TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
EL PASO
Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine

Applicant Guide to Admissions

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WLHSDM Admissions Goal

The WLHSDM Committee on Dental School Admissions (CDSA) will recruit and select a class that meets the following goals:

- The WLHSDM has established admissions protocols and standards that will encourage highly-qualified applicants, including those from diverse and non-traditional backgrounds.

- The goal of the WLHSDM is to attract, matriculate, and graduate a diverse student body with strong academic credentials and a passionate interest in serving the unique oral health needs of border populations in the greater El Paso, West Texas, and southern New Mexico regions. The WLHSDM will follow accepted recruitment and admissions standards, policies, and procedures in its selection process.

Admissions Philosophy

The WLHSDM Committee on Dental School Admissions (CDSA) will carefully evaluate a candidate's entire application packet, including cognitive and non-cognitive areas. Non-cognitive areas will include evaluations of an applicant's personal statements, letters of evaluation, and other life, extracurricular, volunteer or employment experiences.

Admissions information data are not weighted, but indicate the importance placed on attracting:

1) Individuals who are highly-qualified academically,
2) Can complete the rigorous curriculum in dental medicine;
3) Have demonstrated the motivation, maturity, interpersonal skills, and empathetic qualities necessary for a contemporary health provider.

While evidence of high intellectual ability and a strong record of scholastic achievement are vital for success in the study and practice of dentistry, the WLHSDM also recognizes the importance of the qualities of compassion, motivation, maturity, personal integrity, and effective communication as necessary traits in the health professions. A screening process is established to evaluate and rank the cognitive and non-cognitive characteristics outlined in this document.

No single factor will be used exclusively to admit or eliminate an applicant to the WLHSDM. Admissions policies will apply to all candidates without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disabled status, sexual orientation, or expression of gender identity.

Guiding Principles

The mission of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso is to improve the lives of people in our state and our community by focusing on the unique health care needs of socially and culturally diverse border populations through excellence in integrated education, research, and patient care.

The mission of the WLHSDM is based upon and is aligned with the mission of TTUHSC El Paso, and it is designed to support and compliment the core activities and aspirations of TTUHSC El Paso.

The **Mission** of the Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine is to improve the oral health of the people of Texas and the greater El Paso community by

- Focusing on the unique oral and overall health care needs of the border populations;
- Providing leadership to the practicing community and other area stakeholders;
- Demonstrating excellence in education, research, and patient care.

The **Vision** of the Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine is as follows:

- Educate oral health care practitioners for the future
- Develop an innovative educational model
- Contribute to the discovery of new knowledge
- Provide leadership regarding oral health care issues to the greater El Paso area and border region

The **Values** of the Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine include the following:

- Humanistic campus culture
- Diversity of faculty, students, and staff
- Excellence in clinical care
- Innovation in education and evaluation
- Compassionate, culturally competent practitioners
- Commitment to community service
- Professionalism and ethical conduct

Application Process

Admission Requirements:

It is preferred that applicants for admission to the Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine (WLHSDM) at Texas Tech University Health Science Center El Paso will have completed an undergraduate curriculum and been awarded a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent before matriculation into the WLHSDM. However, exceptionally mature students without an undergraduate degree, who have outstanding academic records, superior performance on the Dental Admission Test, and highly desirable personal qualifications may be considered for admission. These applicants must have completed a minimum of 90 semester hours (or 134 quarter hours) at a regionally accredited US or Canadian college or university. ~~.~~

Pre-requisite courses for admission to dental school must be completed with a grade of C or better. Courses taken Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit will not count towards meeting the requirement. Advanced placement credit is accepted only if the school granting the credit lists the specific course(s) and number of units granted per course on an official transcript. Lump-sum credit is not accepted. Please see TMDSAS.com for updated information during spring, summer, and fall 2020 and current information related to COVID-19.

Courses	Hours
Biological Sciences **(including 3 hours of microbiology)**	**14 semester hours**
Biochemistry	**3 semester hours**
General Chemistry	**8 semester hours**
Organic Chemistry	**8 semester hours**
Physics	**8 semester hours**
Statistics	**3 semester hours**
English	**6 semester hours**

Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS)
TMDSAS is the application service utilized by all Texas residents and non-Texas residents who are applying to a Texas dental school. All required materials are submitted to TMDSAS by the applicant. TMDSAS will transmit the application before transcripts, letters or test scores are uploaded. However, individual applications will not be reviewed by the WLHSDM CDSA until after all required documents have been uploaded to TMDSAS and transmitted to WLHSDM. Each application must be complete in order to enter the review process.

Dental Admission Test (DAT)
The DAT is a requirement for admission. Scores should be no more than 3 years old. The DAT is used by dental schools to measure academic ability, scientific understanding and perceptual ability. It is required by WLHSDM for application review. It measures:

- Natural sciences (biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry)

- Perceptual ability (two- and three-dimensional problem solving)
- Reading comprehension (dental and basic sciences)
- Quantitative reasoning (mathematical problems in algebra, numerical calculations, conversions, etc.)

State Residency

While the Admissions Committee will accept applications from non-Texas residents, applicants will be informed that, as an institution supported by the state of Texas, state law requires the WLHSDM to admit an entering class composed of at least 90% Texas residents. Additionally, due to federal financial aid guidelines, the WLHSDM will only consider candidates for the DMD program who are either U.S. citizens or who have permanent resident status.

Secondary Application

The WLHSDM does not require a secondary application.

Letters of Evaluation

The following letters of evaluation are required for each applicant:

- Two individual letters of evaluation OR one Health Professions Committee Letter/Packet
- Option to submit one additional letter

Evaluators should know an applicant well to evaluate him/her both academically and personally. It is recommended that the evaluators be current or former professors who can speak to the candidate's academic ability in the natural sciences, as well as to the candidate's non-cognitive traits. If you attend a university that provides committee letters or packets, we will accept this in lieu of two individual Letters of Evaluation. For more information on Letters of Evaluation go to:

https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Application_Prep/The_Admissions_Process/Letters_of_evaluation.aspx

OR

https://www.tmdsas.com/Post-Submission/LettersofEvaluation.html#MedDentFAQ

Patient Exposure

There is not a minimum number of hours required for admission. However, the admissions committee prefers evidence of depth and breadth of patient exposure. The more practitioners and community clinics in which you are able to volunteer, the more exposure you will have to a variety of philosophies on modes of health care delivery, patient interactions, and community needs. It is important to demonstrate through your patient interaction experiences that dentistry is the health care field to which you are committed.

Selection Criteria

Full Review

Once the application is complete, a full screening will be conducted by 2 admissions staff or members of the CDSA. Each applicant will be reviewed in the following categories:

- Academic preparation
- Patient Exposure
- Personal Statement
- Diversity of thought and experiences
- Community Engagement
- Personal Attributes
- Contribution to Guiding Principles
- Communication skills
- Evidence of collaboration / leadership

Invitation to Interview

The invitation to interview will be sent via email to the address given in TMDSAS. Applicants should look for an email from HuntSDM.admissions@ttuhsc.edu regarding invitation for interview. Within the email, a link will be given to the website where the applicant may schedule their interview day. Interviews begin in early August and continue through January.

Interview Day

The interview day will consist of various assessment activities. There will be one 25-minute traditional interview, multiple mini-interviews, and one group activity. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Prior to your interview day, you will receive information regarding the interview day. You will be provided with more details about the day such as directions, parking, maps, and any instructions that you might need to have a successful experience.

Application Timeline

WLHSDM follows the TMDSAS timeline found at:
https://www.tmdsas.com/PLAN/references/deadlines.html