



# THE DENTAL APPLICATION AND PERSONAL STATEMENT

Duke Pre-Dental Society

# What is AADSAS?

- Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS)
- One standardized application for 60 participating U.S. dental schools and 1 Canadian dental school
- Usually opens on the 1st Thursday of June
- Enter personal/academic/extracurricular information, DAT scores, personal statement, recommendation/committee letters, and transcripts
- Until your application is final, no information will be sent to your designated dental schools



**MY TOOLS**

- MY APPLICATION
  - Fee Assistance (FAP)
- MY PROFILE
  - Account Information
  - Change Password
  - Change Security Question
  - Request Background Check
- PRINT APPLICATION
- MY MESSAGES
  - 15 saved messages

**HELP**

- [GoDental.org](#)
- ADEA AADSAS Home
- ADEA AADSAS Instructions
- FAQs
- Fee Assistance Program (FAP)
- ADEA AADSAS Glossary of Terms
- Supplemental Information
- Participating Dental Schools
- ADEA AADSAS Extending Offers of Admission
- Contact Us

## My Application

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

- Incomplete    - Complete    - Required

**Applicant Information**

- Biographic Information >
- Parent and Family Information >
- Background Information >
- Disadvantaged Status >

**Education**

- Secondary (High) School Information >
- Colleges Attended (Transcript Matching Form) >
- Coursework >
- DAT Scores >

**Professional Experience** >

- Personal Statement >
- Evaluators (LOE Matching Form) >
- Release Statements >
- Dental School Designations >

**MY APPLICATION STATUS**

- GPA Calculations
- Transcripts
- Evaluations
- Dental School Designations
- Supplemental Materials
- Payments
- School Decisions
- Official Scores

# More on AADSAS

- Transcripts must be mailed to AADSAS (and also to some dental schools directly)
- Recommendation/Committee Letters
  - ▣ Digital requests sent to recommenders/committee chairs
- Application Fees
  - ▣ AADSAS - \$235 for first school, \$75 per additional school
  - ▣ Extra application processing fees per school (~\$25-\$75)
- Supplemental Applications
  - ▣ Not all schools have them
  - ▣ Vary in complexity

# Tips When Applying

- **\*\*PREPARE TO SUBMIT EARLY (JUNE/JULY)\*\***
- What you should have ready before AADSAS opens:
  - Personal Statement
  - Resume
  - Recommendations or Committee Letter
  - Transcript Sent to AADSAS the first week of June
  - DAT Scores

# The Personal Statement

- ADEA: “Your Personal Statement should address why you desire to pursue a dental education and how a dental degree contributes to your personal and professional goals. The essay is limited to approximately one page (4,500 characters, including spaces).”

# Personal Statement Topics

- ADEA: “The Admissions Committee members who read your essay are looking for individuals who are motivated, academically prepared, articulate, socially conscious, and knowledgeable about the profession. Write about your experiences and any qualities that will make you stand out.”
- Be honest about how you became interested in studying dentistry.
- Explain what you've done to demonstrate your interest in dentistry.
- Do you have any special talents or leadership skills that could apply to the practice of dentistry?
- Express your commitment to helping others and mention any efforts made that enforce that commitment.
- Did you have to work to pay for your education? How has that made you a stronger applicant?
- To get where you are today, have you had to overcome hardships or obstacles? If so, how has this influenced your motivation for advanced education (i.e. dentistry)?

# Tips When Writing

- Know your audience
- Brainstorm first!
- Grab your reader from the start
- Show, don't tell -- Personal anecdotes
- Write INFORMALLY (at first)
- Cut filler words and repetitive content
- Avoid cliché topics
- Perfect your transitions
- End strongly
- REVISE, REVISE, REVISE!





**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?**