



Xavier–UAB School of Dentistry Early Assurance Program

(updated 6/8/23)

This sophomore-year program, which offers conditional early acceptance into dental school, requires endorsement by the Premedical Office and participation in the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP, <https://www.shpep.org>) at U of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry during the summer between sophomore and junior years. Students who are conditionally accepted into UAB Dental School through this program are required to take the DAT and must complete their XU degree programs. In order to be reviewed for endorsement by the Premedical Office, students must be on track to meet eligibility requirements by the end of the fall semester of sophomore year and must adhere to the timeline detailed below.

What are the qualifications to apply to the program? By the time nomination applications are due on January 15th (i.e. in the spring semester of sophomore year at Xavier), applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Entered Xavier as a first-time freshman and major in an academic discipline within the [College of Arts and Sciences](#).
- Be on track to graduate with a bachelor's degree from XU in the spring of senior year and to enter dental school that same year (must complete all 8 semesters at XU; early degree completion **not** allowed).
- Completed the following courses: Two semesters of General Chemistry lecture and lab; at least one semester of Organic Chemistry lecture and lab; at least one semester of General Biology lecture and lab; at least one semester of college-level mathematics; and at least one semester of English.
- Earned cumulative overall and BCP (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) GPAs at Xavier of 3.5 or higher.
- Have NOT already participated in the Summer Health Professions Program (SHPEP) at UAB Dental School.
- Demonstrated a genuine interest in becoming a dentist by gaining relevant experience in a patient-care setting (e.g. volunteering, paid employment, internship, shadowing, etc.) and/or participating in a premed summer enrichment or research program.
- Demonstrated a genuine interest in dentistry as indicated by participation in the group and individual meetings conducted by the Premedical Office for freshman and sophomore students, including submission of personal statement and post-secondary experiences form to the Premed Office for review throughout enrollment.
- Demonstrated a genuine interest in attending University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry as indicated by meeting the above-mentioned requirements and participating in any information or recruitment sessions offered to Xavier students by UAB Dental School.
- *NOTE: If you have questions or concerns about any of the above-mentioned requirements that must be met by the end of the fall semester of sophomore year, please contact the Premedical Office no later than the summer between freshman and sophomore years.*

How does an XU student apply for program nomination AND early assurance consideration via SHPEP? Students interested in the program and who meet the qualifications listed above must do the following EARLY IN THE FALL OF SOPHOMORE YEAR:

- Submit Personal Statement, Post-Secondary Experience (PSE) Form, and UAB EAP Application Essay Prompt Response to the Premed Office for review **at least once** between May 15th after freshman year and December 1st of sophomore year (submission of subsequent revisions is highly recommended). Detailed application instructions are discussed during Freshman Premed Biomedical Honor Corps Meetings, the One-on-One Freshman Premed Assessment Meeting in the spring of freshman year, the Sophomore Premed Overview Meeting in the fall of sophomore year, and in multiple email messages sent during the freshman and sophomore years.

- The UAB Dental School EAP application instructions, PSE Form, and Auto-Calculation GPA Worksheet in Excel are available in the Premedical Office's XULA Portal at <https://my.xula.edu/groups/34/feed> under "Resources/Forms".
- Collect at least one (1) letter of evaluation/recommendation for dental school from a college professor in your major at Xavier, a high school science or math teacher, or an employer from a health-related field and have it filed in the Premedical Office EARLY (we recommend by January 1st). Your recommendation can be written on letterhead OR the evaluator can complete the SHPEP recommendation form. Be sure to follow-up with the individual who agreed to write complete a recommendation on your behalf.
- The UAB Dental School Early Assurance Program nomination application is **due in the Premedical Office by January 15th**. The application consists of three (3) parts: online application, critiqued/revised PS, and critiqued/revised PSE Form. Your Auto-Calculation GPA Worksheet in Excel with final grades through fall of sophomore year and one (1) letter of evaluation are also due by January 15th.
- **REQUIRED SHPEP APPLICATION DUE BY FEBRUARY 5th!!!** In addition to completing and submitting the aforementioned nomination application and supporting materials to the Premed Office by January 15th, you must also begin working on the SHPEP application at <https://www.shpep.org> when it opens on November 1st and submit it (and the required supporting materials) to SHPEP no later than February 5th (check SHPEP website for up-to-date deadline). In order to be considered for conditional acceptance into UAB Dental School, you must...
 - be nominated by the Premed Office (materials due by January 15th)
 - complete the SHPEP application process with UAB Dental School as a designated site (materials usually due by February 5th but check SHPEP website), **AND**
 - participate in SHPEP at UAB Dental School the summer between sophomore and junior years and complete an interview with the UAB Dental School admissions committee.

What happens after nomination applications are submitted to the Premed Office? Following the January 15th application deadline, the Premed Office will review applications, supporting materials, and engagement in Premedical Office advising activities since freshman year and select students for UAB Dental School Early Assurance Program nomination. There is no limit to the number of students that can be nominated for this opportunity. As indicated above, you should also complete the SHPEP application process with UAB Dental School as a designated site.

What do students do after they are nominated by the Premed Office AND complete the SHPEP application process?

Application materials for students who are nominated/endorsed by the Premed Office will be forwarded to the admissions committee at UAB School of Dentistry by early February for consideration. Students who are nominated by the Premed Office and who successfully complete the SHPEP application process with UAB Dental School as a designated site will be reviewed for admission into SHPEP. While participating in SHPEP at UAB Dental School, nominated XU applicants will complete an early assurance program interview with the dental school admissions committee. A decision regarding conditional acceptance into the dental school via the Early Assurance Program will be made following completion of SHPEP.

What are the expectations of students once they are conditionally accepted into UAB Dental School via SHPEP/Early Assurance Program?

- Attain undergraduate degree within 4 years with required course prerequisites at 4-year institution and complete a full 8 semesters of undergraduate coursework
- Maintain minimum of 3.5 each cumulative and science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics) undergraduate GPA
- Score a minimum of 18 on the following DAT components: Academic Average, Total Science, Perceptual Ability
- Continue activity in service, extracurricular, and shadowing opportunities (minimum 50 hours shadowing in general dentistry)
- Submit application portfolio in AADSAS to UAB SOD during the application cycle preceding expected matriculation and participate fully in admissions process (supplemental application, interview)
- Provide written commitment affirming enrollment with UAB SOD upon satisfactory completion of stated Requirements

Be advised that UAB School of Dentistry will offer **at least \$20K/year scholarships** to XULA students accepted via the Early Assurance Program.

ALL UAB Dental School SHPEP participants from Xavier will be offered an interview by the School of Dentistry, regardless of early assurance status.