THE PRE-DENTAL PROGRAM OF STUDY AT AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

Aspiring to become a dentist is a challenging and exciting career choice. Your undergraduate pre-professional preparation will be a key element in your overall comprehensive master plan for success (i.e., ACCEPTANCE). You should be aware that competition for admission to dental schools is very intense. Fewer than one-third of those who now apply gain admission, and each year the number of applicants increases while the number of positions remains constant. Thus, competition for admission is becoming even more intense.

SELECTION OF A MAJOR
Pre-dentistry is not a degree at AU but rather a pre-professional intention. Dental schools would like to admit applicants possessing widely varying interests and with majors in different fields. All dental schools profess that applicants should have a “broad education,” by which they mean:

1. strong foundation in natural sciences - biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics
2. highly developed communication skills - the use and understanding of written and spoken language
3. a solid background in the social sciences and humanities

Within this broad framework, a student is free to major in whatever subject or subjects he may find most interesting and challenging and in which he performs best. However, it should be emphasized that non-science majors, even more than science majors, need to do well in their science courses. A chemistry major, for example, has ample opportunity to prove himself by performing well in upper level chemistry courses if he should make a C in General Chemistry, but such opportunities might be more difficult for a social science major to find.

It should be stressed that the final responsibility for planning the academic program rests with the student and not with an advisor.

PRE-DENTAL REQUIREMENTS
There are some variations between schools, but almost all of the U.S. dental schools will accept as minimum preparation one year each of English, general chemistry, general physics, general biology and/or zoology, and organic chemistry, all with the appropriate laboratory. Many also require a semester of biochemistry, and some require statistics. Requirements for specific dental schools to which you intend to apply should be confirmed by visiting the web site of each school.
PREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS OF AU’S DENTAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA

BIOLOGY
- One academic year** of General Biology with lab. (May substitute one academic year of advanced Biology courses, if placed out of General Biology with AP credit.)

CHEMISTRY
- One academic year of General Chemistry with lab.
- One academic year of Advanced Chemistry with lab - At least one semester must be Organic Chemistry with lab, and one semester must be Biochemistry. Organic Chemistry II is optional.

PHYSICS
- One semester or two quarters of Physics with lab.

ENGLISH
- One academic year of English or whatever portion in the academic year is required for the baccalaureate degree in an accredited college or university.

COURSES RECOMMENDED
- Cellular Biology, Molecular Biology, Immunology, Social Sciences, Humanities, Psychology, Behavioral Sciences, Anatomy, Physiology, Research.

NOTE:
- All required courses should be taken on a graduated grading scale (e.g., A, B, C, D, F) when possible. Required courses may not be taken on a pass/fail type basis.
- Applicants must earn a grade of C or better in all required courses.
- The Dental College of Georgia does not acknowledge the +/- system at this time.

**One academic year is equal to two semesters, three quarters, or two quarters and a semester.