

# The Dental School Journey

Molar Mentors  
Harsh Chheda & Aarsh Ray

# Who are we?

- D1's at Columbia University
- Accepted to multiple programs
- Love to mentor students and help them along their journey



**Harsh Chheda**

**Stats:**

4.0 GPA/ 25 AA DAT

**Schools I was between:**

Columbia, University of Michigan, UCSF, UNC, & UPenn



**Aarsh Ray**

**Stats:**

4.0 GPA/28 AA DAT

**Schools I was between:**

Columbia, Texas Tech, & UT San Antonio

# Topics for Today

Taking the  
DAT

Dental School  
Application

Interview  
Tips

Choosing a  
Dental School

Q/A  
Session

# Taking the DAT

## Timeline

- Summer after taking organic chemistry
- Study time varies

## General Tips

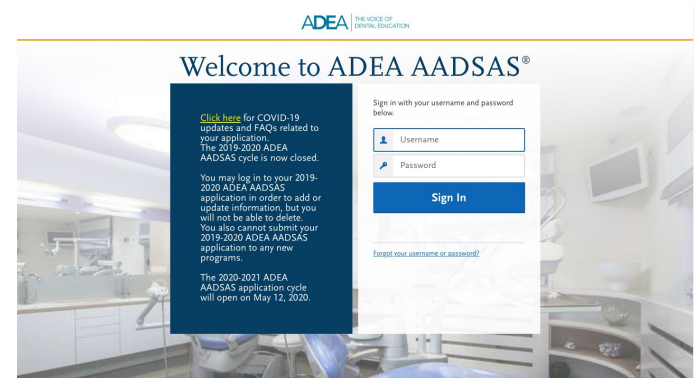
- Looks for tutors
- Use platforms
  - DAT Booster
    - Use Coupon Code: **PREDENTALADVICE** for 10% off!
  - DAT Bootcamp
  - DAT Destroyer



# Dental School Applications

## General Timeline

- Applications open around May 9th, submission opens around May 30th
- Start working on Personal Statement around January - February before applying
  - Have multiple people read over it
  - Its okay if first idea or even multiple ideas don't work out
- Start compiling what activities you've done around March
  - Excel
  - Hours Categories
- When to submit
  - Early - June, July or early August
  - Some schools don't start reviewing applications until August



# Dental School Applications

## Creating your Application

- Cliche advice – create a story?
  - Come up with themes
- Spend time on supplemental essays
- Thoroughly research schools you are applying to
  - Many state school have in-state preference
- How many hours is considered competitive?
  - Shadowing - 100-150+ hours
  - Volunteering - 200+ hours
  - Research - optional, but any is great



# Interview Tips

## Look at SDN for common questions, tips, etc...

- <https://www.studentdoctor.net/schools/school/uic/1/university-of-illinois-at-chicago-college-of-dentistry>
- Be yourself

## What we did

- Practice general interview questions
- If writing things down, do bullet points not paragraphs
- Send thank you notes



# Choosing a Dental School

## Factors to Consider

- Location
  - Want to be close to home...or maybe not so much?
- Cost
  - Dental School is the most expensive graduate program in the US
- Type of Curriculum
  - Didactic or Clinic Focus
  - Medical School Integration
- Specialize
  - Certain programs offer a larger opportunity to get into speciality programs





# UIC Specific Tips

## The application/interview

- In-state favored
- Research into their curriculum
- Review SDN Page
- Very relaxed interview
  - They just want to get to know you and your goals



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS CHICAGO**

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**College of Dentistry**



**Q/A**



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