

Preparing for the DAT – Logistics

Link to the ADA Site and DAT Guide: <http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test>

Applying for the DAT

To start the DAT application process, you must obtain a DENTPIN and read the official DAT guide.

- To register for a DENTPIN visit this website:
https://dts.ada.org/CustomerServices_ADA/NewUser.aspx?transaction=DAT
- Read the DAT Guide:
http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/dat_exam_guide.pdf?la=en
- Once you receive your eligibility email (check your spam) you may schedule with Prometric.

Locate and schedule your exam at a Prometric Testing Center.

Take a test drive at Prometric to get a feel for what the online system is like on test day.

Format of the Test (4 hrs and 15 mins long)

Section 1 – Survey of the Natural Sciences (100 Questions, 90 mins)

- Biology (40)
 - Cell and molecular biology, Diversity of life (ie. biological organization into taxa, kingdom, domains, etc..), Structure and function of systems (ie. anatomy and physiology), Developmental biology, Genetics, Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior
- General Chemistry (30)
 - Stoichiometry and general concepts, Gases, Liquids and solids, Solutions, Acids and bases, Chemical equilibria, Thermodynamics and Thermochemistry, Chemical kinetics, Oxidation-reduction reactions, Atomic and molecular structure, Periodic properties, Nuclear reactions, Laboratory
- Organic Chemistry (30)
 - Mechanisms, Chemical and physical properties of molecules, Stereochemistry, Nomenclature, Reactions of the major functional groups, reactions to synthesize compounds, Acid-base chemistry, Aromatics and binding

Section 2 – Perceptual Ability, aka PAT (90 questions, 60 mins)

- Apertures
- View recognition
- Angle discrimination/ranking
- Paper folding
- Cube counting
- 3D form development

Scheduled Break – Optional (30 mins)

Section 3 – Reading Comprehension (50 questions, 60 mins)

- 3 reading passages on various scientific topics
- SAT style questions, but harder

Section 4 – Quantitative Reasoning (40 questions, 45 mins)

- Algebra
- Equations, exponential notation, absolute value, ratios and proportions, graphical analysis
- Data analysis and interpretation, sufficiency, quantitative comparison
- Probability and statistics
- Note: You will have access to a basic 4-function calculator on the computer screen

Scoring

- You are not penalized for guessing! Answer every question!
- Scores range from 1-30, with 18 typically being the national average
- Your unofficial score report will pop up on the computer screen immediately after the test ends – so be prepared!
- It is suggested that you send your DAT score to all dental schools (you will select schools to send to when registering)
 - Schools selected when you apply are included in the DAT fee
 - If you decide you want to send your scores to different schools after the test, an additional fee will apply
- Your DAT score will be automatically loaded into your AADSAS application if your entered DOB, name, and DENTPIN match what you entered when applying for the DAT

Retests

- Applicants must wait at least 90 days from their last attempt to retake the DAT
- After attempting 3 or more times, an applicant must apply for permission to test again. After that, they can retest only once every 12 months

Tips for the Day of the Test

- Get a good night's sleep.
- If your test is early in the morning, try getting in the habit of waking up at that time.
- Wear light layers on the test day to assure you will be comfortable in the temperature at the testing center.
- Prep everything you need for the test the day before (See Test Day Checklist below)

Test Day Checklist

<http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/Checklist.pdf?la=en>

Rescheduling Your Exam

Sometimes students feel that they need more time to study and need to reschedule their exam. It is not uncommon to reschedule your exam. To reschedule your exam, visit the Prometric website.