A CAREER IN DENTISTRY – IS IT FOR YOU?

SHELLY STROHMAN DDS
DENTIST = BEST JOB IN U.S.

- Dentistry ranked #1 in U.S News and World Report’s “100 Best Jobs”

- WHY?
  - Restore oral health and the lives of patients
  - Independent and flexible career
  - Career options
  - Salary
  - Creativity in daily work
  - Respected member of community
  - Work as part of a team
BEFORE & AFTER
BEFORE & AFTER
IS DENTISTRY FOR YOU?

• Comfortable with close personal interaction
• Easy to talk to/listens well
• Trustworthy
• Detail oriented
• Artistic
• Leader
• Caring and concerned about others
• Good communicator
• www.adea.org/GoDental
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL?

• Good judgment
• Compassion
• Organization
• Critical thinking skills
• Professionalism
• Manual dexterity
• Negotiation skills
• Networking skills
• Continuing education
DENTAL EDUCATION

• 12,162 dental school applicants (2013)

• 5,796 first year students enrolled in DDS/DMD programs in the United States (2013)

• 10 - average number of dental schools students applied to
DENTAL EDUCATION

- 64 dental schools in the United States offering DDS/DMD programs
- 3 DDS programs in Texas
TEXAS DENTAL SCHOOLS

- Texas A & M University Baylor College of Dentistry
- University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Dentistry
- University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry
HOW DO I GET IN?

• Academic requirements

• Dental Admissions Test (DAT)

• Application

• Interview
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

• Biological Sciences
• General Chemistry
• Organic Chemistry
• Biochemistry
• Physics
• English
• Statistics
DENTAL ADMISSIONS TEST (DAT)

• Conducted by the American Dental Association

• Administered at Prometric Test Centers

• All dental schools require it

• Covers the following topics:
  • Natural sciences
  • Perceptual ability
  • Reading comprehension
  • Quantitative reasoning
APPLICATION

• Texas Medical and Dental School Application Services
  • Texas residents applying to a Texas school

• American Dental Education Association Application Services
  • centralized application service for most U.S. dental schools
  • applicants to complete one standardized application
  • dental schools benefit by receiving uniform information on all applicants
INTERVIEW

• evaluate and be able to articulate your skills, abilities, attitudes, etc. to demonstrate that you are motivated to make the commitment required for a career in dentistry

• explain your motivation for pursuing dentistry, including personal and academic achievements, hardships overcome and other factors that affected personal or academic progress

• discuss activities that demonstrate manual dexterity and your imaginative, creative ability
DENTAL SCHOOL

• Traditionally 4 years

• First 2 years of dental school is basic biological sciences and begin clinical education through simulation.

• 3rd and 4th years are more focused on clinical education and providing direct patient care.

• National Board Dental Exam Part 1 taken after 2nd year and Part 2 taken middle of 4th year (typically)

• Clinical Regional Board Exams taken last semester of dental school

• Average cost $200,000+
DENTAL SPECIALTIES

- Dental Public Health  (14 mos)
- Endodontics  (26 mos)
- Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  (37 mos)
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology  (24-36 mos)
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery   (4-6 yrs)
- Orthodontics and Dentofacial Prosthetics  (24-36 mos)
- Periodontics  (35 mos)
- Pediatric Dentistry   (24-36 mos)
- Prosthodontics  (32 mos)
DENTAL PRACTICE OPTIONS

• Academic Dentistry and Dental Education
• Dental Research
• International Health Care
• Practice as a salaried employee or an associate
• Public Health Care
• Self-employed in private practice
• Services in the federal government
CHEMISTRY IN DENTISTRY
ACID EROSION
Caries (Cavities)
Implant sequence
With a dental implant, there is no need to grind down the healthy adjacent teeth. The implant provides support for the crown.
IMPLANTS
QUESTIONS??