

YOUR DENTAL CAREER STARTS HERE



SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

Doctor of Dental Surgery

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry has been preparing oral health professionals for more than 130 years, and today the school is a national leader in dental education, research and oral health patient care. Located on the University of Minnesota's vibrant Twin Cities campus, the school offers students in its Doctor of Dental Surgery program unparalleled opportunities to learn, lead and collaborate.

FIRST YEAR CLASS PROFILE	105 students (Class of 2026)
Average GPA Total: 3.62 Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Physics: 3.52 Science: 3.54	Dentistry Admissions Test (DAT) Academic Average: 20.71 DAT PAT: 20.90 DAT Reading Comprehension: 22.14 DAT Total Science: 20.19

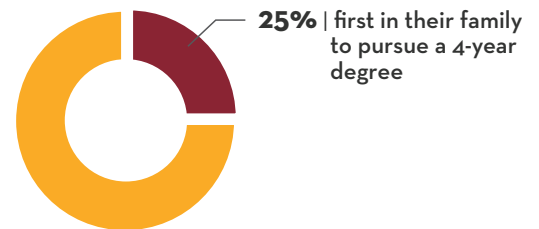
The Curriculum

The four-year DDS curriculum is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in biological sciences, early and progressive exposure to the clinical environment and technical skills essential to the profession. Woven throughout the curriculum are essential behavioral, planning and professional skills to help students become highly ethical and effective oral health care providers in the communities in which they serve.

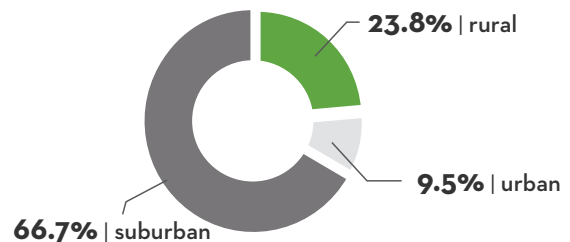
Our commitment

Our faculty and staff are dedicated to student learning and success. Recognizing the DDS program is rigorous and thorough, we strive to help every student become a competent, knowledgeable lifelong learner and dental professional.

First generation college students



Urban/Suburban/Rural



Find your future in dentistry here.

The programs

Students in the DDS program begin gaining technical and clinical skills early in the program through an integrated curriculum and use state-of-the-art digital dentistry tools and technologies.

The school partners with 13 outreach clinics to give every DDS student 6-8 weeks of practical experience in underserved rural and urban communities off campus.

DDS students have opportunities to collaborate with students in medicine, pharmacy and nursing in addition to their dental hygiene and dental therapy colleagues.

The School is home to eight discipline advanced education programs where DDS students learn from highly qualified faculty experts.

Research opportunities abound for students who seek them, including a dual DDS/PhD. As a research institution, teaching is based on the latest evidence-based practice.

Discipline programs include: prosthodontics, pediatric dentistry, oral surgery, orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics and orofacial pain.

Student life

Opportunities for leadership development and involvement in national and regional organizations are abundant. DDS students participate in a variety of organizations, clubs and committees that provide an introduction to professional life, help them shape the future of dentistry, and give back to the community. Our students are involved in organizations such as the American Student Dental Association, Student National Dental Association, Association of American Public Health Dentistry and the national Give Kids a Smile Day. Two dentistry fraternity residences offer students affordable housing.

“WILLIAM GIES, CREDITED AS THE FOUNDER OF MODERN DENTAL EDUCATION, STATED IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY THAT DENTISTRY IS A ‘LEARNED PROFESSION,’ HIGHLIGHTING THE PROFESSION’S STRONG CONNECTION TO THE UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS. TODAY, IN THE 21ST CENTURY, ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PROVIDE CARE WITH AN UNDERSTANDING THAT ORAL HEALTH CONTRIBUTES TO A PATIENT’S OVERALL HEALTH. THEREFORE, DENTISTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS, AND DENTAL THERAPISTS ARE SIGNIFICANT MEMBERS OF EVERY PATIENT HEALTHCARE TEAM.”

- Dean Keith Mays

Pre-requisites

Subject	Number of Credits	Description
English	6 semester credits	Two composition courses are preferred; or one composition course, and one additional course in either literature, humanities, or public speaking that is writing intensive.
General Biology or Zoology	8 semester credits including lab	General zoology alone is acceptable, but not preferred.
Physics	8 semester credits including lab	Complete basic course series required.
General Chemistry	8 semester credits including lab	Complete basic course series required.
Organic Chemistry	8 semester credits	Course content must include study of both the aliphatic and aromatic series. One-semester courses generally do not have sufficient credits or depth to be acceptable.
Biochemistry	3 semester credits	The appropriate course will have the organic chemistry sequence as a prerequisite.
Mathematics	A minimum of 3 semester credits	Complete college algebra or a higher level course. Examples include pre-calculus, calculus, or statistics.

It is also strongly suggested that applicants include strong science electives in their curriculum. Competitive applicants will take a combination of the following preferred electives: art (3D drawing or sculpture), cell biology, histology, human anatomy, microbiology, physiology, genetics, immunology, statistics.