

Biology/Doctorate in Dentistry Program (B.S./D.M.D.)



College of Arts and Sciences • Department of Biology

Degrees Available at SIUE

- B.A, B.S. Chemistry
 - + Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.)/ 3 + 4 program

Biology/Doctorate in Dentistry at SIUE

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and the SIU School of Dental Medicine offer a unique combined arts and sciences dental curriculum leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Dental Medicine. The pre-professional part of this curriculum is completed within three years on the Edwardsville campus, and the professional part in the School of Dental Medicine, Alton, Illinois. The dental school curriculum is a rigorous program that requires a strong work ethic, and organized, responsible and professional behavior. The course loads in dental school are very heavy each semester; comparable to 27-30 semester hours. A strong background obtained by taking upper level science courses as part of a full course load each semester at the undergraduate level will make the transition to our professional program more rewarding. School of Dental Medicine semesters are eighteen (18) weeks in length with students scheduled to be in class from 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Admission committee views the following attributes for a successful candidate:

1. Resident of Illinois who attended high school in Illinois
2. Good Grades at SIUE
 - Average Cumulative GPA for incoming students of a 3.75 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 grade scale
 - Average Science GPA for incoming students of a 3.7 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 grade scale
3. Good Dental Admissions Test (DAT) score
 - Academic Average for incoming students 18.5 or higher
 - Perceptual Ability Average for incoming students 18.5 or higher
4. Full course loads of 17 or more credit hours per semester of B.S./D.M.D. approved courses
5. Well-expressed personal desire to become a dentist
6. Professional dress, language and demeanor-these qualities should be expressed in recommendation letters.
7. Letters of recommendation from academic sources
 - BSDMD Advisor
 - Three (3) Science Faculty
 - One (1) other Faculty from a Writing Intensive Course
8. Personal essay in formal essay form expressing, "Why I Want to Be a Dentist!"
9. Extra Curricular Activities while in college.
 - Clubs
 - Sports
 - Civic
 - Work Experience
10. Professional Dental Office Shadowing (Recommend 100 hours which can be done in the summers of undergraduate studies.)

When the student arrives at SIUE

Any student showing interest in dental school and the BSDMD program, which meets the qualifications and is coming in with above average high school grades, should be advised by the BSDMD advisor to see if he/she is a good candidate for the BSDMD program.

The student should be advised to follow the recommended curriculum and take at least 17 credit hours his/her first semester. The curriculum guide is not to be deviated from unless

- The student has AP or Junior College/High School Dual Credit
- The student could not get in the class and has worked with the BSDMD advisor to take it out of sequence.
- If the student is coming in with any AP or Junior College/High School Dual Credit
- These credits can not be used on Biology, Physics, or Chemistry courses
- These credits can be used on general education and math courses

If the student does not have to take a course on the curriculum guide he/she is to fill the spot with an upper level Biology, Physics, or Chemistry course.

The student should be encouraged to start on a Personal essay in formal essay form expressing, "Why I Want to Be a Dentist!"

Upon completion of the first semester at SIUE

- The student should turn in a Personal essay in formal essay form expressing, "Why I Want to Be a Dentist!"
- The student should sign the BSDMD contract enrolling them in the BSDMD program.
- The student should be advised by the BSDMD advisor.
- The student should get a copy of the recommendation letter form from the BSDMD advisor for every faculty member that they want to be evaluated by.

Upon completion of the first year of the Combined Degree curriculum and having met the following criteria, the Dean of the School of Dental Medicine shall offer conditional acceptance into the School of Dental Medicine:

- Composite letter of Recommendation from the BS/DMD advisor
- Achievement of a 3.7 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 grade scale in science (Biology, Chemistry, & Physics)
- The required science courses (Biology, Chemistry both inorganic and organic, and Physics) must be taken at SIUE. (Any AP or Junior College/High School Dual Credit will not be accepted.)
- Achievement of at least a 3.75 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 grade scale in all other courses
- Appointment with an SIU-SDM Admissions representative

Upon receipt of the student's signed letter of agreement for acceptance into this program, the SIU-SDM Admissions Office will initiate the formal admissions process with the student submitting appropriate data. In addition, the student will be assigned a current dental student to serve as a student advisor.

- The student should get a copy of the Recommendation Letter Form from the BSDMD advisor for every faculty member that they want to be evaluated by for the second year of the pre-professional curriculum.
- After completing the second year of the pre-professional curriculum and prior to the completion of the third year of this Program, the student will be allowed to continue in the Program by meeting the following criteria:
- Achievement of at least a 3.75 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 grade scale in all other courses
- Achievement of a 3.7 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 grade scale in science (Biology, Chemistry, & Physics)
- A minimum of 90 semester hours (approx. 3 years) of undergraduate courses is required. Science courses should not be survey courses nor should they be taken online.
- Updated composite letter of recommendation from the BS/DMD Advisor, including evaluations from at least three faculty science members and one writing intensive faculty member, forwarded to the SIU-SDM Admissions Office by July 1.
- Successful achievement on the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) by October of the third year (All Program students are encouraged to take the DAT no later than October of the year prior to first year of the professional dental curriculum.)
- Completion of the SIU-SDM application process (AADSAS is NOT required)
- This third-year student will be assigned a dental school faculty member as an additional advisor.

Upon successful completion of the first year in the School of Dental Medicine recommendation of the Dean, this student will be granted the degree of Bachelor of Science by the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville faculty at the first summer commencement following the first year of the professional dental curriculum.

For additional information contact: Admissions Office, Southern Illinois University, School of Dental Medicine, 2800 College Avenue, Alton, Illinois 62002 Phone: 618-474-7170 College Avenue, Alton, Illinois 62002 Phone: 618-474-7170 Satisfactory completion of all university, program and departmental requirements as outlined in the undergraduate catalog. 618.650.5525

Only applies to Illinois Residents who attended high school in Illinois

Contact Info

SIUE School of Dental Medicine, 800 College Avenue, Alton, IL 62002, Phone: 618-474-7170

