Academic Requirements

To meet the legal requirements of state licensing boards and to gain the necessary background for the study of dentistry, the following minimum educational requirements for admission to the School of Dentistry must be fulfilled:

1. Graduation from an accredited four-year high school.
2. College credits covering a minimum of two years of study in an accredited college of arts and sciences. While a minimum of 64 semester hours (96 quarter hours) from an accredited liberal arts college is required, most accepted candidates will have completed 120 semester hours (180 quarter hours). The minimum of 64 semester (96 quarter hours) must be obtained exclusive of credit in military science, physical education, and nonacademic courses. The 64 semester hours must include the following specific subjects and credit:

   - Biology ................................................................. 6 semester hours
   - Chemistry, inorganic ......................................... 8 semester hours
   - Chemistry, organic ......................................... 6 semester hours
   - English ............................................................ 6 semester hours
   - Physics .............................................................. 6 semester hours

   The hours listed are suggested as most nearly conforming to a year’s work in most colleges. The governing principle shall be that the credit presented in each subject shall represent a full academic year’s course in an accredited college of arts and sciences.

   The required hours and subjects must be completed by the end of the spring term preceding the fall in which the applicant wishes to enter the School of Dentistry.

   The following electives are suggested for the remainder of the required sixty-four semester hours: Modern languages, mathematics, history, social science, philosophy, speech, economics, comparative anatomy, psychology and computer utilization. The majority of applicants enrolling in the School of Dentistry have completed a Bachelor’s degree program.

Dental Admission Test

All applicants are required to take the Dental Admission Test (DAT) prepared and administered by the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association in cooperation with the American Dental Education Association. Applicants to Creighton University School of Dentistry should arrange to take the test preferably by September of their last pre-dental year. The Dental Admission Test is a computerized examination taken by appointment at Prometric Candidate Contact Centers which are located throughout the United States. An information booklet and test application form are available from the Dental Admissions Office, Creighton University.

Recommendations

Each applicant must have three recommendation letters, two by instructors in science and one by an instructor in a nonscience department, testifying to character and apparent fitness for the profession of dentistry. If an applicant’s college has a recommending committee, its recommendation is preferred to the three individual recommendations.
Physical Fitness

Before matriculation, accepted applicants are required to submit to the Student Health Service a Confidential Health Record.

Technical Standards

Accepted applicants to Creighton University School of Dentistry must be able to demonstrate the ability to perform the skills and abilities specified in the School’s technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Applicants must be able to perform the physical and intellectual functions, and possess the communication skills necessary to the performance of dentistry.

Candidates for the D.D.S. degree will be assessed on a regular basis according to the academic standards and the technical standards of the School of Dentistry on their abilities to meet the requirements of the curriculum.

Selection

Selection of all students is based upon both objective and subjective evaluation. Objective criteria include GPA, DAT scores, and science grades are given primary consideration. Other factors that will be considered will include, but not limited to: 1) evidence of predisposition to provide dental health care in underserved areas; 2) evidence of participation in worthwhile community activities; 3) recommendation from teachers, known alumni, and other members of the profession; 4) quality of preprofessional educational program; 5) residence in states having educational compact agreements with the School; and 6) evidence of good moral character, motivation, and emotional and intellectual maturity; and 7) any other personal background information the applicant chooses to submit to assist the admissions committee in giving each application holistic consideration (such personal background factors might include, but are not limited to: attributes one believes will enhance the campus community, public service, overcoming hardships or economic or educational disadvantages, first generation college student, having lived in a foreign country or spoken a language other than English at home or language fluency). This list is not exhaustive and none of these factors will be considered in isolation. Furthermore, no factor will result in the admission of an academically unqualified applicant.

Applicant Response To Acceptance

An enrollment reservation deposit is required of an accepted applicant to reserve a place in the class to which admission has been offered. The total deposit is $800. It is payable as follows:

1. An initial (first) deposit of $500 made within the following period of time after the date of the letter of initial conditional acceptance:
   a. Preferred time: 15 days.
   b. Maximum time: 45 days for applicants accepted in December; 30 days for applicants accepted in January; 15 days for applicants accepted February 1 and thereafter.

2. A final (second) deposit of $300 made within 15 days of the date of the letter from the Chairman of the Admissions Committee or the Director of Admissions granting the student final acceptance for admission.

The deposits are credited to the first semester’s tuition. If the accepted student fails to register, or withdraws from the School after registering, the first and second deposits are forfeited to the University.
Background Investigation and Drug Screening

To assure the safety and well-being of patients, students, faculty, and staff in the clinical and academic environments and to attest to clinical agencies the students' eligibility to participate in clinical activities, incoming students will be required to complete background investigations and drug screening analyses. Background checks will be conducted on accepted applicants prior to enrollment. Drug screenings will be conducted during the first academic quarter of the first year of dental school.

State Compacts

Creighton University has dental education compacts with the states of New Mexico, North Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah. Residents from these states receive partial tuition remission. Application procedures for applicants from these states are the same as for all other applicants.

Accepted residents of New Mexico, North Dakota, and Wyoming receive all their dental education at Creighton. Residents of Idaho may have the option of taking their first year at Idaho State University in Pocatello under the Idaho Dental Education Program (IDEP), and those from Utah may have the option of taking their first year at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City under the Regional Dental Education Program (RDEP). The remaining three years are spent at Creighton. Additional information is available from the program directors in each state.

Confirmation deposits made to Creighton by IDEP (Idaho) students are applied to the first year’s tuition at Idaho State University. Confirmation deposits made to Creighton by RDEP (Utah) students are applied to the second year’s tuition at Creighton.

The first-year programs at Idaho and Utah are equivalent to those at Creighton. Course outlines, objectives, laboratory projects, texts and teaching aids are nearly identical.

The contract for the dental educational compacts between Creighton University and Idaho State University was signed in March 1982 with the first class entering August 1982; the contract with the University of Utah was signed in February 1983 with the first class entering in August 1983.

Advanced Standing

Students who have studied dentistry in another recognized school may be admitted to advanced standing, provided that they have passed satisfactorily the courses which they have taken and have satisfied the Committee on Admissions that the work they have had is the equivalent of that given in this School.

An application for admission to advanced standing is considered within two distinct categories:

1. Applicants with one or more years of formal dental education must make formal application and provide Dental Admission Tests scores, transcripts and letters of recommendation. In addition to the information demanded of applicants for admission into the first year, applicants for advanced standing must provide scores of Part I of the National Board examination if it has been completed and a letter from the Dean of the Dental School previously attended attesting that the applicant is in good standing and that he or she is eligible to return to the institution and complete the course of instruction.

Having ascertained that the applicant's qualifications for admission to advanced standing are acceptable, the Admissions Committee must then be assured that space is available and that schedules can be adjusted to accommodate the differences in scheduling that exist in various institutions.

2. Applicants presenting evidence of having completed a formal dental education in a foreign dental school must provide Part I scores of the National Board Examination. Evidence of proficiency in the English Language (TOEFL) should also be provided if previous education was in a non-English environment. Applicants must also show evidence of completing a specialty degree or certificate of dental specialty from a United States institution.

Having ascertained that the applicant’s credentials are in order, the applicant is offered an acceptance on a trial basis for a period of one semester. At the end of that semester the Admissions Committee, in consultation with the Student
Performance Committee of the School of Dentistry, recommends to the Dean whether the applicant is to be retained as a student and, if retained, at which level continuance of the program should proceed.

Creighton University School of Dentistry does not review by examination the competency of applicants in subjects which they have completed or grant them a status superior to that which they had in the dental school which they have attended.

Forms for making application for admission with advanced standing are obtainable from the Creighton University Dental Admissions Office. The advanced standing application form and the necessary supporting documentation must be reviewed in the Dental Admissions Office by April 30.

Registration

First Semester registration occurs prior to the opening of classes in August as specified in the School Calendar. Students failing to register on that day are required to pay a late registration fee.