**Hello PDC’ers!**

On March 17th, our past UIC Pre-Dental Club president, Lee Grenader, and other Midwestern Dental students held a Q&A session during our meeting. Here are the questions that they were asked:

**Why did you choose Midwestern Dental School?**

I chose Midwestern because of the vast difference in technology. Since it’s a new school, everything is brand new. The faculty there really cares about you. In undergrad, especially if you go to a big school like UIC, you’re just a number. In Midwestern dental school, the faculty to student ratio is 1 to 8.

**Do you have any advice on preparing for the DAT?**

DAT Bootcamp is the closest thing to the real thing. DAT Destroyer is hard, but it will prepare you. If you’re not ready for the DAT, don’t take it yet. It’s better to push it back if you think that will make a difference, but don’t push it back too many times. If you don’t like your score the first time, don’t just take it again hoping that you’ll get a better score. Study harder and do something different. Admissions will see that you did something different if you improved your score. I recommend looking at Ferallis notes. Ferallis basically summarized cliffnotes of the biology section and he got a 28 on the DAT. Also, take the DAT practice exams like it’s the actual thing. Don’t use paper and pen. Use a dry erase board as you would on the real test.

**Any advice about interviews?**

Go to studentdoctornetwork.com. Students would write the questions they were asked during their interview on there. Go through the questions and write down your answers. During your interview though, don’t have it memorized. Just know what to answer when you prepare but don’t be too caught up with trying to memorize everything word per word. 80% of the questions I was asked during my interview were on there. For Midwestern, their interview questions are open ended. It’s to see how well you can communicate and think on your feet. They want to know if you can defend your stance. Be honest and speak from the heart. Also, don’t talk the whole time. Hear what they have to say. Be friendly. Be polite. There’s no right or wrong answer. If you’re thinking of applying to Midwestern, talk Dr. G. He’s the best at interviewing. If you email him, he’d be willing to help you prepare.

**What are classes like at Midwestern?**

In Midwestern, we have two classes- one science class and one dental class. We don’t have a separate class for biochemistry, anatomy, or histology. That one science class we take hit everything. We have different lectures, but just one class. We don’t have 7 different exams for different classes. We have 13 lectures MWF, then an exam every week. We have no books. We’re given lecture packets, both on paper and electronically. We don’t have to pay for it. The good thing about this kind of learning structure is that we have less information to manage because everything is integrated. However, everything buildings on each other so if you miss a lecture, you’ll be behind. You really need to stay on top of it. Towards the end of your second year, it’ll be like a review course of everything you’ve learned so far in year one and two.

**How are clinics like at Midwestern?**

During the first and second year, you’ll be in the simulation clinic with a mannequin head and plastic teeth. In your first and second year, clinic starts at 7:30am, two days a week. During your third year, you’ll be working on actual patients from Monday through Friday. You’ll have about 3-4 patients per day. You are responsible for follow up and scheduling, more than what you would be doing in your actual practice.

**Any advice on starting a personal statement?**

For your first draft, write as honestly as you can. Don’t write what the admissions team wants to hear. Don’t rewrite what’s already on your application. Have multiple drafts. Have a lot of people that you know edit your drafts.

**What are the advantages and disadvantages of Midwestern being a new school?**

An advantage would be that since it’s a new school, everything is brad new. A disadvantage is that the faculty is still testing our the curriculum. It’s still malleable and protocols are constantly changing.

**How’s your social life?**

You’ll have more than enough time to relax. Also, some days are half days.

**Do you have any advice for applicants that didn’t make it the first time?**

It’s not the end of the world. If you want to be a dentist, keep going for it. Don’t give up. Some people apply 2-3 times before getting in. Do something different every time you don’t get in. Do something more. Call to talk to the admissions team and ask what you’re missing. You won’t know until you ask. Schools will look for different things. If they see you trying, they’ll take you, but you can’t just keep applying with the same stats.

**Any other advice?**

-The longer you wait to apply, the further in line you will be. Apply as soon as you can, but also make sure to have everything ready. Follow up on the professors and dentists that you ask for a letter of recommendation. If they don’t send it in, your application won’t be complete and the admission board won’t review your application. If possible, make sure your application is ready to go by June 1st.

-When you study, whether it be for your college classes or for the DAT, don’t just memorize the answer. Understand what you’re doing. If you don’t understand a concept, go to office hours or YouTube the topic.

-Schools know everything. They know what schools you apply to. You can’t trick AADSAS