

DAT Guidelines Overview

(This is just an overview, please read [2018 DAT Guide](#) for more details)

- Before you can apply to take the DAT or apply for admission to a dental school, you must obtain a Dental Personal Identification Number ([DENTPIN](#)).
- Once you have a DENTPIN, submit a DAT application from [ADA.org/DAT](#).
- After your application has been processed, you will be eligible to test for a **six-month period** and you will receive an email with scheduling instructions. You may then call 800.688.5804 or visit [Prometric.com](#) to schedule your appointment to take the DAT.
- After your DAT appointment is completed, you will receive an unofficial score report at the Prometric test center. Official scores are reported electronically within three to four weeks of your test date to your “My Account” and to the dental schools you select on your DAT application.
- Schools selected at the time of application are included in the DAT fee, regardless of the number of schools selected.
- Applicants are required to submit a new application and fee for each retest. Applicants must wait **at least 90 days** from their last attempt, before retaking the DAT. Applicants who have had three or more DAT attempts must apply for permission to test again. From that point forward, they may retest only once per 12-month period.
- When you arrive at the Prometric test center to take the test, two original, current (not expired) forms of identification (ID), one primary and one secondary, will be required.
 - The primary ID must be a government-issued ID with your photograph, name, and signature. Examples: a driver's license, a passport, or a passport card. All IDs, with the exception of passports, must be in English.
 - The secondary ID must contain your name and signature. Examples: a debit card, a library card, or a credit card.
- The name on your IDs must match exactly the name you entered on your DAT application. If the names on your IDs and application do not match exactly, you will be denied admission to testing and you will forfeit your testing appointment and your application fee. You will be required to submit a new application and fee to test.

Fee Type	Description	Fee Amount
DAT fee	This fee includes administration and official score reporting to all of the dental schools you have selected at the time of application, an unofficial score report issued at the testing center (no other score report will be sent to you), and score reporting to your pre-dental advisor (if selected on your application).	\$460
Score Report Fee (optional)	This fee covers score report requests made after the time of application. There is no additional charge for score report requests received at the time of application.	\$37 per score report/school
Score Audit Fee (optional)	For a period of 30 days after your testing appointment, the Department of Testing Services is willing to audit your DAT results.	\$65

Number of Days Prior to Testing Appointment	Reschedule Fee
1 to 5 business days* prior to the testing appointment, and at least 24 hours before the appointment is scheduled to begin.	\$100
6 to 30 business days prior to the testing appointment.	\$60
31 or more business days prior to the testing appointment.	\$25

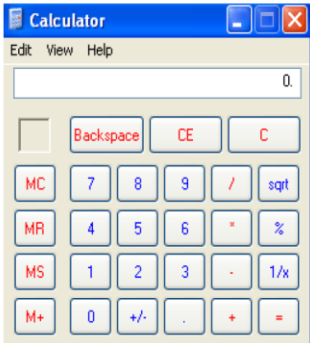
*Saturdays and Sundays are NOT business days

DAT Administration Schedule	
Optional Tutorial	15 minutes
Survey of Natural Sciences	90 minutes
Perceptual Ability Test	60 minutes
Scheduled Break (optional)	30 minutes
Reading Comprehension Test	60 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning Test	45 minutes
Optional Post Test Survey	15 minutes
Total Time	5 hours

Scope of the Test	<p>The DAT is composed of multiple-choice test items presented in the English language. The test is developed according to established test specifications. The DAT consists of four sections: Survey of the Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension, and Quantitative Reasoning.</p> <p>In the DAT, both the U.S. customary system and the metric system (Imperial System, International System) of units are used. Additional information on test content is provided below.</p>
SURVEY OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES (100 items)	
Biology (40)	
Cell and Molecular Biology	Origin of life, cell metabolism (including photosynthesis/enzymology), cellular processes, thermodynamics, organelle structure and function, mitosis/meiosis, cell structure, experimental cell biology, biomolecules, and integrated relationships
Diversity of Life	Biological Organization and Relationship of Major Taxa (Six-Kingdom, Three-Domain System) – plantae, animalia, protista, fungi, eubacteria (bacteria), archaea, and integrated relationships
Structure and Function of Systems	Integumentary, skeletal, muscular, circulatory, immunological, digestive, respiratory, urinary, nervous/senses, endocrine, reproductive, and integrated relationships
Developmental Biology	Fertilization, descriptive embryology, developmental mechanisms, and experimental embryology, and integrated relationships
Genetics	Molecular genetics, human genetics, classical genetics, chromosomal genetics, and genetic technology, and integrated relationships
Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior	Natural selection, population genetics/speciation, population and community ecology, ecosystems, and animal behavior (including social behavior), and integrated relationships

General Chemistry (30)	
Stoichiometry and General Concepts	Percent composition, empirical formulae, balancing equations, moles and molecular formulas, molar mass, density, and calculations from balanced equations
Gases	Kinetic molecular theory of gases, Dalton's, Boyle's, Charles's, and ideal gas law
Liquids and Solids	Intermolecular forces, phase changes, vapor pressure, structures, polarity, and properties
Solutions	Polarity, properties (colligative, noncolligative), forces, and concentration calculations
Acids and Bases	pH, strength, Brønsted-Lowry reactions, and calculations
Chemical Equilibria	Molecular, acid/base, precipitation, calculations, and Le Chatelier's principle
Thermodynamics and Thermochemistry	Laws of thermodynamics, Hess's law, spontaneity, enthalpies and entropies, and heat transfer
Chemical Kinetics	Rate laws, activation energy, and half-life
Oxidation-Reduction Reactions	Balancing equations, determination of oxidation numbers, electrochemical calculations, and electrochemical concepts and terminology
Atomic and Molecular Structure	Electron configuration, orbital types, Lewis-Dot diagrams, atomic theory, quantum theory, molecular geometry, bond types, and sub-atomic particles
Periodic Properties	Representative elements, transition elements, periodic trends, and descriptive chemistry
Nuclear Reactions	Balancing equations, binding energy, decay processes, particles, and terminology
Laboratory	Basic techniques, equipment, error analysis, safety, and data analysis
Organic Chemistry (30)	
Mechanisms	Energetics, and Structure - elimination, addition, free radical, substitution mechanisms, and other mechanisms and reactions
Chemical and Physical Properties of Molecules	Spectroscopy (^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, infrared, and multi-spectra), structure (polarity, intermolecular forces (solubility, melting/ boiling point, etc.), and laboratory theory and techniques (TLC, separations, etc.)
Stereochemistry (structure evaluation)	Chirality, isomer relationships, and conformations
Nomenclature	IUPAC rules and functional groups in molecules
Individual Reactions of the Major Functional Groups and Combinations of Reactions to Synthesize Compounds	Alkene/alkyne, aromatic, substitution/elimination, aldehyde/ketone, carboxylic acids and derivatives, and other. For <u>each</u> area listed above, the following sub-areas apply: general, one-step, and multi-step

Acid-Base Chemistry	Ranking acidity/basicity (structure analysis and pH/pK _a data analysis), and prediction of products and equilibria
Aromatics and Bonding	Concept of aromaticity, resonance, atomic/molecular orbitals, hybridization, and bond angles/lengths
PERCEPTUAL ABILITY (90 items)	
The Perceptual Ability Test is comprised of six subtests: 1) apertures, 2) view recognition, 3) angle discrimination, 4) paper folding, 5) cube counting, and 6) 3D form development.	
READING COMPREHENSION (50 items)	
The Reading Comprehension Test contains three reading passages on various scientific topics. Prior understanding of the science topics is not a prerequisite to answering the test items. The reading passages require the ability to read, comprehend, and thoroughly analyze basic scientific information.	
QUANTITATIVE REASONING (40 items)	
<p>Mathematical Problems</p> <p>***Quantitative Comparison includes, but is not limited to, conversions; probability and statistics; geometry; and trigonometry***</p>	Algebra (equations and expressions, inequalities, exponential notation, absolute value, ratios and proportions, and graphical analysis); Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Sufficiency; Quantitative Comparison; and Probability and Statistics

Applied Mathematics (Word) Problems	<p>A basic four-function calculator is available on the computer screen in the Quantitative Reasoning Test section.</p> 
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- A limited number of partial fee waivers are available per calendar year (January-December) to DAT candidates, in cases of severe financial hardship. The waiver covers 50% of the DAT fee, which includes the fee for the test and any official score reports requested at the time of application.
- Fee waivers are granted on a first-come, first-served basis at the beginning of each calendar year to eligible candidates who have submitted the required documents. Fee waivers will be granted beginning on January 1, and are generally exhausted within two or three months. You can obtain the forms from ADA.org/DAT. Candidates must register for a DENTPIN prior to submitting a fee waiver request.
- **Eligibility Requirements for Partial Fee Waiver:**
 - Demonstrated financial hardship
 - First time taking the DAT
 - U.S. citizen or resident alien
 - Received financial aid at his/her educational institution