Before starting your journey to Dentistry school, it’s important to note there is no degree titled “Pre-Dentistry”. Rather, students pursuing dentistry school are generally working towards an Undergraduate degree while completing specific pre-requisite coursework as they prepare to meet eligibility requirements to apply to Dentistry.

The Pre-Professional Dental Surgery program at Red Deer College is essentially the first two years of a Bachelor of Science program that is tailored to meet the admission requirements of the University of Alberta’s Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) program. In order to be eligible to apply to Dental Surgery at the U of A, students must complete at least 60 credits of specific pre-requisite coursework. 60 credits is generally 20 courses, or, two full years of post-secondary study. Entry into Dental Surgery at the University of Alberta is competitive, and completion of the required courses does not guarantee admission.

While students can apply after two years, it is not required to do so, and it is not uncommon for students to gain admission into Dentistry school after completing an undergraduate degree.

Take note that admission into the DDS is highly competitive and therefore obtaining the minimum requirements will not guarantee admission. Prospective dental surgery students are strongly encouraged to fulfil the prerequisite courses while pursuing a university degree that is flexible enough to accommodate the prerequisite courses and is suitable to their interests and possible future career.

Different dentistry schools will have different entrance requirements and admission processes. It is recommended to start researching Dentistry schools of interest to learn about their admission requirements. This planning guide will have information relating to the University of Alberta’s DDS program.

Visit the University of Alberta’s Dentistry Webpage: https://www.ualberta.ca/school-of-dentistry.
PREREQUISITE COURSES FOR ADMISSION TO D.D.S. PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED COURSES</th>
<th># OF CREDITS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED RED DEER COLLEGE COURSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Chemistry</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>CHEM 211 and CHEM 212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>CHEM 351 and CHEM 352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>BIOL 217 and BIOL 218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>PHYS 205 and PHYS 226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ENGL 219 and ENGL 220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOC 393 or BIOC 301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above required pre-requisite courses represent 36 credits (12 courses). As students need a minimum of 60 credits (20 courses) before being eligible to apply, the remaining 24 credits (8 courses) will be completed through transferable post-secondary work. These can include option courses, or courses towards an undergraduate degree.

SAMPLE PATTERN OF COURSES FOR YEAR 1

The schedule below is one way to schedule your courses. Students have a great deal of flexibility in how and when they work towards Dentistry admission. Schedule and complete courses in a way that feels most comfortable to you. Students planning to apply to dentistry after three or four years can spread out the pre-requisite courses over a longer period of time.

 YEAR 2 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

As you start planning for year 2, we recommend that students have an undergraduate degree and transfer University in mind – the degree you are pursuing can be anything! Students will transfer after year 2 to a University.

In Year 2, you can also choose to complete any outstanding pre-requisite courses not completed in Year 1.

SAMPLE YEAR 2 SCHEDULE
NOTES:

1. Examples of available Arts & Science Options for the 2019-2020 academic year can be viewed here: https://rdc.ab.ca/node/80375/attachment
   (you can pick up this printout from the School of Arts & Sciences in Room 2203 or view it on the Loop)

   Not all of these courses may be transferable to your University (the majority are). Remember to visit Transfer Alberta to check for course transferability, or check with an advisor.

2. Completing CHEM 351 in year 1 can offer students more versatility in course scheduling for their second year, however taking the course in Year 1 can also create a heavier schedule (if combined with CHEM 212). As such, students can choose to complete CHEM 351 and/or CHEM 212 in their first or second year of study. Note: CHEM 212 and CHEM 351 can also be completed in the Spring term. Students wishing to lighten their first year course load should take one of CHEM 212/351 in the Winter term of Year 1, and then the other course in the Spring term of Year 1.

PLANNING FOR DENTISTRY SCHOOL

1) Read and review information regarding the Canadian Dental Aptitude Test (DAT). http://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/index.asp Visit the site to gain study material and to take practice exams to get ready for the DAT.

   Canadian Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) results must be submitted to the Admissions Office by January 15 of the year admission is sought. The DAT must have been written within the last five years and, at the latest, the November prior to admission. Visit the University of Alberta Dentistry Website for more information regarding DAT deadlines: https://www.ualberta.ca/school-of-dentistry/programs-and-admissions/dentistry/doctor-of-dental-surgery-dds

2) Plan to gain admission after completing a 4 year degree! Yes, you may be able to gain admission earlier (which is great!) but don't be discouraged if you are not admitted before completing a degree.

3) Pay attention to your course schedule. It is not uncommon to experience "growing pains" in your first year. Your first year is meant to be an exploratory year and to help you adjust to post-secondary life. For students who complete a 4 year degree, the University of Alberta will delete the lowest Fall/Winter GPA (provided it is not the most recent or the only Fall/Winter when 30 credits was completed).

4) Your schedule should be a mixture of:
   - Taking a course load that is appropriate for you (while meeting Dentistry course load requirements)
   - Taking courses to help you get ready to write the DAT
   - Taking courses that work towards an undergraduate Bachelor’s degree
   - Completing pre-requisite courses at a pace that works for you

5) Stay current with Admission dates/deadlines and entrance requirements. Universities provide a wealth of information to aid you in applying, as well as detailing the full admission process. Admission statistics are also often provided; page 4 of this guide provides brief overviews of the current year’s admission process. Use this to gain a working knowledge.

6) Visit the University of Alberta and ask them questions. The Dentistry program will have an open house each year (at least once) – go visit and learn from current students & faculty!
IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

University of Alberta Website for School of Dentistry:
https://www.ualberta.ca/school-of-dentistry

It is highly advised that you read and consult the University of Alberta calendar/website as it will have the answers to many questions, as well as provide information on the specifics of the program.

1. **The minimum requirement for admission** to the DDS Program is the satisfactory completion of 60 pre-requisite credits (generally 20 courses) of transferable postsecondary work, **of which 30 credits (10 courses) must be taken during one Fall/Winter** (September to April inclusive). Admission to the DDS program is highly competitive; obtaining the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

   In addition, applicants must also write the Canadian Dental Aptitude Test (DAT).

2. **In order to be competitive**, applicants should strive for a minimum GPA of 3.5 in their university studies. Students with a GPA of less than 3.0 will not be considered for admission.

3. **Application and document deadlines**: **November 1st is deadline.** Applications are accepted between early July and November 1st. **See School of Dentistry website for detailed application and deadline information.**

4. **Applicant profiles are made up of:**
   - **Overall GPA (OGPA)** - (50% of overall rank score) is comprised of all transferable postsecondary work completed as a full-time student taken during Fall/Winter or Spring/Summer Terms. For overall GPA, calculation full-time study is equivalent to a minimum of *18 credits taken during Fall/Winter Terms or *12 credits taken during Spring/Summer Terms.
   - **Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) scores** - (25% of overall rank score) is the sum of grades in the reading comprehension, perceptual ability and manual dexterity.
   - **Interview results** (25% of overall rank score)

5. **For applicants who completed four or more years** of full-time transferable postsecondary work, the cumulative (overall) GPA is calculated with the deletion of the lowest Fall/Winter GPA, provided it is not the most recent Fall/Winter or the only Fall/Winter where *30 was completed.

6. **Admission to the DDS program is limited to 31 students** and applications are selected on a competitive basis. Of the 31 seats in the program 85% are reserved for Alberta residents, 5% for international students (Student Visitors) and 10% for other Canadians. No non-resident of Alberta may be admitted who is less qualified than any Alberta resident who is denied admission. **Click here to view Admission Statistics for the program.** For the 2018 class profile, the overall GPA range fell between 3.70 & 4.00.

**PLEASE KEEP IN MIND**

- **A minimum grade of C-** must be achieved in order for course credit to be transferable. While courses with grades of D or F will not transfer, they remain on your transcript and will be used in calculation of your GPA. **Please talk to an Academic Advisor as soon as possible if you feel you may be in jeopardy of not getting a C- in a course you are enrolled in.**

- **Spring term courses**: a spring term course may be taken in year of transfer if it is not required for admission to the program. The grade will not be calculated in the AGPA nor will it count towards Fall/Winter course load. **Please speak to an Advising & Recruiting Specialist if you want to take a Spring Course.**
HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

School of Arts & Sciences
Advising & Recruiting
Room 2203
artscienceinfo@rdc.ab.ca
403-342-3585 (select option 1)
www.rdc.ab.ca/artsandsciences

Alberta Transfer Guide
http://transferalberta.alberta.ca

University of Alberta
http://www.ualberta.ca
School of Dentistry
http://www.dentistry.ualberta.ca/
admissions@dentistry.ualberta.ca

DDS Application Information
http://www.dentistry.ualberta.ca/ProgramsAdmissions/Dentistry.aspx

Information on Dental Aptitude Test
https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/

PLEASE NOTE:

This planning guide is designed to help you choose courses at RDC that will transfer to your destination institution and towards your intended degree. The recommendations in this guide are based off current RDC courses that transfer to the institution identified in this guide, as well as information provided by the institution (either through printed publication and/or communication between our institutions).

Institutions can make changes to their program and/or transfer requirements without consulting Red Deer College. As such, it is recommended you consult with the appropriate institutional information (i.e. university calendars, websites, advisors,) to gain the most up to date information.

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is completed, and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted to at RDC and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer. This planning guide is meant to help you gain a basic understanding of your program and provide suggestions for course sequencing.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major, or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit or admission requirements for future programs. Consult with the student advisor (above) if you have any questions.

Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university that they wish to attend, and should contact appropriate university departments as required.