



Cerritos College

PRE-DENTAL

Career Pathway

The following curriculum does not lead to an Associate in Arts Degree in Pre-Dental. However students may fulfill requirements for a Natural Sciences Degree by completing a minimum of 18 units of science and math courses to include at least 4 units in the Physical Sciences, at least 4 units in the Biological Sciences, and at least 3 units in a math course beyond Intermediate Algebra. Please refer to the Cerritos College catalog for more information.

Admission to dental school is highly competitive. Most schools of dentistry admissions are based primarily on the candidates' academic achievement in a college program and performance in the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). The DAT measures general academic ability, reading comprehension, vocabulary, analytical thinking, comprehensive scientific information and perceptual ability. Because most of the applicants being admitted to dental schools possess a bachelor's degree, students are advised to integrate the dental school requirements into a program that will lead to a bachelor's degree in a major of their choice. However, there are Dental Schools which consider 90 semester units (60 units lower division and 30 units of upper division coursework) with a very competitive grade point average (GPA) as the minimum requirement for admission. Aside from pre-requisite courses and GPA, it is recommended that students engage in extracurricular activities such as volunteering in a dental setting and community services. Pre-dental students should be able to demonstrate their potential for independent critical thought, leadership, concern for others, and an understanding of the dental profession. Additionally, pre-dental students should work at developing and/or improving manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination.

COMMON LOWER DIVISION PREPARATION FOR DENTAL SCHOOLS

			UNITS
BIOL	200	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	201	Principles of Biology	5
CHEM	111	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	112	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	211	Organic Chemistry	5
CHEM	212	Organic Chemistry	5
ENGL	100	Freshman Composition	4
ENGL	102	Freshman Composition and Literature	3
PHYS	201	Engineering Physics	4
PHYS	202	Engineering Physics	4

NOTE: PSYC 101, General Introductory Psychology is required by many dental schools.

ADDITIONAL SCIENCES:

It is strongly suggested that students take additional courses at the university, such as Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Histology. Some of these courses may be considered additional requirements or elective coursework. Note: It is recommended to complete science courses within 5 years of admission.

MATHEMATICS:

The mathematics requirement beyond Trigonometry will be determined by the major course of study the student elects to pursue. However, one semester to one year of Calculus and one course of Statistics are strongly recommended.

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RECOMMENDED COURSEWORK:

Lower division courses that may be taken are Business, Fine Arts, Technical Writing, Speech, Engineering, Social Sciences, Sociology/Anthropology, Foreign Language and Ceramics/Sculpture.

For expanded information about dental school requirements, students are encouraged to consult <http://www.ada.org/2195.aspx> or the American Association of Dental Schools, 1625 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (Attn: Publications Assistant) or order from their website: www.ada.org.

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES:

American Dental Education Association at www.adea.org or Dental Admission Test (DAT) information at www.ada.org/dat.aspx.

For accurate programming and more school-specific detailed information concerning the California schools of dentistry, look up the dental school website:

Loma Linda University
dentistry.llu.edu

University of California, Los Angeles
www.dentistry.ucla.edu

University of California, San Francisco
<http://dentistry.ucsf.edu/> and/or www.assist.org

University of the Pacific, San Francisco Campus
www.dental.pacific.edu/

University of Southern California
<http://dentistry.usc.edu>

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTAL SCHOOLS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

Dentists diagnose and treat problems with teeth and tissues in the mouth, along with giving advice and administering care to help prevent future problems. Most dentists are general practitioners, handling a variety of dental needs. Other dentists practice in any of nine specialty areas. *Orthodontist*, the largest group of specialists, prevents or corrects irregularities of the teeth. The next largest group, *oral and maxillofacial surgeons*, operates on the mouth and jaws. The remainder may specialize as *pediatric dentists* (focusing on dentistry for children); *periodontists* (treating gums and bone supporting the teeth); *prosthodontists* (replacing missing teeth with permanent fixtures, such as crowns and bridges, or with removable fixtures such as dentures); *endodontists* (performing root canal therapy); *public health dentists* (promoting good dental health and preventing dental diseases within the community); *oral pathologists* (studying oral diseases); or *oral and maxillofacial radiologists* (diagnosing diseases in the head and neck through the use of imaging technologies). Employment of dentists is projected to grow faster than average through 2018. Although employment growth will provide some job opportunities, most jobs will result from the need to replace the large number of dentists projected to retire. **The** median annual salary for dentists is \$154,640 according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook. Earnings vary according to number of years in practice, location, hours worked, and specialty. Self-employed dentists in private practice tend to earn more than do salaried dentists, and a relatively large proportion of dentists are self-employed.

See California State University General Education List.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The requirements listed for major are subject to change without notice. It is the student's responsibility to check for the most recent information with a Cerritos College counselor or by consulting ASSIST at www.assist.org.

NOTE: Courses listed may require prerequisite coursework.

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ASSIST

How to use **ASSIST** to find your major preparation for CSU/UC:

1. **Log on:** www.assist.org
2. **Select an Institution:** select "Cerritos College" or other community college from pull-down menu
3. **Select:** "Type of Transfer Institution" such as "UC Los Angeles"
4. **Select a major from pull-down menu**
Report will show the university courses on the left and comparable community college classes on the right.
5. **PRINT:**-print by clicking on gold "**PRINT THIS REPORT**" button on top. Then use the **ASSIST** screen menu on the top toolbar or click on the printer icon that will appear at the bottom of the page.

How to use **ASSIST** to explore the majors available at University of California and California State University campuses

- Click on "EXPLORE MAJORS"

How to use **ASSIST** to figure out whether courses from the community college are transferable to the CSU/UC.

- Select the community college of interest (Cerritos College)
- Select either CSU transferable courses or UC Transferable courses
- Select a department for the courses in question

*USC Articulation available at:

www.usc.edu/articulation and **Select:** "TRANSFER PLANNING GUIDE."

IMPORTANT:

Students are advised to contact a Cerritos College counselor for more information & for details regarding other transfer agreements & options not available on ASSIST. Students can stop by the counseling desk to make an appointment or call (562) 860-2451 ext. 2231.