

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE – PRE-PROFESSIONAL DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DONALD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

UPDATED: April 2022

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer Polytechnic and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer (if applicable). You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit (if applicable), admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from Red Deer Polytechnic. Please consult with an Advisor if you have any questions.

Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- See the Academic Calendar of your goal institution for admission requirements to their program

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards your desired program.
- If you are transferring to another institution to complete your degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

WHAT IS THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM DENTISTRY PROGRAM AT RDP?

- Pre-Professional Programs at RDP are starting points to help students understand, and work towards, future admission into programs such as the Doctor of Dental Surgery program (DDS) at the University of Alberta (UAlberta).
- Students are eligible to apply to DDS after two years of appropriate study, however, students should know that it is common to gain admission after completion of a four-year baccalaureate degree.
 - This program is very competitive and admission is not guaranteed.
 - As such, the RDP Pre-Professional Program recommends students pursue an undergraduate baccalaureate degree in an area of their interest, while taking courses to work towards being eligible to apply to the DDS program.

HOW DO I BECOME ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO DDS AT UALBERTA?

Please read the information UAlberta has presented regarding [DDS admission requirements](#). It is your responsibility to understand these admission requirements as this guide will provide basic information to help you start your studies. There are countless ways to work towards DDS admission, and each student's pathway will be unique.

- Academically, applicants must complete 60 credit units of University transferable work including the prerequisite courses listed in the admission link above. These courses are also detailed on Page 3.
 - You must also meet the minimum course load requirement: 2 academic years of Fall/Winter semesters with a course load of 30

credits in each year. *(A Fall/Winter academic year is September to April inclusive)*

- There are many academic and non-academic requirements applicants will need to meet. Applicants will also need to write the Canadian Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) prior to admission.
 - UAlberta does a great job detailing the selection process and eligibility rules on their [DDS website](#). Please read and review this information!

HOW DO I CHOOSE COURSES?

- Ultimately, we encourage students to pursue a four-year baccalaureate degree as you work to meet DDS requirements.
 - This degree can be in any discipline. If you would like to stay at RDP to complete a four-year degree, you can in our Bachelor of Science Biological Sciences degree!
- For students who are not sure of a degree, this guide will present recommended courses based on the first year of a General Science Degree, tailored to help meet some DDS requirements
- We recommend students choose a preferred degree by the start of their second year. Overall, we recommend your schedule become a mixture of:
 - Taking a course load that is appropriate for you (while staying within DDS requirements)
 - Taking courses that work towards an undergraduate Bachelor's degree
 - Completing pre-requisite courses at a pace that works for you

WHAT IS A TERM? TERMS ARE THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES TAKE PLACE. AT RDP, WE OFFER FOUR TERMS.

- Fall term (September through December)
- Winter Term (January through April)
- Spring term (May through June): Spring term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.
- Summer Term (July through August): Summer term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- The traditional path you will see is 5 courses per term, 10 total (5 in the Fall, 5 in the Winter).
- It is recommended students take a full course load (5 courses per term) where possible.
 - Remember that you are required to have 2 academic years of Fall/Winter semesters with a course load of 30 credits in each year. *(A Fall/Winter academic year is September to April inclusive)*
- Basic rule of thumb: If you take less than 10 courses per year while at RDP, you will need to take additional years upon transfer to be eligible to apply into the DDS (in order to meet the minimum course load requirements). This is okay, as not being admitted after two years of study is not a failure or a bad thing!
- When determining your course load keep your funding in mind, if applicable. For course load requirements for funding purposes, please visit www.rdpolytech.ca/psfunding.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I TAKE LESS THAN 10 COURSES A YEAR?

- You may need an extra term or year to complete your program.
- Your admission may be impacted if you do not have two academic years of Fall/Winter semesters with a course load of 30 credits in each year.

WHAT IF I COMPLETED COURSES AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION?

Once you are admitted to RDP, you can then apply to have your post-secondary courses assessed for transfer credit through our [Recognition of Prior Learning Office](#). Once admitted to RDP you can complete an [RPL application form](#), provide the Polytechnic Assessors with any and all transcripts, course outlines/descriptions, or other documentation necessary to support your PLAR application.

NOTE: To qualify for a Red Deer Polytechnic program credential, students must complete at least 50% of the credit requirements for the credential through enrolment in RDP courses.

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM AUDIT

- Refer to the **Registration** tab on your Loop account to view **Registration Tips and Tricks** for information on:
 - Registering in classes
 - Waitlisting
 - Checking Prerequisites and Corequisites
 - Courses listed as **prerequisites** must be completed before you start the course in question.
 - Courses listed as **co-requisites** must be taken at the same time as the course in question.
 - Viewing Your Schedule
 - And much more!
- After you have completed your registration, if you would like an advisor to review your registration please submit a [Registration Review Form](#).

PRE-REQUISITE COURSES FOR ADMISSION TO DDS

REQUIRED COURSES	# OF CREDITS	RECOMMENDED RED DEER POLYTECHNIC COURSES
General Chemistry	3	CHEM 211
Organic Chemistry	3	CHEM 351
Biology	3	BIOL 217
Microbiology	3	BIOL 360
English	6	ENGL 219 & ENGL 220
Statistics	3	STAT 251
Biochemistry	3	BIOC 301 or 393
Human Physiology	6	Recommended to complete this requirement upon transfer OR completing UAlberta PHYSL 210 Online (see Important Note 1 for details).

As part of the eligibility to apply to UAlberta Dentistry, students must complete a minimum of two academic years (60 credits), including the 30 credits of pre-requisite courses above. As such, for a student studying full time at RDP (30 credits each year, Fall and Winter combined (15 credits per term)), they will take a mixture of pre-requisite requirements plus elective courses.

Remember, it is your responsibility to understand and follow the [admission requirements for Dentistry at UAlberta](#).

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE AND CHECKLIST

REQUIREMENT	PREREQUISITE(S)	COMMENTS	DONE
YEAR 1 - TERM 1 COURSE RECOMMENDATION			
CHEM 211 (3 Credits)	General Chemistry I	CHEM 30 & MATH 30-1	
BIOL 217 (3 Credits)	Introduction to Cell Biology	BIOL 30 & CHEM 30	Can be taken either term
ENGL 219 (3 Credits)	Essay Writing and Critical Reading	ELA 30-1	
Arts or Science Elective (3 Credits)			
Arts or Science Elective (3 Credits)			
YEAR 1 - TERM 2 COURSE RECOMMENDATION			
CHEM 351 (3 Credits)	General Chemistry II	CHEM 211 or CHEM 102	
BIOL 218 (3 Credits)	Evolution & Biological Diversity	BIOL 30	Can be taken either term
ENGL 220 (3 Credits)	Literary Analysis	ENGL 219	
STAT 251 (3 Credits)	Introductory Statistics	Math 30-1 or Math 30-2	Can be taken either term
Arts or Science Elective (3 Credits)			

Remember to review the “Human Physiology Requirement” information on [Page 5!](#)

SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE – Year 2

As you start planning for year 2, we recommend that students have an undergraduate degree and transfer University in mind – the degree you are pursuing can be anything! Students will transfer after year 2 to a University. In Year 2, you can also choose to complete any outstanding pre-requisite courses not completed in Year 1.

If you would like to stay at RDP to complete a four-year degree, you can in our Bachelor of Science Biological Sciences degree!

FIRST TERM	SECOND TERM
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	BIOC 393 or BIOC 301
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	BIOL 360
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	Course Towards Undergraduate Degree
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	Course Towards Undergraduate Degree
Human Physiology Requirement (see Important Note 1 below)	Human Physiology Requirement (see Important Note 1 below)

IMPORTANT NOTES/FAQ's

1. HOW/WHEN DO I COMPLETE THE 6 CREDIT, HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY REQUIREMENT?

- If you are planning to apply to Dentistry after 2 years, then you must have this requirement completed as part of your full-time course load (Fall/Winter).
- If you are not planning to apply to Dentistry after 2 years, then you can more flexibility:
 - You can complete in year 3 or 4 when you transfer
 - You can complete in a Spring/Summer

RECOMMENDED OPTION: Complete with UAlberta

- UAlberta offers a course called PHYSL 210 that can be completed online, and [clicking here will give you registration information](#) for the course.
- If you want to apply to UAlberta Dentistry after 2 years: Take in your Fall/Winter term for Year 2.

Complete at RDP

- RDP currently does not have a completion option for the Human Physiology requirement at University of Alberta. Students can take PHYSL 210 through UA, or take the course upon transfer.

COURSE CATEGORIZATION/ELECTIVE LIST

- Examples of available Arts & Science Electives for the current academic year can be viewed [here](#).
- **How do I choose electives?**
- RDP highly recommends you have an undergraduate degree in mind to work towards, while you complete your dentistry pre-requisites.
 - This is especially important as you get into your second year of study, as you will have many of the pre-requisite courses likely completed.
- As Dentistry admission is competitive, and RDP students will be transferring after their second year of study, most students will apply into the third year of an undergraduate degree (i.e. Biological Sciences, Psychology, etc).

Overall, the electives you choose must be transferable to UAlberta.

- Year 1: Choose electives in year 1 that you are interested in.
- Year 2: Think about it this way – If you would not be admitted into Dentistry after 2 years, what degree would you like to apply into for Year 3 when you transfer? From there, you can plan your Year 2 to fit in any outstanding pre-requisites, while registering in courses that will work towards your undergraduate major.
 - Remember: Most students will complete an undergraduate degree before being admitted into Dentistry
 - You do not have to complete all pre-requisites in your first 2 years. You only need to do this if you are planning to apply to Dentistry after your second year. [In which case, pay attention to the application timelines.](#)

TRANSFER INFORMATION

Admission Requirements	It is imperative you familiarize yourself with the DDS Admission Requirements . As mentioned previously, the path towards DDS will be unique for every student. There are many academic and non-academic requirements that students will need to be aware of and prepare for.
Minimum Transferable Grade	A minimum grade of C- is recommended to maximize transferability to most universities (“D” grades do not transfer to UAlberta). <i>Please talk to an Academic Advisor as soon as possible if you feel you may be in jeopardy of not getting at least a C- in a course you are enrolled in.</i>
Spring Term	If you are planning to take a Spring term course, please connect with the Student Connect Centre .
Application Deadline	Please refer to the DDS website for important dates and deadlines.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Red Deer Polytechnic Student Connect Centre	studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca www.rdpolytech.ca/SCC 403.342.3254
Red Deer Polytechnic website	rdpolytech.ca
Transfer Alberta Guide	transferalberta.alberta.ca
School of Dentistry (UAlberta)	Website Email: admissions@dentistry.ualberta.ca