



Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)

1. Why choose Dental Surgery at the University of Adelaide?

- > Top undergraduate dental surgery course in Australia 2015
- > Largest school in Australia (402), 82% course satisfaction, graduate salary (\$76,292)
- > Train alongside dental experts within newly built state-of-the-art facilities
- > Leading centre of excellence with a community focus
- > Integrated, case-based learning, centred on the clinical scenario in real life contexts
- > Collaborative learning through problem-solving creates industry-ready graduates
- > Health Sciences Peer Mentoring Program supports students transitioning to university.

2. How long does the full Dental Surgery program take? Is it recognised world-wide?

The College Foundation Studies Program (FSP) is one year. The BDS is a 5-year degree.

Applicants should refer to governing bodies offshore for recognition of the qualification.

3. What are the entry requirements?

Entry to the BDS requires the PQA (Personal Qualities Assessment) (UMAT for domestic students), oral assessment/interview, and 83% minimum average grade in the FSP.

4. When the student applies to College, do they receive an unconditional packaged offer for their FSP + Dental Surgery?

Entry to the BDS is not guaranteed by academic result, therefore the College cannot package an offer. BDS applicants will be offered the B. Health and Medical Sciences and their preference for BDS recorded so they are identified upon commencement of the course.

5. What subjects are compulsory while studying FSP at the College?

Applicants must complete two subjects (we recommend three) from Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Physics, as well as Critical Thinking and English for Academic Purposes.

6. What sort of preparation does the College provide to its FSP students who are aiming for Bachelor of Dental Surgery program?

- > Initial information session with guest speakers and alumni
- > Online application session
- > Critical thinking sessions for PQA and oral assessment
- > PQA/UMAT preparation
- > Mock interview/oral assessment
- > Continual individual counselling and advice for students
- > Links to industry, community and volunteering opportunities to strengthen application
- > Work experience support through the Work Experience Agreement
- > Guidance transitioning to the University of Adelaide.

7. What is the PQA test?

The PQA is designed to assess a range of personal qualities considered to be important for the study and practice of medicine, dental surgery and oral health. It comprises questions, grouped into three sections and measures cognitive skills and personality/attitudinal traits relevant to practicing as a health professional.

8. How does the student apply for the PQA – what are the procedures, deadlines, test date and test location?

- > College staff will guide student through their application in the session provided
- > PQA applications close at the end of June (start of June for UMAT)
- > The PQA takes place around the beginning of August (end of July for UMAT)
- > Invitations for interview/oral assessment toward the end of September
- > Oral assessments/interviews for international applicants are held at the end of September/start of October (late November/early December for domestic applicants)
- > The PQA test can be taken in Adelaide, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore or Toronto (as the test falls within the semester, students are advised to take the test in Adelaide).

9. How should students prepare for this test?

No formal PQA preparation courses are available. The College provides:

- > Face to face information sessions and the opportunity to speak with College alumni
- > Advice on test approach (do's and don'ts)
- > Practice questions and critical thinking sessions to develop mental agility

It is recommended that applicants utilize UMAT preparation tools such as Medentry or Medessentials. While not exactly the same, UMAT prep can be good practice for the PQA.

10. Does the student have to sit an interview as well? Yes, if selected. The goal is to determine:

- > Commitment to and awareness of a career as a health professional
- > Ability to work collegially, within a team, and sense of community
- > Knowledge of the program and expectations
- > Ability to think broadly, laterally and strategically.

11. What support does the student receive from the College to prepare for the Oral Assessment?

- > Critical Thinking sessions to develop problem-solving skills and broad mindedness
- > Awareness building of cultural norms, body language, and presentation
- > Mock interviews x 2 with feedback (for students invited for an oral assessment only)
- > Follow-up feedback based on performance in mock interviews.

12. What happens if the student is not successful in progressing to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery at the University of Adelaide?

Students who are unsuccessful in progressing to the BDS have a variety of options:

- > Commence different bachelor (e.g. B. Health and Medical Sciences) and reapply
- > Complete different bachelor with post-graduate course at an alternative provider
- > Apply for undergraduate studies at an alternative provider as well
- > Repeat Foundation Studies and reapply if academic requirements not met.

13. Health and Medical Sciences at University of Adelaide is not just a 'back up plan'. What are the potential career outcomes?

Developed in conjunction with industry partners and employers, the B. Health and Medical Sciences develops graduates with the broad range of skills and understanding of health required to be successful. Career opportunities include:

- > Medical/research/clinical/nutrition scientists in research institutes, hospitals, diagnostic and pathology laboratories, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and universities
- > Health information and promotion officers, health policy advisors and planners; community health workers
- > Further Masters and Postgraduate study to gain qualifications in other health professions, e.g. Medicine, Nursing or Physiotherapy.

14. What is The University of Adelaide College Work Experience Agreement?

Students have the opportunity to organise their own work experience for which the student will be covered by the School's insurance policy.

15. Is there any placement work guaranteed for students during the bachelor program?

- > Opportunity to utilise basic oral health skills in the Community Outreach Program
- > Supervised care for patients in general dental practice and dental specialisations
- > Clinical placements in dental hospital and public and private practice.

Students will be required to make their own way to their placements so driving would be an advantage.

16. What is GAMSAT? Is student required to take this test?

Students are not required to sit the GAMSAT unless wishing to undertake post-graduate study.

17. After completing this program, can the student register as a Dentist with the Dental Board of Australia?

Yes. Evidence of English language skills at IELTS academic level 7 or the equivalent is required.