

## WHAT DO DENTISTS DO?

Dentists play a pivotal role in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of tooth and mouth tissue problems. They remove decay, fill cavities, perform and interpret x-rays, straighten and whiten teeth, place protective plastic sealants on children's teeth, and repair fractured teeth. Dentists extract teeth and take measurements to create dentures to replace missing teeth. They may also perform corrective surgery on gums and supporting bones to treat gum diseases. In an effort to prevent tooth and gum disease, they provide instruction on diet, brushing, flossing, use of fluorides, and other aspects of dental care, as well. They can also administer anesthetics and write prescriptions for antibiotics and other medications to treat serious dental problems.

Dental specialists can be placed in nine categories: orthodontists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, pediatric dentists, periodontists, prosthodontists, endodontists, public health dentists, oral pathologists, and oral and maxillofacial radiologists.

## CAREERS IN DENTISTRY

Most dentists are general practitioners, handling a variety of dental needs. Most own their own businesses and work alone or with a small staff. Some dentists have partners, and a few work as associate dentists for other dentists. Most dentists work four or five days a week, about 40 hours a week, which may include evenings and weekends. Initially, dentists may work more hours as they establish their practice. Experienced dentists often work fewer hours. Median annual earnings of salaried dentists were \$129,030 in 2000. Earnings vary according to number of years in practice, location, hours worked, and specialty.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

American Dental Association  
[www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

American Dental Education Association  
[www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)

Case Western Reserve University School of Dentistry  
[www.cwru.edu/dental/casewebsite/](http://www.cwru.edu/dental/casewebsite/)

U.S. Graduate Programs in Dentistry  
[www.petersons.com/GradChannel/code/AcdSearchResults.asp](http://www.petersons.com/GradChannel/code/AcdSearchResults.asp)

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook  
[www.bls.gov/oco/ocos072.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos072.htm)

## MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DENTISTRY

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# DENTISTRY



## WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

[www.westminster.edu](http://www.westminster.edu)

## PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN DENTISTRY

All 50 states and the District of Columbia require dentists to be licensed. In most states, a candidate must graduate from a dental school accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation. Dental schools require a minimum of two years of college-level pre-dental education. However, most dental students have at least a bachelor's degree. Dentistry requires scientific ability, good visual memory, excellent judgment of space and shape, a high degree of dexterity, diagnostic ability, and manual skills. Good business sense, self-discipline, and communication skills are necessary for success in private practice. To provide all of these skills, the pre-dental college curriculum should include a strong background in biology, chemistry, physics, math, liberal arts, and general education.

All dental schools require applicants to take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). When selecting students, schools consider scores earned on the DAT, applicants' grade point average, and information gathered through recommendations and interviews. Most dental schools award the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS). The rest award an equivalent degree, Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD).

At Westminster College, there are several paths to a career in dentistry. A four-year bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry, or physics prepares students for high-quality professional practice based on a strong foundation in the basic sciences. Students in majors other than biology may be qualified for admission to post-baccalaureate dentistry programs if they have taken appropriate courses in the natural sciences.

Students at Westminster College may also participate in a 3 + 4-year dentistry articulation with Westminster and Case Western Reserve University. That program provides an accelerated course of study for students interested in dentistry and allows them to earn both a B.S. from Westminster and a Doctorate of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) from Case Western Reserve University. Students in this program are able to complete their education in seven years, rather than the traditional eight.

## Westminster College

### FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM AT WESTMINSTER

In completing a B.S. in biology from Westminster, students will satisfy the requirements for admission to most dental programs in the U.S. This option allows students to spend four years at Westminster and then to apply to programs at a number of different universities. Admission is extremely competitive, so students should strive for a high GPA.

#### Recommended courses:

BIO 201	Cell Biology & Genetics
BIO 202	Evolution, Form & Function
BIO 203	Biodiversity & Ecology
BIO 206	Biostatistics
BIO 301	Microbiology
BIO 303	Molecular Genetics & Heredity
BIO 304	Developmental Biology
BIO 335/336	Anatomy & Physiology I & II
BIO 432	Animal Physiology
BIO 601	Capstone
CHE 117	General Chemistry
CHE 180	Inorganic Chemistry
CHE 261/262	Organic Chemistry I & II
PHY 151/152	Principles of Physics I & II or
PHY 141/142	Foundations of Physics I & II

In addition, students must complete all requirements for the College's Liberal Studies program.



New Wilmington, Pennsylvania

### 3 + 4 DENTISTRY PROGRAM

Students in this program spend three years at Westminster followed by four years at Case Western Reserve University. After students have successfully completed their first year at Case Western they receive a B.S. degree in biology from Westminster College. After completing all seven years of the program, they receive a D.D.S. from Case Western Reserve University.

#### Required courses:

BIO 201	Cell Biology & Genetics
BIO 202	Evolution, Form & Function
BIO 203	Biodiversity & Ecology
BIO 206	Biostatistics
BIO 301	Microbiology
BIO 303	Molecular Genetics & Heredity
BIO 335/336	Anatomy & Physiology I & II
BIO ???	Two Biology electives
CHE 117	General Chemistry
CHE 180	Inorganic Chemistry
CHE 261/262	Organic Chemistry I & II
PHY 141/142	Foundations of Physics I & II or
PHY 151/152	Principles of Physics I & II

In addition, students must complete all requirements for the College's Liberal Studies program, excluding the biology capstone and maintain a cumulative 3.25 GPA in their major and in all courses taken at Westminster. Additionally, students must perform acceptably on the Dental Admission Test (18 or better on the Academic Average and Perceptual abilities sections) and be recommended by Westminster's Med PAC advisor.

Students who are interested in the pre-dental/dental program with Westminster College and Case Western must apply to both Westminster College and the CWRU School of Dentistry in the **senior year of high school**. Only those students pre-accepted by Case Western are eligible to enter this program at Westminster College

