

# BIOLOGY MAJOR - Pre-Dentistry Option 2025-26

Document available online at <https://ib.oregonstate.edu/undergraduate/advising/college-advising-guide>.

The biology major pre-dentistry option is designed to allow students interested in dentistry to optimally meet the requirement for their professional goal in the context of their major. Students completing the option will meet the prerequisites for most CODA accredited dental schools in the U.S. and abroad. Students should always consult the requirements of all schools to which they plan to apply. Some dental schools will not accept online prerequisite courses (particularly those with online labs) or prerequisite courses taken during study abroad.

A 3.0 GPA is required to complete the pre-dentistry option. Courses used to satisfy option requirements also satisfy the Physics or Computational and Quantitative Applications, Organismal and Physiology, Ecology and Evolution, Writing Intensive Course, and Experiential Learning or Integrative Biology Elective requirements for the biology major. The option will also fulfill the Core Education Social Science, Difference, Power, and Oppression Advanced, and Beyond OSU II requirements. **Previous versions of this option are different and tracked in MyDegrees. All courses and prerequisites are subject to change, and the listing of term is based on projected Corvallis campus offerings.**

## Pre-Dentistry Core:

Course	Description (Credits)	Term(s)	Pre-requisites	Comments
BHS 107	Pre-Dental Orientation (1cr)	W	-	-
PSY 201Z <b>AND</b> 202Z	General Psychology* (4cr, 4cr)	All	-	Core Ed. Social Science
PHL/REL 444	Biomedical Ethics* (4cr)	All	Sophomore +	-
BI 319	Theory, Practice, Discourse Life Science (3cr)	All	BI 221Z, 222Z, 223Z (C-) & ST 351	Writing Intensive & Beyond OSU II
BI 331-333 <b>AND</b> BI 341-343	Advanced Human A&P (3cr, 3cr, 3cr) <b>AND</b> Advanced Human A&P Lab (2cr, 2cr, 2cr)	F, W, Sp	BI 221Z, 222Z, 223Z & CH 223/229 (C-)	Courses must be taken in order
MB 302/303	General Microbiology & Lab (3+2)	All	BI 221Z, 222Z, 223Z & CH 332 (C-)	-
PH 201, 202, 203	General Physics (5cr, 5cr, 5cr)	All	MTH 112Z	-

## Advanced Difference, Power and Oppression (select one course):

Course	Description	Term(s)	Pre-requisites	Comments
BB 332	Molecular Medicine (3)	F	JR standing; DPO foundations course complete	
BI 344	DNA, Identities and Societies (3)	Sp	JR standing; DPO foundations course complete	
H 470	Public Health Inequity (4)	?*	JR standing; DPO foundations course complete	*See catalog

## Track I Experiential Learning Credits (complete any combination of three credits below)

Course	Description (Credits)	Term(s)	Pre-requisites	Comments
BI 309 <b>OR</b> BI 409	Teaching Practicum <b>OR</b> Advanced Practicum (1-3cr)	F, W, Sp	Departmental approval required*	*See form here
BI 401	Research and Scholarship (1-3cr)	All	Departmental approval required*	*See form here
BI 410	Internship (1-3cr)	All	Departmental approval required*	*See form here

## Track II Physiology or Manual Dexterity Elective Course (select one course)

Course	Description (Credits)	Term(s)	Pre-requisites	Comments
BI 451	Functional Anatomy Human Muscular Skeletal System (4cr)	Su	BI 331-333, 341-343	By Application
MB 416	Immunology (3cr)	F	BB 450	-
MB 436	The Human Microbiome (3cr)	Sp	BB 314 or MB 302	-
Z 425	Genetics and Development (4cr)	W	BI 311, BB 314, Junior standing	-
Z 438	Behavioral Neurobiology (3cr)	Sp*	BI 221Z, 222Z, 223Z & CH 232Z/229Z (C-)	*Not offered spring 2026

## Information and Resources

**Preparing for Dental School:** A variety of resources are highlighted below and on the College of Science [Dental School website](#).

### Applying to Dental School

- **Application Seminar:** Students should attend an application seminar before applying. Seminars are announced on the pre-dental listserv.
- **Admissions Test:** Applicants must take the [Dental Admissions Test](#). Sylvan Prometric Centers offer tests in Portland, Eugene, Bend, Medford.
- **References:** It's important to establish relationships with professors and professionals early in your education. Applicants need 3 references that can speak beyond your grades and address your character and professionalism. Applicants should verify letter requirements with individual schools.
- **Manual Dexterity:** Dentistry requires a great deal of manual dexterity and artistry as a profession, and students are expected to test and develop these skills during their undergraduate careers. Examples of activities include playing an instrument, engaging in three-dimensional art (ceramics, carving, jewelry making, etc.) or activities such as model building or origami. Students can and should engage in these activities at the OSU craft center, community courses or as hobbies on their own.
- **Leadership:** Health Profession schools value leadership experience as a way to develop interpersonal skills and the ability to lead as part of a team. There are a variety of ways to incorporate leadership experiences as an undergraduate, including: officer roles in a student club, coordinator for an organization (public, private, or non-profit), or being a peer mentor or an ambassador for your college or department. Students may also consider taking leadership courses or completing the [OSU Leadership Minor](#).
- **Core Education Electives:** It is important to take liberal arts courses as preparation for dental school and relating to diverse patients.
- **Business Electives or Minor:** Running a dental practice is a significant business endeavor, and a background in business coursework can be helpful. Taking business electives is a good idea, and some students complete a minor.

**Dental Experience:**

- **Shadowing** and other healthcare experience is a good way to get exposure to the field and to decide if dentistry is for you. Plan to apply with 50+ hours of experience. Contact offices and clinics in Corvallis or at home to see what opportunities are available. [More on experiences here.](#)
- **Internships & Volunteering:** See the Medical and Health Professions sections of the [internships & volunteering list here.](#)
- **International Medical Internships:** Prepare you for work in a diverse population, improve language and/or cross-cultural communication skills, and gain clinical experience through clinic rotations. Information on [Going Abroad in Biology is here.](#)
- **Health Care Careers Enrichment Programs:** Searchable databases of summer programs to learn what it is like to work in health care or research:
  - [AAMC Summer Programs](#)
  - [NAAHP Student Opportunities](#)
  - [Summer Health Professions Education Program](#) (rural, disadvantaged and underrepresented students)

**Campus Resources:**

- **Pre-Dental Listserv:** To hear about opportunities, email [predental-join@lists.oregonstate.edu](mailto:predental-join@lists.oregonstate.edu) using your ONID and reply to the email response.
- **Pre-Dental Society Information:** Joining is encouraged for field trips, visits OHSU, and speakers. Contact [predental@oregonstate.edu](mailto:predental@oregonstate.edu).
- **Study Abroad:** Although prerequisite professional school courses should not be done abroad, study abroad is a great opportunity and very feasible for pre-medical students. You can start by reviewing the [Going Abroad in Biology page](#) and then work with your advisor on how to schedule and integrate courses.
- **Research Opportunities:** Although not required by dental schools, research helps develop analytical and communication skills, an understanding of research methods, and the process of science. For these reasons it can be a good preparation for dentistry for those that are interested. [Information on getting research experience.](#)

**Additional Resources:**

- [American Dental Association](#)
- [American Dental Education Association](#)