Dentistry is one of the most exciting, challenging, and rewarding professions. Individuals who choose to pursue dental careers are motivated, scientifically curious, intelligent, ambitious, and socially conscious health professionals. They are men and women from diverse backgrounds and cultures, all of whom want to do work that makes a difference. The notion of dentists as those who merely fill teeth is completely out of date. Today, dentists are highly sophisticated health professionals who provide a wide range of care that contributes enormously to the quality of their patients’ lives. Dentists are also instrumental in early detection of oral cancer and systemic conditions of the body that manifest themselves in the mouth, and they are in the forefront of a range of new developments in cosmetic and aesthetic practices. Furthermore, the dental profession includes not only those who provide direct patient care, but those who teach, conduct research, and work in public and international health. All of these individuals are vital links in the health care delivery system, necessary to promote social and economic change as well as individual well-being.

Currently there are more than 166,000 professionally active dentists in the United States. With continuing population growth and the upcoming retirement of a large group of dentists, the need for new dentists is expected to escalate over the next decades. Opportunities for all individuals interested in becoming dentists are growing because of the intense national need to improve access to general health and oral care and the continuously increasing demand for dental services. In response to the clear need for dentists to serve all citizens, dental schools are strengthening their efforts to recruit and retain all highly qualified students, including intensive recruiting of women and underrepresented minorities. ADEA, the organization that represents dental education, is a national leader in efforts to increase access for all to oral health care and improve the health of the public.

Not only are dentists part of a dynamic, stimulating field that offers a variety of professional opportunities, but

1. The dental profession offers a wide range of clinical practice, research, and academic opportunities;
2. The entire dental profession is at the forefront of important new research substantiating the relationship between oral health and systemic health;
3. Dentists are generally able to enter practice directly upon completion of the four years of dental school;
4. The lifestyle of a private practice dentist is usually predictable and self-determined;
5. Net average incomes for dentists in private practice have doubled in the last decade;
6. The net hourly income of dentists now exceeds that of family physicians, general internists, and pediatricians;
7. Dentistry is not generally subject to the effects of managed care and reductions in federal funding that have affected other health care professions; and
8. Dentists enjoy unusual loyalty among their patients.

AADSAS is a centralized application service sponsored by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA). AADSAS simplifies the application process for both applicants and schools by allowing applicants to complete only one application form. Information is then sent in a standardized format to the dental schools requested by the applicant. AADSAS serves as an information clearinghouse only. It does not influence any school’s evaluation or selection of applicants, nor does ADEA recommend applicants to dental schools.

AADSAS 2007 applications will become available at www.adea.org/AADSAS in mid May 2006. Dental schools receive applications from AADSAS starting in June. This continues through each school’s application deadline. All applications submitted to AADSAS on or before a dental school’s application deadline are processed and sent to that school.

AADSAS
1400 K Street, NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 289-7201 or (800) 353-2237
csraadsas@adea.org
www.adea.org/aadsas

How AADSAS Works

After May 15, 2006 AADSAS applicant submits to AADSAS

4r AADSAS Online Application www.adea.org/aadsas

(1)

Application complete and processing begins

Application Verification

Application Processing and Printing

(4-8 weeks*)

Application distributed to designated dental schools in electronic and print format

AADSAS does not delay the processing of your application if letters of recommendation have not been received. Letters of recommendation received after your application has been processed are forwarded to schools in their next mailing.

*Application processing time varies based on volume of applications being processed. AADSAS processes all applications received by a school’s deadline date but applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their application, official transcripts and fee payment well in advance of application deadlines.
In addition to submitting an AADSAS application, the dental school application process entails substantial planning and time management. Be sure to plan for:

1. Taking the Dental Admission Test (DAT) or Canadian Dental Aptitude Test;
2. Submitting supplemental materials requested by the schools in a timely manner (check dental school websites; you may do so at www.adea.org). Note that many schools charge their own application fees to cover costs associated with processing your application at their schools;
3. Admissions interviews. Most dental schools require an onsite interview as part of the admission process. Plan ahead for anticipated costs related to travel and professional dress.

The processing fee for the 2007 AADSAS applicants is $195 for the first dental school; $60 for each additional school up to 10; $50 for each additional school from 11-20; and $25 for each additional school after 20, all included in the original submission of AADSAS materials. The fee for requesting applications to additional schools after the initial application submission is $75 for the first school added and $70 for each additional school. AADSAS offers a fee reduction program for applicants who demonstrate extreme financial need. Details of this program can be obtained at the AADSAS website, www.adea.org/AADSAS.

ADEA’s Customer Service Department provides customer support to AADSAS. Applicants may contact Customer Service for assistance with filling out their AADSAS application, or any questions related to the application process. Customer Service Representatives are available Monday through Friday 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (Eastern). Call (800) 353-2237 or (202) 289-7201 or contact us by email at csraadsas@adea.org.

ADEA publishes two comprehensive guidebooks for those who are considering attending dental school or are advising students in a dental career:

The Official Guide to Dental Schools and Opportunities for Minority Students in U.S. Dental Schools.

The Official Guide to Dental Schools is a comprehensive guidebook and the most authoritative information available about applying to and attending dental school in the U.S. and Canada. In it you will find:

- An overview of the dental profession, including benefits of being a dentist and descriptions of the varied areas of specialization and practice options;
- Informed insights into how the admissions process works and what kind of academic background is generally needed;
- Guidelines to help predental students determine which schools are the best for individual educational and professional goals;
- An in-depth and carefully researched examination of how to finance a dental education;
- Detailed information on all of the U.S. and Canadian dental schools, including Characteristics of each program, including specialties and strengths
- Admissions requirements and student selection factors
- Application timetables, estimated expenses, and financial aid available
- Comparison of applicants and matriculated students
- Contact information for admissions, housing, etc.
Opportunities for Minority Students in U.S. Dental Schools is a resource guide containing information of interest to minority students for all dental schools.

Opportunities is divided into three parts. Part I provides general information, such as the many opportunities that dental careers hold for minorities, existing efforts to increase the number of underrepresented minorities enrolled in U.S. dental schools, profiles of individuals who reflect the diversity and excellence of the profession, and the preparation necessary for an individual to be accepted for enrollment in dental school and the mechanisms for affording the cost of attendance. It also contains comparative information about dental schools across a wide range of categories.

Part II presents information about programs and services that dental schools have developed to attract qualified minority students and to contribute to their successful matriculation and graduation. Recruitment and outreach efforts, admission, undergraduate majors and the undergraduate schools of minorities in the first-year class, summer and enrichment programs, academic support services, other student services, financial aid, and where to address inquiries are included.

Part III provides tools for readers to help them tailor the information in the book to their own needs. It includes an alphabetical listing of U.S. dental schools, a list of acronyms, and an Application Tracking Worksheet to help applicants manage the application process.

These publications can be ordered online at www.adea.org, or by calling (202) 289-7201.

Admission Test/Car

All U.S. dental schools require applicants to take the DAT. The examination is entirely multiple choice, takes just over half a day to administer, and consists of four separate examinations that cover the following:

1. Survey of natural sciences (biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry);
2. Perceptual ability (two- and three-dimensional problem solving);
3. Reading comprehension (dental and basic sciences); and
4. Quantitative reasoning.

Most dental schools view the DAT as one of many factors in evaluating candidates for admission. As a result, schools vary in their emphasis on the different parts of the test.

Dental schools have a supply of DAT application packets, which they distribute on request to individuals planning to apply to their schools. Applicants can also obtain the DAT application package by writing to:

Department of Testing Services
American Dental Association
211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 1846
Chicago, IL 60611-2678
(312) 440-2689 or (800) 621-8099
(ask for the DAT office)

Individuals may also apply online for the DAT at www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp

The base fee for the DAT is $170. This fee covers the cost of forwarding a transcript of scores to five dental schools, a copy to the individual completing the exam, and a copy to his or her predental advisor.

The Canadian Dental Association and the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry have developed the Dental Aptitude Test for applicants to Canadian dental schools. All Canadian dental schools require the test. For more information, contact:

Canadian Dental Association
(L’Association Dentaire Canadienne)
1815 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1 G 3Y6
(613) 523-1770

About ADEA
Since 1923 the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) has worked to promote the value and improve the quality of dental education as well as to expand the role of dentistry among other health professions. It is the only national organization dedicated to serving the dental education community.