

UMN PASS Application Frequently Asked Questions



PASS Class of 2025

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Program Overview

The **University of Minnesota School of Dentistry Program for Advanced Standing Students (UMN 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. A total of 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 Opens: **March 7, 2024**

Application Deadline: **June 1, 2024**

Start Date: **January 6, 2025**

Class Size: **16**

Degree Awarded: **D.D.S.**

Graduation Date: **May 2027**

Quote from Current UMN PASS student



“I wanted an innovative and inclusive educational institution where I could be myself, while learning from outstanding scholars and clinicians who continuously offer their best. The outreach opportunities are exceptional, and the lengths the school goes to promote diversity and accommodate underserved populations is enviable.” - Adebayo Ibikunle, UMN PASS Class of 2025

Link to current UMN PASS cohort information

PASS Class of 2025: <https://dentistry.umn.edu/news-events/incoming-pass-learners-bring-excitement-and-enthusiasm-class-2025>

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 significantly 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 parks, 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 served 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. \(ECE\)](#) 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 results on the [INBDE](#) or NBDE Parts I and II examinations through ADEA CAAPID
- Please note that exam results older than 5 years will require an appeal process when applying for your dental licensure

English Language Proficiency

UMN PASS only accepts internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language ([TOEFL](#)) ([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 and supervisors 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](#) March 7, – June 1, 2024
2. Submit application fee March 7, – June 1, 2024
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 January 6, 2025.
11. Any applicant who was not offered a position is encouraged to reapply during the 2025 application cycle starting in March 2025.

UMN PASS Frequently Asked Questions

Application:

1. 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 challenges you had to overcome to get where you are today. Applicants are encouraged to apply early since admission is on a rolling basis.

2. Incomplete requirements

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

3. TOEFL requirement

All applicants need to submit a TOEFL score. A total MyBest score of 94 or above with a score of 20 or above in each of the four evaluations is required for admission. TOEFL is required regardless of residency or instruction in English. TOEFL iBT Home edition is accepted.

4. Letters of recommendation

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

5. Currently enrolled in another program

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

6. Reapplicants

Reapply through ADEA CAAPID and include updated education or experiences since your last application

7. Edits to application after submission

You can submit changes in the UMN PASS supplemental application until June 1, 2024.

8. Confirmation of application received

You will receive a confirmation email from UMN PASS within 2 weeks.

9. Admission date

All applicants will be notified by September 30, 2024 regarding an admission decision.

10. Feedback on 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

11. Invitations to Kira Talent online assessment

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.

12. 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.

13. Official documents at interview

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.

14. Length of 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.

15. Alternate option than 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:

16. Tours provided to invited applicants. Virtual tour provided upon request

Only invited applicants are offered an in-person 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

17. Visa or citizenship

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

Cost

18. 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>

19. Tuition deposit

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

20. Tuition cost

Tuition costs for the entire 29-month program are estimated at \$300,000

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/tuition#dent>

UMN PASS tuition is the same cost regardless of residency.

21. Additional Fees

Fees are listed here: <https://onestop.umn.edu/finances/fees>

Course fees also apply: <https://onestop.umn.edu/finances/course-fees>

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>

22. 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)

Multiple Admission

23. Acceptance at another school

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.

24. Family member who applied to UMN PASS

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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