250

Physics (minimum credits: 10)			
PHYS 1110 & 1154 General Physics I & Lab	5	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320
PHYS 1120 & 1164 General Physics II & Lab	5	F, S, M	PHYS 1110 & 1154

English Composition (minimum credits: 6)			
ENGL 1150 English Composition I	3	F, S, M	AP Score 3, ACT 14-26, HS GPA 2.3+
ENGL 1160 English Composition II	3	F, S, M	AP Score 4, ENGL 1140 or 1150, or ACT 27+ or Reading or English ACT score of 29+

Strongly Recommended Courses			
BIOL 2740 Human Anatomy and Physiology I & Lab	4	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2840 Human Anatomy and Physiology II & Lab	4	F, S, M	BIOL 2740
BIOL 2140 Genetics & Discussion	4	F, S, M	BIOL 1450, 1750 & CHEM 1140 or 1180
*BIOL 2440 Biology of Microorganisms & Lab	4	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 3020 Molecular Biology of the Cell	3	F, S, M	BIOL 2140 & one semester of Gen. Chem
BIOL 3240 Introduction to Immunology	3	F, S	BIOL 1450, 1750, & 2140
CHEM 4610 Biochemistry of the Metabolism OR	4	S	CHEM 2260/2274
CHEM 4650 & 4654 Biochemistry I and Lab AND	4	F	CHEM 2260/2274
CHEM 4660 & 4664 Biochemistry II and Lab	4	S	CHEM 4650 & 4654
PSYC 1010 Introduction to Psychology	3	F, S, M	
AND one of the following:			
BIOL 2020 Statistics for Life and Environ. Science	3	F, S	MATH 1120, 1130, 1300, or 1320
STAT 1530 Elementary Statistics	3	F, S	MATH 1210 or ACT 19 or ALEKS 3
STAT 3000 Statistical Methods I	3	F, S	MATH 1300 or 1320
PSYC 3130 Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
SOC 2130 Social Statistics	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1130, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530

A minimum of 90 credits are required prior to matriculation for UNMC, and 64 credits for Creighton University. Students should take additional courses in the natural sciences, as well as the humanities and social sciences.

*It is recommended students take courses in chemistry and biology beyond the required minimum, especially to prepare for the DAT and rigor of Dental School.