

HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND PRELAW CENTER

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A GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS TO DENTAL SCHOOLS

2011-2012

1. HOW TO APPROACH THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Before beginning your application please read this guide thoroughly so you will understand how the entire application process works. Unfortunately, in the Health Professions and Prelaw Center we have observed that many excellent applicants are not accepted every year due to a simple failure to read instructions and follow them in a timely manner. Don't let this be you!

Your initial contact with the dental school admissions committee will be through your written application. Submitting complete, polished documents that you have spent some time preparing will reflect well on your potential as a dental student and future dentist. If you make many mistakes in the application process, or your approach is disorganized, an admissions committee may conclude that your performance as a dental student and as a dentist will be error-prone and disorganized. Your application should reflect all of the thoughtful preparation you have made for a career in dentistry so far.

As dental schools begin to receive applications, they start reviewing them and inviting students for interviews. Many start offering acceptances to students long before the deadline to apply. You will give yourself the best chances for admission if your completed application is one of the first that they consider, rather than one of the last.

The first question to ask before you start your application is whether you are ready to apply to dental school. You should apply as the strongest applicant you can be. You can earn a lot of respect from an admissions committee by having the maturity to recognize weaknesses and do the hard work to address them *before* you apply.

Do not think in terms of just meeting the final deadlines. If a school has a published application deadline of December 1, it does not mean that it's the first date the school will begin to look at applications. It basically means, "December 1 is the last date we will look at an application from any applicant who has superior qualifications." Most schools operate on a rolling admissions basis, admitting many students long before the deadline to apply. Remember that just as applicants are competing to be admitted, schools are competing for the best students and do not wait on late applications to fill their classes.

If you have applied previously to dental school and were not admitted, please make sure to read the section "For Reapplicants."

2. OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) provides a centralized application service called AADSAS that allows students to initiate the process of applying to many dental schools at once through one initial primary application. 58 out of the 59 dental schools in the US, as well as one Canadian dental school, participate in AADSAS.

Applying to dental school is a two-step process: 1) you fill out the AADSAS electronic primary application, choose the schools you would like to receive the application, and send any supplementary materials requested by them; 2) those schools receive your application and if they would like to consider you further for admission they contact you to submit further materials or schedule an interview.

3. THE PRIMARY APPLICATION

The 2012 AADSAS online application is scheduled to become available on June 1, 2011 and will be found at the following web address:

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

You can begin to work on the application as soon as it becomes available. It can take six to eight weeks for AADSAS to process your application and send it to the schools you select. Please start early. You should try to submit your AADSAS application by mid-June.

All applicants submitting an AADSAS application must have a DENTPIN®, a unique identification number. You may have received a DENTPIN® when you registered for the DAT. Otherwise, when you initiate an AADSAS application you will be prompted to create a DENTPIN®. Applicants can look up their previously-created DENTPINs at www.ada.org/goto/dentpin.

You can log in and out of your AADSAS application and spend several weeks entering information and making sure that everything is accurate and complete. When you are satisfied with the application you submit it electronically and it is sent to AADSAS for processing. Once you submit the application you cannot make changes on it.

A full Instruction Booklet for the AADSAS application can be found by clicking on “AADSAS Instructions” on the website. Before starting to fill out the application, print out this instruction booklet so that you can refer to it while you fill out the various sections. This is a large file to print out but it really will save you time if you have a hardcopy to refer to as you fill out the application. The application is complicated but most questions really can be answered by referring to the appropriate sections listed in the table of contents.

Some Tips on the Various Sections of the Application:

Colleges Attended

List every school that you have attended and the dates of attendance. You will need to submit transcripts from every school you have attended to AADSAS (see the section on “Transcripts” in this document).

Coursework

You will need to have a transcript from every college you have attended before you can fill out this section. In this section you fill in information on every college course you have taken. Before filling out this section you should gather copies of all your transcripts from every school you have attended. This section should match your transcripts as exactly as possible. If you completed coursework at another university and transferred credit to IU, make sure you enter the course information as it appears on *the original school's transcript*, not as it appears on the IU transcript as transferred coursework.

AADSAS requires each student to submit grade information in one standardized form so that the application system can then calculate each applicant's GPA in a standardized form that can be used to compare all applicants, regardless of the grading system used at the university the applicant attended. For this reason your GPA as calculated by the application system may be slightly different from the GPA that appears on your IU transcript.

Some tips on how to fill in special course information:

- You will choose a course classification for each course you have taken. Please consult the AADSAS Instruction Book for advice on how to classify courses.
- If the course is listed on your transcript then you should list it in this section, even if you withdrew and received a grade of W.
- You should make note of any classes that were Intensive Writing courses. Some dental schools may be willing to count these courses towards their English course requirements, where applicable.
- Use deferred grade for research if no grade has been assigned yet.

- Your transcript may show that you have taken Advanced Placement or departmental exams which earned you college credit. List these courses with the appropriate number of credit hours as they appear on your transcript, and list the “Special Classification” as “Advanced Placement” or “Departmental Exam” if applicable. You should be aware that some dental schools do not accept, or restrict the use of, Advanced Placement or credit-by-examination toward admission requirements. An *exemption from a requirement* is not generally considered equivalent to earning Advanced Placement credit or credit from coursework.

Activities and Experience

The AADSAS application asks you to provide information on Academic Enrichment Programs; Awards, Honors, and Scholarships; Dentistry Experience; Extracurricular, Volunteer, and Community Service Activities; Work Experience; Research Experience; and Activities Requiring Manual Dexterity. It may be helpful for you to assemble a resume and/or list of appropriate activities before beginning to fill out these sections of the application. It is sometimes more impressive to an admissions committee to list a smaller number of significant achievements, and activities in which you were deeply involved, rather than a longer list of activities in which you were only superficially involved. Some limited space is provided for you to write about each experience.

Personal Statement

An important part of your AADSAS application is your personal statement, an essay of about one page single-spaced, which should in some way explain why you would like to go to dental school and become a dentist. Your personal statement will be typed into a text box on the AADSAS application. This text box has a character limit of 4500 characters with spaces, so when you are drafting your personal statement in a word processing document you can check the character limit to make sure that your statement will fit within the maximum space allowed.

An effective approach that applicants often take is to write in some detail about a few experiences that got them interested in dentistry or confirmed to them that dentistry was the path they wanted to pursue. Often, applicants employ narrative techniques in their statements, through which the writer recounts an experience or event that shaped the writer, sparked an interest in dentistry, or an event that clarified that dentistry was the right choice for him or her. Using concrete, descriptive language in writing about your personal experiences can be very effective and convincing to an admissions committee. Detailed descriptions of events and experiences tend to reveal more about the inner experience of the writer than generalizations.

Admissions committees are reading lots of essays and after a while they all sound alike. There are many commonalities in the backgrounds and experience of the students who are attracted to the dental profession. You may have had similar experiences to other students who are applying to dental school, but your unique ability to reflect on your experiences and draw insights about them can set you apart from other applicants. Often, writing in a more detailed, specific way and avoiding generalities can turn a rapid statement into a more interesting one.

Keeping a journal can be very helpful for preparing for this stage in your journey to dental school. The journal can help you generate ideas so that then you can pick out the best ones to include in your personal statement. You may find that you have written some material in your journal that you can revise and incorporate into your personal statement. Your journal also may be of help later on when writing essays for supplemental applications and preparing for your interviews.

Some additional tips:

- Your personal statement should not simply recount things that are included in the activities and experience section. In fact, in deciding where to include information, the activities section should generally be focused on “what” you’ve accomplished, whereas the focus in the personal statement should stay focused on “why” go to dental school. You can write about your activities in your personal statement inasmuch as they illuminate the answer about why you are going to dental school, but your personal statement should not come across as merely an essay about your accomplishments.

- You want to demonstrate your best features to an admissions committee without coming across as conceited. It may take repeated revision to strike the right balance.
- Proofread, proofread, and proofread some more. Do not rely on a spell checker alone.
- Make an appointment with Dr. Tolen in the HPPLC office if you would like her to read your essay and provide comments (just call 812-855-1873 to set one up). Also, remember that the essay reflects your unique personal perspective. There is no strict formula for a good personal statement.
- You may choose to address a personal, judicial, or academic problem (such as a bad semester or a bad grade) in the personal essay. You may instead decide to address these problems in some other way, through a letter to the admissions committee, or in the interview. If you choose to address a sensitive problem in your essay do not allow the whole essay to become focused on it, to the extent that you fail to communicate about all the positive ways that you have prepared for dental school. Please consult with Dr. Tolen on any questions about how to present such information.
- It is okay to use the word “I” with some discretion, but beginning every sentence this way creates an impression that you are egocentric. Try to vary the structure of your sentences.
- Start early and prepare many drafts over time. Re-read your essay each time with fresh eyes.

4. CHOOSING WHERE TO APPLY

You will select the dental schools that you would like to receive a copy of your application on your primary AADSAS application. You also can select additional schools later for additional fees. The processing fee for the 2012 AADSAS application is \$235 for the first dental school and \$75 for each additional school you select. See the AADSAS website for full information on the fees.

There are many sources for help in deciding where to apply:

- Admissions directors or representatives (many conduct meetings through HPPLC and attend our annual Health Programs Fair)
- [2011 ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools](#) (available in the HPPLC office)
- Individual dental school websites and publications
- Dental School Admissions Statistics (handout available from the HPPLC office)
- Friends and colleagues in dental school (realize they probably know their own school quite well, but not other schools)
- Dentists who are recent graduates or who remain involved with dental education (however, realize that their knowledge of many issues may not be up-to-date)

There are resources available in the HPPLC office to help you research the average DAT scores and average GPA's of students accepted at each school. You should be aware that admission to dental school is highly competitive. Due to high interest in the profession, you may need to meet higher standards of admission this year than applicants had to meet last year.

Many publicly-supported dental schools give preference to in-state residents, so often the schools that give you residential preference in admission will afford some of the best chances for acceptance. However, admission to IU dental school is becoming increasingly competitive (some general guidelines of the credentials you would need to have a good chance for admission at IU dental school would be 3.4 cumulative GPA; 3.4 science GPA; and 18's in all areas of the DAT).

All applicants should make sure to apply to some additional schools out of state that accept larger numbers of non-residents. There are some private schools outside of Indiana that accept larger numbers of out-of-state residents with somewhat moderate DAT scores and GPA's (some of the schools you may wish to consider are Boston, Case Western, Creighton, Marquette, NYU, Temple, and Tufts). The tuition rates at these private schools may be higher than in-state tuition at IU dental school, but these schools may provide additional options for admission for you if you are serious about a career in dentistry.

Do not make the mistake of taking too narrow of an approach initially by applying to only a very small number of schools. Too many applicants do this and regret it when they get further into the application process and can only apply to more schools as a late applicant.

Some additional points to consider:

- Teaching/learning style: traditional lecture, practice-based learning, or a combination? How do you learn best? Which system would fit you?
- Strength of programs of interest
- Costs and living expenses
- Class size and student-faculty ratio; consistent, significant evidence of faculty interaction and availability beyond the class room
- Organization of clinical years and patient contact
- Grading system
- Programs for underrepresented students
- Student organizations: How many are there that are of interest to you and how much are they supported by the school?
- Combined programs (DDS/PhD, DDS/MBA, DDS/Masters in Public Health). Could you add a program after starting school?
- What about specialties? If you have a strong interest in Orthodontics or Periodontics, how many in the class go on to these?

5. TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts must be received by AADSAS before your application will be processed. Transcripts are ordered from the Office of the Registrar from the colleges and universities you have attended (you do not need to order high school transcripts). **The HPPLC Office does not process transcripts.** Transcripts must be sent directly from the schools you attended to AADSAS. AADSAS matches up your transcripts with your application, verifies that you have entered all the information accurately, and then sends your application to the schools you have selected.

On the AADSAS application you print off a Transcript Matching Form, which has all the information needed to order your transcript from each school you have attended. This form should be submitted to the Registrar's Office at each college or university you attended.

You must submit a transcript from the original college or university where the coursework was completed, even if the coursework transferred to Indiana University. All courses taken at IU campuses appear on one centralized transcript, with the only exception being Purdue courses completed at IUPUI or IU-Fort Wayne (if you completed a Purdue University course you will have to order a transcript from them, in addition to your IU transcript). This situation has caused some confusion and processing problems in the past. If the AADSAS system appears to indicate a hold because they have not received a transcript from another IU campus, call and tell the AADSAS representative to look on the back of the IU transcript where there is an explanation that the IU transcript is a centralized transcript.

Your application will not be processed until AADSAS receives transcripts from all schools you have attended. One of the most common causes of delays in processing your application is a problem with a transcript. Make sure that you do not have any holds on your account at IU that could prevent the Registrar's office from mailing out your transcript. If AADSAS does not receive your transcript they will not process your application and send it to the dental schools.

You can update the coursework section of your AADSAS application at the end of the fall semester to reflect newly-completed coursework using the "Academic Update" process. Details about this are available on the AADSAS website. The Academic Update period runs from mid-November to February. You should receive an email directly from AADSAS giving you instructions on how to complete this process.

6. DAT

Your goal should be to achieve a solid score on the DAT at the latest by mid-July of the year that you plan to apply to dental school. Because there is a 90-day waiting period after taking the DAT before you are allowed to register for another test, we would recommend attempting to prepare to take the exam earlier, to allow for the possibility that you may need to retake the exam in mid-July of the year you are applying. If you are ready and have completed the biology and chemistry requirements (organic and inorganic), we

recommend that you try to study during the summer between your sophomore and junior years and take the DAT at the end of the summer. Taking the DAT at this time will give you time to prepare to re-take the exam the following summer if you need to improve your score. You do not need to complete physics coursework before taking the DAT, so if you wish you may delay the physics courses until after you complete the biology and chemistry requirements.

If you cannot fit in the DAT during the summer between your sophomore and junior year, or need to retake the exam, then you should try to prepare to take the exam by mid-July of the year in which you are applying. Some students will plan to take the test in April in order to be able to have one more opportunity in mid-July of retaking the exam.

Through the use of the same DENTPIN for your DAT registration and your AADSAS application, your DAT scores will be reported to AADSAS so they are included with your application. Your official DAT scores will be downloaded directly from the American Dental Association into the application so that all schools where you have applied on the AADSAS can obtain your DAT scores.

For the IU dental school, the Director of Admissions, Dr. Kasberg, advises that you should have 18's in all areas of the DAT to have a good chance for admission. Scores above 18 will of course improve your chances for admission.

7. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

After completing the primary AADSAS application you will need to submit supplemental materials that are required by each individual dental school to complete your application. **On the AADSAS application website, click on the “Supplemental Information” link to access instructions on the additional materials requested by each dental school.** Send these materials directly to the dental schools as instructed.

After the schools receive your AADSAS application, each school follows its own procedure. Some schools request that applicants submit supplemental materials to them at the same time they submit the AADSAS application while other schools ask that applicants wait until the school invites them to submit supplemental materials. Some schools may contact you by email and have you fill out an online supplemental application. Some schools will send you additional forms by postal mail. If you have questions you should check the school's website for additional instructions on their procedures, or call or e-mail the admissions office at the school. Supplemental materials should be sent directly to the dental schools, not to AADSAS (with the exception of letters of evaluation sent through AADSAS).

You should be aware that most schools will not review your file at all until all supplemental materials, including letters of recommendation, have been received. In essence what this means is that you have not actually applied to that school until you have completed your supplemental application, even if you selected the school months earlier on your primary application.

Many great applicants do not do as well in the admissions process because they fail to follow-up in a timely manner. Applicants who submit their primary applications early in the summer often gain an advantage in the admissions process, but if you subsequently submit your supplemental materials late, you have lost all the advantage you had in the beginning as an early applicant, as your application will now be reviewed after students who submitted their supplemental materials before you. It can really be to your advantage to follow-up in a timely manner and stay determined *throughout the entire application process*.

Some of the schools may ask you to submit additional essays on topics related to your preparation for dental school and a career in dentistry. Your journal may prove very valuable at this stage. You may find that you already have written material on relevant topics in your journal that can be expanded and incorporated into your essays for the supplemental applications.

It would be a good idea to set up a filing system once you reach the supplemental application stage, with a file folder for each school so that you can track your correspondence and contacts with them.

8. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

The HPPLC office does not automatically send your letters of recommendation to dental schools or to AADSAS. You must request that we send your letters to AADSAS and/or the individual schools where you are applying. Please refer to the HPPLC publication, “A Guide to the Recommendation Service for Medical and Health Profession School Applicants” for further instructions on how to use the recommendation service.

Some schools require that letters be sent through AADSAS while others request that you send them directly to the school. Please check the link on the AADSAS website for “Supplemental Information” to find the instructions for each school where you have applied.

AADSAS does not delay the processing of your application if they have not received your letters of evaluation. Letters of evaluation can be sent after you have submitted your primary AADSAS application. If your letters are sent to AADSAS after your application has been processed, they will be forwarded by AADSAS to the dental schools to which you have applied.

Dental school requirements for letters of recommendation vary, but most common is a minimum of three faculty recommendations, two of which must be from science faculty. You should check the “Supplemental Information” link on the AADSAS application website for the recommendation letter requirements for each school.

The IU dental school requests three faculty evaluation letters, two of which must be from science professors. Personal evaluations are not required by the IU dental school, but they can be helpful if they address specific ways in which you have prepared for dental school, such as through gaining exposure to dentistry, developing manual dexterity, or building interpersonal skills through community service. Indiana University School of Dentistry will only accept letters of evaluation through AADSAS.

Our office can prepare a Predental Faculty Composite for you at your request. A composite is a compilation of all your faculty recommendations into one document. In the composite the letters are presented unedited and in entirety. You must have at least three recommendation letters written by faculty (you may include associate instructors) in order to have a composite made by our office. If you have more than three faculty letters that you would like to send to dental schools, then we would recommend that you send a faculty composite; otherwise, it is optional at most dental schools and you may wish to bypass the time that will be required for the creation of a composite, and instead request that HPPLC send a packet of individual letters. To request a composite you must submit a “Request to Create Faculty Composite Letter” form to the HPPLC office. There is a priority deadline of June 15 for submitting this form.

Please ask professors well in advance and give them plenty of time to write letters of evaluation for you. Our office will send you an email when we receive a letter from one of your recommenders. Please monitor the status of your recommendation file and politely follow-up with any professors who have not submitted letters they said they would submit.

Sending Your Letters through AADSAS:

Letters may be transmitted through AADSAS either electronically or by paper. We recommend that you request that we send them electronically. You will need to submit a “Request for Recommendations to be Sent” form to HPPLC, indicating on the form that you would like your letters to be sent to AADSAS.

You are asked on the AADSAS application to provide the names of the evaluators who will be providing letters on your behalf. If you are using the HPPLC Recommendation Service please **do not** list the names or email addresses of individual recommenders. Instead, list Rachel Tolen and the email address recserve@indiana.edu. This will ensure that email communications regarding your letters come directly to our office so that we may respond. You do not need to list the names and individual email addresses of faculty members or personal recommenders, and doing so may result in emails being misdirected to them that should come to our office so that we may process your letters.

If you would like your letters sent to AADSAS electronically, you will need to indicate so on the AADSAS application. You will also need to fill out a “Request for Recommendations to be Sent” form and

turn it in to the HPPLC office, asking us to send your letters to AADSAS, and indicating on the form that you would like your letters to be sent electronically.

If you would like to have your letters sent by postal mail you will need to print out a Letter of Evaluation Matching Form from your AADSAS application and turn it in to HPPLC. The form that you will print out from your individual application will contain a unique barcode for your application. You only need to turn one copy of this form in to HPPLC. You do not need to give a copy of it to each of your evaluators. You will also need to fill out a “Request for Recommendations to be Sent” form and turn it in to the HPPLC office, asking us to send your letters to AADSAS, and indicating on the form that you would like your letters to be sent by postal mail.

Please make sure to watch the HPPLC mailing list for further instructions on recommendation procedures. After you have requested that HPPLC send your letters please check with the dental schools to make sure they received them.

9. INTERVIEWS

Once you have submitted your supplemental applications take some time over the summer to begin to prepare for your interviews. Why do dental schools hold interviews? The interview is used to assess your interpersonal and communication skills and how you would conduct yourself with patients.

Interviewing applicants requires a significant investment of time and money on the part of dental schools. They would not make this investment if they did not consider the interview to be critical in determining how prepared you are for dental school and a career in dentistry. Therefore you should prepare carefully for this crucial component of the admissions process.

Interviews at IU dental school in particular seek to determine how well an applicant will fit the teaching model they use, which is based on problem-based learning. Interviews also typically delve deeply into the student’s manual dexterity skills and exposure to dentistry.

Keeping a journal that you can review in preparing for your interviews can be very helpful. If you have kept a journal all along about the process you have gone through in preparing for a career in dentistry, you will have a valuable resource that you can review before walking into an interview. You can review your journal before going into your interview and this will help you draw more fully on your experiences in the interview.

In preparation for the interview stage it is also important to research and investigate through reading and talking with dental practitioners about dental education and current issues in the practice of dentistry. For IU dental school, it is especially important to be familiar with their curriculum and the emphasis placed on problem-based learning.

It also would be helpful to review the handout available from the HPPLC office, “Dental School Interview Questions,” and attend one of the HPPLC Interview Skills Workshops in the fall semester.

10. ACCEPTANCES

Rules have been established by the ADEA that regulate the process by which schools make offers of admission and applicants accept offers. Please read the section on “Offers of Admission” available on the AADSAS website.

11. FOR REAPPLICANTS

If you have already applied to dental school and you were not admitted, you should take some time for self-assessment. The first question you need to answer is whether a career in dentistry is the best fit for you. Have you fully explored the profession, so that you are clear about the special demands needed to be successful in dental school and as a dentist? If after some self-reflection you decide that you want to pursue a career in dentistry, and that you will work very hard to do what it takes to be successful, the next

step is to thoroughly evaluate what went wrong in the application process the first time. You should carefully review all aspects of your candidacy, to determine any weaknesses that resulted in denial of admission. Please feel free to set up an appointment with Dr. Tolen in the HPPLC office to discuss your candidacy. Many dental schools also are willing to advise students on why their applications were rejected.

After doing a thorough review, you need to endeavor to strengthen any aspects of your application that were weak **before** you reapply. Some students actually turn around and reapply with exactly the same academic record, same DAT scores, same application, even the same personal statement. If you do this, you should expect that the decision on your application will be the same as it was the first time and you will be rejected again. Do not make this mistake.

As a dental student you will need to be able to do continual self-assessment, recognize problems, and address them head on. If you reapply with obvious weaknesses in your application you may be communicating to the admissions committee that you lack these abilities. On the other hand, you can earn a lot of respect from an admissions committee by having the maturity to recognize weaknesses and do the hard work to address them *before* you reapply. Please feel free to contact Dr. Tolen in the HPPLC office for advice.

12. TIMELINE

MAY

- Assemble materials in preparation for completing your application (spring transcript from IU, transcripts from all other universities attended, list of activities or resume).
- Work on writing personal statement. Keep a journal throughout the application process, and use it for ideas for your personal statement, supplemental applications, and interviews.
- Research dental schools. Consult the chart from the [Official Guide to Dental Schools](#) (a copy of this is available in the HPPLC office) which shows in-state and out-of-state acceptance rates, and the average grade point averages and average DAT scores of accepted students.

JUNE

- June 1: Begin working on the AADSAS application as soon as it becomes available.
- Order transcripts from every school attended, using the AADSAS Transcript Matching Form.
- Check on the recommendations in your file. Submit a "Request to Create Faculty Composite Letter" by June 15 at the latest if you would like us to prepare a composite for you.
- Submit your completed AADSAS application as soon as possible; by mid-June would be recommended. You should submit the application early, as soon as you feel it is complete, even if your DAT scores are not available yet or your recommendation file is incomplete. Your DAT scores and letters of recommendation can be sent later.
- Check the Supplemental Information link on the AADSAS website and follow the instructions for submitting supplemental materials for each school to which you have applied.
- After you submit your AADSAS application you should periodically log in to the AADSAS website and monitor the status of your application. You should call and check with AADSAS regarding any transcripts that are listed as not having been received and then check with the Registrar's office to see if there was a problem with the order.

JULY and AUGUST

- Send recommendations as requested by the dental schools and confirm that they have received them.
- Some dental schools will send you additional supplemental applications. As you receive supplemental application materials from each dental school, you should follow their instructions and submit the supplemental applications in a timely manner. Do not wait until the deadline to submit.
- Ideally you should have every requested document to every school where you are applying by early August.
- Double check on everything. Be sure that supplemental applications and recommendation packets have been received by each school. Admissions offices receive thousands of documents and it is easy for one to get misfiled. Check everything by phone or on the school website if there is one dedicated to applicants and application status.

- Research the programs and characteristics of the schools to which you have applied.
- Prepare for interviews. Continue to keep your journal, and review it for ideas to emphasize to an admissions committee. Consult the Dental School Interview Questions handout from the HPPLC office and prepare for questions you may be asked. Review questions from dental interviews at the Student Doctor website on “Dental School Interview Feedback” (<http://www.studentdoctor.net/interview-feedback/>).
- Imagine that at the end of the year you may have a number of dental schools that have offered you admission and you may have to choose between them. What would you want to know about each school to help you decide? This will help you identify good questions you may wish to ask your interviewers in the interviews.

SEPTEMBER – MARCH

- Attend one of the HPPLC Interview Skills Workshops to be held in the fall semester.
- Many schools will allow you to send additional recommendations in December or January from professors from your fall classes if you have not received an acceptance yet and would like to try to strengthen your application. Check with the school admissions offices.
- Update the coursework section of your AADSAS application at the end of the fall semester to reflect newly-completed coursework using the “Academic Update” process. Details about this are available on the AADSAS website. AADSAS should send instructions about this to you by email.
- Visit with the representative of any dental school to which you have applied who visits campus. Dr. Kasberg from the IU dental school visits the IU Bloomington campus several times each semester.
- Attend the Health Programs Fair on March 6, 2012, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Indiana Memorial Union Alumni Hall. Meet with representatives of any schools where your application is still under consideration, or where you may wish to apply if you end up reapplying. We recommend meeting with the representatives of all dental schools that participate in this event, and these schools would be good to include on the list of schools where you are applying, as they are particularly interested in recruiting students from our campus.
- Remain in contact with schools if you have submitted applications and have not heard back. A polite email or phone call to inquire about your status is generally acceptable.
- Prepare alternate plans with Dr. Tolen if your admission to dental school is in doubt.

13. SOME FINAL ADVICE

Make sure that your e-mail address is working and reachable at all times and that your Inbox never gets over capacity. Many students experience problems with their applications due to failure to respond quickly and appropriately to mailings from the schools. Check your email often for communications from the schools and follow up with every request from them in a timely manner.

Please release your DAT scores and AADSAS information to Indiana University. Our office can help you better if information is released to us. The data we receive is crucial to our ability to advise students on our campus about how to prepare for admission. Our job here is to help you. Whether it is as a sounding board for choice of dental schools, feedback on your personal statement, or dealing with problems, that’s why we are here. Please check in with Dr. Tolen later on as you proceed through the application process and seek advice on additional things you can do to enhance your chances of admission.

GOOD LUCK!

This document has been prepared for Indiana University - Bloomington students by the Health Professions and Prelaw Center. Please note that specific requirements and policies can change at any time without notice. Students are responsible for obtaining the most current information directly from the application services, schools, and programs in which they have an interest.

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