UMN PASS Application
Frequently Asked Questions

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Program Overview

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry Program for Advanced Standing Students (UMN SOD PASS) is a 29-month program designed for graduates of dental schools outside of the United States and Canada. Graduates earn their Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree to practice general dentistry in the United States. In addition, UMN PASS is one of the only programs that prepares graduates to take the Canadian dental board examinations so graduates can practice dentistry in Canada as well. 16 students are admitted each year.

UMN PASS is an integrated program so students receive the same clinical education as any other student graduating from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. All instruction is research-based, taught by top faculty who are leaders in dentistry, and incorporates leading dental techniques, skills, and tools. UMN PASS facilitates a smooth transition into the United States and Canadian dental professions with 100% employment after graduation.

If accepted, you would begin your studies in January 2024 and graduate May 2026.

Program Details
Length of Program: **29 months**
Application Deadline: **July 15, 2023**
Start Date: **January 3, 2024**
Class Size: **16**
Degree Awarded: **D.D.S.**
Graduation Date: **May 2026**

Quote from Current UMN PASS student

“Joining UMN was a transformative experience for me – it introduced me to a wonderful cohort of educators and staff members, gave me the opportunity to sharpen my clinical acumen while offering the flexibility to engage in translational research and community practice on the side. It has a rare, versatile, student-friendly environment that allows us to pursue our passions to the fullest.” – Dr. Kaushik Mukherjee, UMN PASS Class of 2022, born in and earned dental degree in India

[Link to most recent UMN PASS cohort information]
**Smooth Integration**

UMN PASS is designed to facilitate a smooth transition to the School of Dentistry as well as provide a successful integration into the clinical years and the profession, allowing for a long and successful career.

UMN PASS students are integrated into the second-year class. Also, students participate in separate lectures and preclinical sessions during the first semester of the program. As they proceed through their third and fourth years of dental school, students take all courses and clinical experiences with UMN SOD fourth-year dental students.

**World-class Education**

UMN PASS students receive the same clinical education as any other student graduating from the School of Dentistry. A highlight of the education is the outreach program, when students spend 10 weeks in outreach clinics in the Twin Cities and in rural areas. Students work with the newest technology, learn to work with a chair-side assistant, treat several patients per day and experience opportunities for future practices.

Former PASS students say they especially enjoyed the smaller size of the program, the great clinical education, the outreach program and that there are never any chair issues.

**UMN SOD is the only school in the United States that offers its dental students the opportunity to take the Canadian Licensing Board Examination for those who want to practice in Canada.**

**UMN SOD**

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry is the state's only dental school and the only dental school in the northern tier of states between Wisconsin and the Pacific Northwest. We are a regional resource to five states for dental education, consulting services, patient treatment, and ongoing continuing dental education. The School of Dentistry educates general dentists, dental specialists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, dental educators and research-scientists. For more than two decades, we have offered specialty training in six ADA-recognized specialties: Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics and Prosthodontics.
Diverse Community

The Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul are one of the most livable metropolitan areas in the United States. Our community is home to the largest Somali and Hmong populations in the US. There are also significant growing populations of American Indians, Chicano/Latinos, East and West Africans, Vietnamese, Bhutanese, Chinese, and Indians.

Facts about the University of Minnesota Twin Cities location

• With 5,000 acres of park, Minneapolis ranks #1 for best parks in the nation.
• The Honeycrisp apple variety was invented in an apple-breeding program at the University of Minnesota.
• The Twin Cities (Minneapolis combined with St. Paul) is the third largest theatre market in the US and is second only to New York City for the most live theatre seats per capita.

UMN PASS Program Director Dr. Ranier Adarve

Dr. Ranier M Adarve is the Director of UMN PASS. He graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Dentistry with a Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) in 1996 and Master’s in Health Professional Education (MHPE) in 2002. He earned his Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics and Master of Science Degree in 2005. Dr. Adarve has been a University of Minnesota faculty member since 2007. Dr. Adarve is also the Course Director for Pre-Clinical Fixed Prosthodontics. In 2019, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz appointed Dr. Adarve as a member of the Minnesota Board of Dentistry. Dr. Adarve serves as a Board Examiner for The Commission on Dental Competency Assessment (CDCA). In the UMN Continuing Education Program, Dr. Adarve is the Director and Lead Lecturer for various courses. Dr. Adarve runs his own practice at the highly successful Adarve Prosthodontics. In his limited free time, he enjoys biking and spending time with his family.
Requirements to Apply to UMN PASS

Graduation from a dental school outside the United States or Canada
- Submit an [Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE)](https://www.ece.com) evaluation report of all courses based on transcripts through ADEA CAAPID.
- UMN SOD's requirement for credit hours is 126 and above.

National Board Dental Examination (NBDE)
- Submit passing result on the [INBDE](https://www.inbde.org) or NBDE Parts I and II examinations through ADEA CAAPID
- Please note that exam results older than 5 years will require an appeals process when applying for your dental licensure

English Language Proficiency
UMN PASS only accepts internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language ([TOEFL](https://www.toefl.org) (iBT)) examination results.
- TOEFL iBT must be completed within the last three years.
- TOEFL iBT total score must be 94 or above and with a score of 20 or above in each of the four evaluations. MyBest scores are considered.
- TOEFL iBT Home edition is accepted
- TOEFL iBT is mandatory regardless of instruction in English or residency

Letters of Recommendation
- Submit 3 letters of recommendation as part of your ADEA CAAPID application.
  - Professionals like professors, supervisors or deans who know you and your successes and challenges should write your letters of recommendation.
  - Recommendations written by your family members will not be considered.
UMN PASS Application Process

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry Program for Advanced Standing Students admits applicants on a rolling basis. The earlier applicants apply, the better.

1. Submit application via ADEA CAAPID starting March 2023
2. Submit UMN PASS online application and application fee March – July 2023
3. Receive confirmation letter by email from UMN PASS. The application is reviewed by the UMN PASS review committee.
4. If invited, the applicant is emailed about a virtual interview via Kira Talent. The applicant records answers to interview questions and submits them through the Kira Talent platform. Interviews are reviewed by the review committee. There are multiple rounds of Kira Talent interviews sent out as applications are received.
5. If invited, the applicant is invited to a Group Zoom interview.
6. If invited, the applicant is invited for an in-person interview at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. A tour of the facilities, conversation with faculty, lunch, and a practical test will be included. Applicants will receive instructions regarding the practical test in advance. Any COVID-19 restrictions that prevent an applicant from coming in-person will be replaced by an individual Zoom interview.
7. If offered a position in the UMN PASS program, applicants will need to submit their tuition deposit of $10,000 online.
8. If an applicant declines a position, another position will be offered to an applicant from the waitlist.
9. All applicants will be notified by September 30th regarding an admission decision.
10. Accepted applicants who paid their tuition deposit will begin with their class in January 2024.
11. Any applicant who was not offered a position is encouraged to reapply during the 2024 application cycle starting in March 2024.
UMN PASS Frequently Asked Questions

Application Questions:

1. **What do you look for in an ideal UMN PASS applicant?**

The UMN PASS admission committee reviews each application thoroughly. Applicants must meet minimum qualifications for consideration. These qualifications include:
   - Graduation from a dental institution outside the United States and Canada with at least 126 credit hours
   - INBDE or NBDE parts I and II passing result
   - TOEFL MyBest score of 94 or above with 20 or above in each of the four sections within the last 3 years
   - ECE evaluation of GPA
   - 3 letters of recommendation

Dental education beyond initial degree is encouraged but not required. Dental work or volunteer experience is also encouraged but not required. The UMN PASS supplemental personal statement needs to include why you are applying to UMN PASS specifically, what makes you a unique applicant, and any failures you had to overcome to get where you are today. Applicants are encouraged to apply early. Information about the most recently admitted UMN PASS class is accessible here: https://dentistry.umn.edu/news-events/sixteen-international-dentists-join-highly-educated-pass-cohort

2. **Should I fill out my ADEA CAAPID application first before the UMN PASS supplemental application?**

Yes, please fill out the ADEA CAAPID application first before submitting the UMN PASS supplemental application.

3. **Do I have to wait to submit my application until all my requirements are done?**

Yes, you need to complete all application requirements before submitting your application. Incomplete or missing requirements means your application will not move forward for consideration.

4. **Do I have to submit a TOEFL score?**

Yes, all applicants need to submit a TOEFL score. A total score of 94 or above with a score of 20 or above in each of the four evaluations is required for admission. MyBest scores are considered. The TOEFL is required regardless of residency or instruction in English.
5. Whom should I ask to write my letters of recommendation?

Professionals like professors, supervisors or deans who know you and your successes and challenges should write your letters of recommendation. Recommendations written by your family members will not be considered.

6. If I am currently studying for an advanced degree, and my program does not end when UMN PASS starts in January, can I still get accepted?

Finish your current program before starting UMN PASS. A completed degree is more valuable than leaving a program without finishing it.

7. Even if I applied in a previous year, do I need to reapply?

Yes, you need to reapply through ADEA CAAPID and complete the UMN PASS supplemental application. Include additional education or experiences you completed in your application.

8. Can I edit my application after I send it?

Yes, you can submit changes in the UMN PASS supplemental application until August 1, 2022.

9. When will I receive confirmation that my application was received?

You will receive a copy of your supplemental application responses by email immediately after submitting. Then you will receive a confirmation email from UMN PASS within 2 weeks.

10. When will I find out if I am admitted?

All applicants will be notified by September 30, 2023 regarding an admission decision.

11. Can you give me feedback on my application?

No, UMN PASS does not provide individual feedback. UMN PASS does provide general advice through an Application Advising webinar at the end of the admission cycle.
Interview Questions:

12. Is everyone invited to Kira Talent online assessment?

No, only certain applicants are invited to a Kira Talent interview. All applicants who have completed their applications are considered by the review committee before invitations are emailed.

13. Do you have a bench test?

UMN PASS has a practical exam as part of the in-person interview. Instructions regarding the practical exam will be emailed to invited applicants.

14. Do I have to bring documents with me to the in-person interview?

Yes, invited applicants must bring official transcripts, mark sheets if applicable, official translations if documents are not in English, ECE transcript evaluation, official diploma/graduation certificate, internship or rotation certificate, any diplomas or transcripts from degrees granted in the US or Canada, TOEFL results, and National Dental Board Examination results.

15. How long is the in-person interview?

The in-person interview starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends by 3:30 p.m. The interview day includes an overview of the program with the Program Director, question and answer session, practical test, lunch with faculty, and tour with current UMN PASS students.

16. What if I cannot come to the in-person interview?

If COVID-19 or visa travel policies prevent you from attending the in-person interview, an individual Zoom interview will be scheduled instead.

Tour Question:

17. I will be in Minneapolis, can I get a tour and meet with the Program Director?

Only invited applicants are offered a tour and meeting with the Program Director due to COVID-19 policies at the School of Dentistry. A virtual tour is available upon request by emailing apply-umnpass1@umn.edu
Visa Questions:

18. Do you admit students without visas?

Yes, UMN PASS admits students from many different countries with many different visa statuses if they have a visa at all.

19. What visa would I get if admitted to UMN PASS?

UMN PASS works with you and the International Scholar Student Services office to issue you an I-20 and your F-1 visa. If you have dependent family members you are also bringing with you, we submit paperwork for their visas as well. Any students with an F-1 visa already at a different institution transfer their F-1 to the University of Minnesota.

Students who have an H-4 visa or asylum status do not need to obtain an F-1 visa. Students who are US permanent residents or US citizens also do not need to obtain an F-1 visa.

Financial Questions:

20. How much does it cost to apply to UMN PASS?

The UMN PASS supplemental application fee is $150. The fee is payable online https://dentistry.umn.edu/degrees-programs/umn-pass

21. How much is the tuition deposit?

$10,000 payable online. The full amount is applied to your first semester tuition cost.

22. What is the tuition cost to attend UMN PASS?

Tuition costs for the entire 29-month program are estimated at $290,000.

If you go to our tuition page here and scroll down until you see Program for Advanced Standing Students (PASS), you will find the tuition rates, which are assessed based on when the student is admitted: https://onestop.umn.edu/finances/program-pass

UMN PASS tuition is the same cost regardless of residency.

23. What are the fees or other costs associated with UMN PASS?

Fees are listed here: https://onestop.umn.edu/finances/fees
Course fees also apply: https://onestop.umn.edu/finances/course-fees

UMN PASS Frequently Asked Questions
Health insurance coverage can be added for students as well as family dependents. Health insurance costs can be waived if covered under a family member’s plan. Health insurance costs are listed here: https://shb.umn.edu/health-plans/shbp-home

Books and supplies costs are listed here: https://onestop.umn.edu/finances/cost-attendance-graduate-students

Most students take public transportation like the light rail or bus to get to and from campus. There is even a campus bus to certain neighborhoods like Como Student Cooperative. Estimated transportation costs are listed here: https://onestop.umn.edu/finances/cost-attendance-graduate-students

Minneapolis has a low cost of living compared to other metropolitan cities of the United States. Estimated room and board costs are listed here: https://onestop.umn.edu/finances/cost-attendance-graduate-students

24. Does UMN PASS help me with loans?

It is the student’s responsibility to manage finances including applying for loans. The University of Minnesota has an Office of Financial Aid for questions and links to resources specifically for international students.

UMN PASS works with Prodigy Finance. Admitted students who do not have a US cosigner can apply.

Canadian residents can apply for financial aid through their specific province.

US residents can apply for financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
Admission Questions:

25. I was accepted at another school but prefer the University of Minnesota; what do I do?

Email apply-umnpass1@umn.edu or call 612-625-6950 for an update on your status. If no decision has been made yet, you have several choices. Option 1: Deposit with the school offering you admission, and then if the University of Minnesota offers you admission later, you can withdraw at your other school and deposit with the University of Minnesota. Please note that most tuition deposits are non-refundable. Option 2: Commit to the school admitting you and withdraw your application for consideration at the University of Minnesota. We do not recommend turning down an offer of admission due to the small percentage of students admitted each year.

26. My family member is also a dentist and also applied for UMN PASS. Can we both be accepted in the same year?

Applicants are reviewed on their own merits. UMN PASS is a competitive program so admission is not automatic even if one was accepted.

Contact Information

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