**Hello Pre-Dents!**

In yesterday’s meeting on October 28th, we had Dr. Emil Chuck, the director of admissions of *Case Western Reserve University School of Dentistry* speak with us about their dental school program. We also had guest speaker Dr. Del Carlo who has been a practicing dentist for over 16 years and also an alum of Case Western share words of advice. Here is a recap of what was discussed in the meeting.

**General Overview of Case Western**

**­**­-Located in Cleveland, Ohio

-School Type: Private Institution

-Class Size: 75

-Degree Offered: DMD

-Office of Admission Email: dentadmit@case.edu

-International students are admitted

DMD Class of 2019 Demographics:

-Average age: 25 years old

-Average Overall GPA: 3.62

-Average Science GPA: 3.55

-Average DAT: 20.3

-Average PAT: 20.2

Course Requirements: (must include lab)

 -6 semester hours of General Chemistry

 -6 semester hours of Organic Chemistry

 -6 semester hours of Biology

 -6 semester hours of Physics

 -6 semester hours of English/Humanities

Recommended Courses:

 -Statistics

 -Biochemistry

 -Microbiology

 -Genetics

 -Anatomy

 -Physiology

 -Cell Biology

 -Histology

-Neuroscience

**What Makes Case Western Unique**

Case Western has a long history of training people in clinical research, public health, and being a practitioner. They have an innovative curriculum in which they believe in the philosophy of knowing why you are studying what you are studying. What do students need to know when it comes to you being a practitioner? They will show you how topics are related and how it all connects as opposed to learning everything in a textbook. Case Western has a problem based learning component in their curriculum that involves small group learning. Students will be presented a case and the group (about 8-10 students per group) will discuss what is needed to understand the situation. Also, Case Western believes that dental students should have hands on experience in their first year of dental school as opposed to in their third and fourth year. After the first four months of dental school after exams, dental students will have an opportunity to go to public schools and perform dental check ups, perform prophylaxis, and give sealants to children. This is part of Case Western’s curriculum and the time span of this is two weeks. Right at their first semester of dental school, students will have the opportunity to make a difference.

**Advice from Dr. Del Carlo**

-Know how each dental school differ in their curriculum

-The national average number of dental schools students applies to is 10. Don’t apply to a school if you don’t want to live in that particular city or you don’t see yourself studying there. Visit as many dental schools as you can.

-As soon as you are done with the prerequisite for the DAT, take the DAT. Practice before you take it. Case Western takes the most recent DAT score. Make sure you practice the perception ability part of the DAT (called PAT).

 Parts of the DAT

* Natural sciences (biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry)
* Perceptual ability (two- and three-dimensional problem-solving)
* Reading comprehension (dental and basic sciences)
* Quantitative reasoning (mathematical problems in algebra, numerical calculations, conversions, etc.)

For more information about the DAT, please visit this link:
<http://www.ada.org/~/media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/dat_examinee_guide.ashx>

-If you are going into dental school, spend time with dentists. Focus on being involved and not just shadow

-Is it better to have the DAT score first or the AADSAS first? It’s always better to have both because if your application isn’t complete, the admissions team will set it aside and sort out the applications that are complete. The most competitive applicants apply early and their applications are usually complete. Those are the applicants that are more likely to get admitted.

-When you get admitted to dental school, seek out scholarships. Networking can help you find scholarships. Look for dental organizations that are from the same ethnic group as you and they might be able to help you out financially, even if it’s $500 of $1,000.

-I don’t recommend starting a practice right out of dental school. I suggest going into GPR (General Practice Residency)

-I recommend working or volunteering as a dental assistant if you can. It helps a lot in dental school especially in the clinical part.

-Learning dentistry and staying on top of dentistry is a life long process. Even now, I have been practicing for over 16 years, but I am still learning about the new technologies that are being developed.

For more information about Case Western Reserve University School of Dentistry, please visit their website at <https://dental.case.edu/>

Also, if you want to know more about CWRU’s admission process, please visit this link for a video presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nzEmPCIQ6k>

Thank you so much for those that attended our meeting and we hope that you learned a lot and were motivated by our speaker. Our next meeting is November 12 at SCE 613 from 5-6pm. See you there!

Ira Delos Reyes

Secretary of Pre-Dental Club at UIC