

PATHWAY TO DENTAL SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED DENTISTS

UPDATED FEBRUARY, 2021 - ANA ZEA, DDS, DrPH, FICD

NOTE:
Each Dental School has specific requirements for Admission. This guide is intended to provide general information. Please visit our US Advanced Standing Programs for Internationally Educated Dentists list to find the link to each individual program website.

https://hda.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/US%20Advanced%20Standing%20Programs%20for%20Internationally%20Educated%20Dentists.pdf

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STEP 1: YOUR DENTAL SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

Most US Dental Schools will require an educational transcript and diploma from your Dental School. These documents must be verified by one of the following accredited evaluation institutes:

ECE – Educational Credential Evaluators https://www.ece.org
WES – World Education Services https://www.wes.org

These institutes will translate and confirm your curriculum and degree from your country.

TIPS:

- Make sure to request a Course-by-Course evaluation
- If your transcript and Diploma were issued in a language other than English, they may provide a certified translation

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STEP 2: THE NATIONAL BOARD DENTAL EXAMINATION (NDBE)

This exam is administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) and it is a requirement for admission in most Advanced Standing and Dental Residency Programs

Visit the JCNDE website for more information about the exams: https://www.ada.org/en/jcnde/inbde

TIPS:

- In order to apply to take the examinations you must visit the ADA website to obtain a DENTPIN: https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dentpin

- INBDE Practice Questions: https://www.ada.org/~/media/JCNDE/pdfs/INBDE_practice_questions.pdf?la=en

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STEP 3: THE TOEFL EXAM

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is an online test that measures your proficiency to use and understand English at the university level. The TOEFL exam is an admission requirement for most Advanced Standing Programs

Visit the ETS TOEFL web page to learn more, and to register for the exam: https://www.ets.org/toefl

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STEP 4: PREPARE A COMPETITIVE DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATION

Gain Dental Experience in the United states by attending continuing education courses, assisting and/or shadowing at a dental office or clinic.

TIPS:

- At HDA we are committed to find connections among our members. We might be able to help you find a mentor within your professional chapter
- A letter of recommendation from your mentor is a great addition to your Dental School application

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STEP 4: PREPARE A COMPETITIVE DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATION

Participate in extra-curricular activities and volunteer services

TIPS:

- Community Outreach is one of the core missions of HDA. Contact us to learn more about volunteer opportunities

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STEP 4: PREPARE A COMPETITIVE DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATION

Become involved in Organized Dentistry

TIPS:

- You already did it! You are a valued HDA Member. Make sure to mention this on your dental school application

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STEP 4: PREPARE A COMPETITIVE DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATION

Make sure to mention on your application any achievements that differentiate you from other candidates:

- Masters or other academic degrees in the US
- Additional certifications in the dental field (Dental Hygiene Assisting, Laboratory Technician, X-Ray license, etc.)
- Research and Publications
- Honors
- Continued Education Courses

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STEP 5: FINANCING YOUR DENTAL EDUCATION

In order to qualify for Federal Student Loans you must be an American Citizen or Permanent Resident. However, you may qualify for private student loans and some schools may offer scholarships and other funding opportunities. Visit the ADEA website and your School's Financial Aid resources to learn more:

https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Money_Matters/International_students.aspx

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STEP 5: APPLYING FOR A STUDENT VISA

International students who have accepted the offer of admissions need to obtain the appropriate immigration document (I-20 or DS-2019 form) from their dental school. The immigration document will enable you to apply for a visa, if necessary. Canadian citizens must obtain the I-20 document, but Canadians do not need a visa to study in the United States.

https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/prepare/students-and-the-form-i-20

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