

FUTURE DOCS

- ◆ This program, sponsored by UT College of Medicine Chattanooga and Erlanger Health System, provides high school and college students opportunities to learn about the life and career of a physician
- ◆ Students work with physicians either as clinical observers or as a research assistant.
- ◆ Youth Leadership Forum:
 - A one-week informational and observer program each summer
- ◆ Medical Explorations Program
 - A 2-week program of didactics and clinical observation during June of each summer
- ◆ Sponsored Clinical Observer
 - Allows students to observe a specific physician or department for a limited time.
- ◆ Requirements:
 - 18 years or older
 - GPA of 3.5 or higher and grade level of a high school senior or college student



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Visit the CHIPS Facebook page for
question forums and more
information

Chattanooga Healthcare
Inter-Professional Society



Becoming a

Dentist



Luke Maxfield
Senior Medical Student
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Doctor of Dental Medicine

DDS or DMD?

There is no difference between doctoral degrees as recognized by the American Dental association.

Are there specialized fields of dentistry?

There are 9 Dental Specialties

- Dental Public Health
- Endodontics
- Oral And Maxillofacial Pathology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
- Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics

Practicing general dentistry does not require post-doctoral residency training. Additional training is required to subspecialize however.

- Endodontics – 2 years
- Oral Surgery 3-4 years
- Pediatric Dentistry – 2 years
- Periodontics – 2-3 years
- Prosthodontics – 2 years

High School Academics

While in high school your courses should focus on math and science. Particularly

- AP Algebra
- AP Biology

Contact Health Occupations Students of America.

They are a national organization offering information to many students age 14-20 with chapters in many high school and colleges.

Why should I become a Dentist?

The field of Dentistry has many benefits. First and foremost is the ability to directly improve the quality of life of your patients; be it through restorative, cosmetic, or pain relieving procedures. The field of dentistry provides job security, financial independence and professional recognition. Unlike in the field of Medicine, Dentistry does not require post-doctorate residency training. This gives Dentists the opportunity to start their own businesses right after dental school. This independence allows for personal goals to determine one's lifestyle at a much younger age. Crafting a beautiful smile is a challenge requiring both mastery of dental technique and individual creativity. If you would like to make a unique impact on your community through improving oral health and making people smile, dentistry might be the field for you!

Undergraduate Academics

Pre-requisites for acceptance into Dental school include a bachelor's degree, which must include the following courses:

- 8 hours Biology with lab
- 8 hours Physics
- 8 hours English
- 8 hours General Chemistry with lab
- 8 hours Organic Chemistry with lab

While most major in a science related field it is not absolutely necessary. What is necessary is that you fulfill these pre-requisites. Each school may have some variations or substitutions so look on each schools website.

This and DAT:

The Dental Admissions Test is a standardized exam required for the application to dental school. It is advised to take this test after your freshman year of college and before your senior year, depending on your comfort level with the material.

Applying

Applying should be done at least a year in advance of the planned enrolment date. This is done through the Associated Dental Schools Application Service.

Extracurricular Activities

Two major areas in which your non-academic time can strengthen your resume for dental school are volunteering and shadowing.

Volunteering can revolve around dental medicine but should also include areas in which you feel passionate.

Shadowing a dentist can be done during high school or college and the ADA has a website to help you find local dentists who take on students. <http://www.ada.org/en/about-the-ada/national-state-local-dental-societies>

Other areas to get involved with;

- Hospital Volunteering
- Dental Shadowing
- Medical Missions
- Pre-med Interest Groups
- Undergraduate Research
- Medical Research