



**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

Premedical Office

## **Xavier–U of Southern California Dental School Early Assurance Program**

(updated 12/12/23)

The Conditional Admissions Assurance Program (CAAP) at Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of the University of Southern California is an early assurance opportunity that requires endorsement by the Premedical Office. Students who are conditionally accepted into USC 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 spring semester of sophomore year and must adhere to the timeline detailed below.

**What are the qualifications to apply to the program?** By the time they are nominated in May, following the completion of the spring semester of sophomore year at Xavier, applicants must meet the follow requirements:

- Be enrolled as a degree-seeking undergraduate student, majoring 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 at least twenty-four (24) hours of coursework **at Xavier**.
- Competitive applicants will have completed all of the following courses: Two semesters of General Biology lecture and lab; two semesters of General Chemistry lecture and lab; at least one semester of Organic Chemistry lecture and lab; at least one semester of college-level mathematics; at least one semester of English; and at least one semester of philosophy, history, and/or fine art.
- Earned cumulative overall and BCP (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) GPAs at Xavier of 3.0 or higher.
- 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 USC School of Dentistry as indicated by meeting the above-mentioned requirements and participating in any information or recruitment sessions offered to Xavier students by USC 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?** Students interested in the program and who meet the qualifications listed above must do the following during their SOPHOMORE year:

- Submit Personal Statement, Post-Secondary Experience (PSE) Form, and EAP Application Essay Prompt Response(s) to the Premed Office for review **at least once** during the specified period between May 15<sup>th</sup> after freshman year and February 1<sup>st</sup> of sophomore year, revising accordingly after receiving feedback (multiple submissions highly recommended well in advance of final application due date). Detailed EAP 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. If you do not adhere to the critique timeline for EAP, your

application will not be accepted for consideration. These items will be used to determine your suitability to be reviewed by dental school early acceptance program admission committees, so they need to be in the best shape possible;

- Detailed 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 letters of evaluation specific to dental school from three (3) faculty members (2 BCPM, 1 non-BCPM) and request to have them submitted to the Premedical Office by April 15th; be sure to follow-up with faculty who agreed to write dental school evaluations on your behalf; and
- The dental school early acceptance program application is **due in the Premedical Office by May 15<sup>th</sup>**. When submitting your early acceptance application to the Premedical Office, include ALL required sections of the application: Application Forms, Auto-Calculation GPA Worksheet in Excel (with final grades for the spring semester), Personal Statement, and PSE Form. Official transcript(s) from each college or university attended, including Xavier, and required letters of evaluation are also due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**What happens after nomination applications are submitted to the Premed Office?** After the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, the Premed Office will review all applications and then choose qualified students to nominate to the admissions committee at USC Dental School for interview consideration. Application materials for students who are nominated/endorsed by the Premed Office will be forwarded to the admissions committee at USC School of Dentistry by the end of May for consideration. Applicants who are selected for interviews will be notified by EAP administrators of their application status by the fall of junior year. Subsequently, applicants who are granted interviews at USC will be notified of the status of their applications once decisions are made after the interview period.

**What are the expectations of students once they are conditionally accepted into USC Dental School via CAAP?**

1. Acceptance to the HOSD is contingent upon the continued performance of the XULA student at a comparable level throughout their past 2 years of undergraduate studies while carrying a normal course load.
2. Have a cumulative and science GPA of 3.0 or higher.
3. Satisfactory completion of all HOSD pre-requisite courses prior to graduation.
4. Successful passing of the DAT with a score of 18 or higher in each section. The average academic score should be 20 or higher.
5. The CAAP suggests that the student take advantage of the "Dental Explorers", a program at HOSD for undergraduate students interested in attending dental school. The program provides insights into the life and expectations of a dental student. The activities may include in-class participation, preclinical labs, and observation in a clinic setting.
  - a. The Dental Explorer program has been held synchronously and virtually since 2020 due to COVID restrictions. It generally lasts 3 days. It may be offered partially or fully on site and in person in the future.
  - b. If held on-campus, housing may be available for the CAAP participants.
6. XULA students in the CAAP, will be required to complete a minimum of 50 hours of shadowing experience in a dental office by the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of their senior year. More hours of shadowing are strongly encouraged, however. This could be a voluntary or paid effort.
  - a. Shadow/observe a practicing dentist.
  - b. The student must provide a letter of recommendation to the HOSD admissions office from the dentist whom s/he/they shadowed to fulfill hours for student's performance and professionalism.

Any disciplinary charges or actions brought against the student by his/her college or civil authorities will mandate a review of the application and may result in a revocation of the acceptance.

**What are the admission requirements for Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of the University of Southern California?**

1. Before completing their undergraduate degree, CAAP candidates must complete the courses currently required by HOSD for admission to dental school:
  - a. General biology I & II + labs (1 year; 2 semesters)
  - b. Chemistry
    1. Inorganic/general chemistry I & II+ labs (1 year, 2 semesters)
    2. Organic chemistry I & II + labs (1 year, 2 semesters)
  - c. General Physics I & II + labs (1 year, 2 semesters)
  - d. English composition (1 year, 2 semesters)
  - e. Philosophy, History, or Fine Arts (1 year, 2 semesters)

2. All students who apply to HOSD through the CAAP must take the Dental Admission Test (DAT). Also, all students who apply to HOSD through the CAAP must submit AADSAS no later than July 31st of the year before they plan to enter dental school. In the XU Pre-Med/Health Program, it is recommended that the DAT be taken by June between the junior and senior years. HOSD supports this recommendation; however, it is **mandatory that the official scores be verified by AADSAS by September 1st of the year before they plan to enter dental school**
  - a. The recommended overall DAT score should be 20 or higher and score of 18 or higher at each DAT section (Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, PAT, reading comprehension, and Quantitative reasoning.
  - b. If the student intends to re-take the DAT, it is suggested that they contact the HOSD Admissions Office, and inform them of this and when to expect the DAT scores.
  - c. **However, it will still be mandatory that the official scores be verified by AADSAS by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year before they plan to enter dental school.**
3. Must have a cumulative GPA and Science GPA of 3.0 or higher.
4. A minimum of 50 hours shadowing a practicing dentist. More hours of shadowing are strongly encouraged, however.
  - a. Shadow/observe a practicing dentist.
  - b. The student must provide a letter of recommendation to the HOSD admissions office from the dentist whom s/he/they shadowed to fulfill hours for student's performance and professionalism.

Please go to the HOSD website to confirm all admission requirements:  
<https://dentistry.usc.edu/admission/doctor-of-dental-surgery-dds/>

This is a **competitive program** and the conditions set forth in this MOU will be adhered to. The CAAP participant's acceptance is guaranteed as long as they have fulfilled all requirements and conditions set forth in this document.