

# Myths and Facts about Canadian Professional Schools



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# Medical School Applications Myths vs Facts

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**Myth: A science degree is required to get accepted into medical school.**

**Fact:** The minimum academic requirements for acceptance into an Ontario medical school varies from three to four years of an undergraduate degree but the majority of schools indicate that the education can come from any discipline<sup>1,2</sup>. Although medical schools vary in academic requirements and certain science courses may be helpful for MCAT preparation, there is no overall degree that will guarantee medical school admission. Please consult Table 1, which contains extracts from some of the Ontario Medical School websites regarding degree requirements.

Students tend to excel in subjects they enjoy the most, so it is recommended that students should pursue degrees in subjects that most interest them. In addition, obtaining a degree in a subject you find meaningful prepares you for an alternate career, should medicine not work out as planned. Thus, if you pursue the undergraduate education that you are interested in, excel and take the medical school course requirements, you will be eligible to apply to the majority of medical schools in Canada. Overall, medical schools welcome and look for diversity in their applicants. To further exemplify this point, a figure from the University of British Columbia 2016 entering class statistics is demonstrated in Figure 2. Notably, UBC has accepted individuals with degrees in Music, Nursing and Education<sup>13</sup>.

**Table 1:** Direct extracts from some of the Ontario Medical Schools regarding the degree requirements and how education can come from any discipline.

Medical School	Extract
University of Ottawa	“As long as the prerequisites for eligibility are met, no preference is given to the discipline of the academic program taken at a recognized university” <sup>3</sup>
University of Toronto	“We are looking for students from diverse backgrounds. It doesn’t matter what subject you studied at university or the level of your degree studies, you are encouraged to apply. We treat all university programs equally in the evaluation process and there are no quotas or age limits. We are looking for candidates with strong backgrounds in social sciences, humanities, physical sciences and life sciences. You should also demonstrate excellence in non-academic areas, such as community involvement, reliability, responsibility, perseverance, creativity and leadership.” <sup>4</sup>
Western University	“There is no prescribed “pre-med” program. Students at Schulich are selected from programs representing a wide range of disciplines, including engineering, social sciences, arts and humanities, and science, to name just a few. No preference is given to any specific programs.” <sup>5</sup>

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Queen's University	<p>Q: "What courses or program do you recommend that would help me get into Queen's?"</p> <p>A: "We do not recommend any particular course or degree program since no preference is given to applicants who have studied in a particular university program. Applicants are encouraged to consider all of the undergraduate programs available to them and to embark on the course of study in which they have the greatest interest and that would prepare them for an alternate career should they not gain a place in medicine."<sup>6</sup></p>
McMaster University	<p>"There is no single background that is ideal preparation for the practice of medicine. Students with university education in any discipline are encouraged to apply. The ideal candidate will have completed a rigorous and coherent course of study, which will provide evidence of an independent, self-directed, and mature learning style. The ideal candidate will also provide evidence of outstanding non-academic qualities, including altruism, reliability, responsibility, perseverance, creativity, and leadership, through this process."<sup>7</sup></p> <p>Q: "Are some courses better to take than others? What courses should I take?"</p> <p>A: "Just as we do not require prerequisite subjects for the program, we do not favour or discount various academic programs. Many of the successful applicants do come from science backgrounds but this may be, in part, due to the fact that they apply to more than one medical school and must do the prerequisites for the others. It is in your best interest, regardless of academic program, to at least gain some exposure to the basic sciences as well as the social sciences and humanities. The aim is to develop a well-rounded education and also to prepare yourself for alternatives to medicine."<sup>8</sup></p>

	2015	2016	2017		2015	2016	2017
<b>No Degree or 3 Years Undergraduate</b>	41	34	23	MA	0	0	3
BA/BA(Honours)	5	4	13	MASc/MEng	1	1	3
BA & BSc	1	0	2	MBA	0	1	0
BASc/BEng	4	3	0	M (Medicine/Chiropractic)	0	0	0
BA & BASc	0	0	0	MEd	0	0	0
BCom/BBA	1	1	0	M (Forestry)	0	0	0
BEcon	0	0	0	MHA/MPH/MHSc	3	6	9
BEd (Education)	2	0	0	MRSc (Rehabilitation Science)	0	2	1
BHK (Kinetics)	12	13	9	MSc	13	29	20
BHS (Health Science)	16	11	17	Other Master's Degree	1	2	1
BMSc(Honours) - Medical Sciences	1	0	0	<b>Master's Degree</b>	18	41	37
BMLSc - Medical Laboratory Sciences	3	2	2	<b>Doctorate Degree</b>	5	10	3
BMus - Music	1	1	2	<b>Other</b>	2	0	0
BSc Pharmacy	6	10	6				
BSc (Physical therapy)	0	0	0	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>288</b>
BScN (Nursing)	5	7	5				
BSc/BSc(Honours)	165	151	169				
BSW (Social Work)	0	0	0				
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>225</b>				

**Figure 1:** The training completed (most recent degree) of the recent entering classes (2015 to 2017) at the University of British Columbia<sup>13</sup>.

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- McMaster University. Admissions: <http://mdprogram.mcmaster.ca/md-program-admissions/how-we-select> Accessed May 15th, 2016.
- McMaster University. Admissions: FAQ. <http://mdprogram.mcmaster.ca/md-program-admissions/faq> Accessed May 15th, 2016.



**Myth: The prestige of the school that you take your undergraduate degree at influences your medical school application.**

**Fact:** The name or prestige of your undergraduate school is not a factor in the selection process. Also demonstrated on Table 1, medical schools do not typically give preference for a specific degree or program type from a specific university. There is sometimes however, preference given depending on the geographic location of your undergraduate university or your hometown. Some out-of-province medical schools, such as the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine, preference for in-province students as they only allocate a select number of seats for out-of-province students<sup>12</sup>.

**Myth: A 4.0 GPA is required in order to be accepted into medical school.**

**Fact:** Most medical schools look at your undergraduate GPA; however, the academic cutoffs and GPA calculations vary depending on each medical program. The minimum GPA and the average GPA for applicants are listed in Table 2 for the six medical schools in Ontario and Table 3 for the other medical schools in Canada. Also demonstrated on Table 3, the minimum requirements for some schools outside of Ontario vary for in and out of province applicants<sup>9-11</sup>. In order to be considered for acceptance into a medical school, you must meet the minimum GPA requirements. Notably, medical schools typically accept students with averages higher than that of the minimum. Thus, the higher GPA average you achieve, the more competitive you are for a position in medical school.

The average GPA cutoff of students accepted into medical school each year is dependent on the pool of applicants reviewed that year. Having a higher GPA may increase your chances with getting into medical school, but it is certainly not a guarantee because there are many other factors that medical schools review. Table 4 shows the percentage of students from the entering classes of University of British Columbia and McMaster University in each academic average bracket over the course of several years<sup>12,13</sup>. In addition, Figure 2 features the graphs provided by the University of Calgary for the academic averages of their accepted classes<sup>15,16</sup>.

We recommend using an excel spreadsheet, converting each mark to GPA with the OMSAS conversion table<sup>17</sup> and calculating GPAs for each year and overall. This method may not be reflective of your GPA for every medical school because the method of calculating GPAs does vary across medical schools. However, this will give you a general idea of where you stand. If you wish to calculate your GPA for a certain school, more information about their methods of GPA calculation can be found on their website.

**Table 2:** The minimum requirement and average undergraduate GPA scores of the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 entering classes at the six Ontario medical schools<sup>9-11</sup>.

School	2016/17 <sup>9</sup>		2015/16 <sup>9</sup>		2014/15 <sup>9</sup>	
	Avg	Min	Avg	Min	Avg	Min
<b>University of Ottawa</b>	3.93	3.5	N/A	3.5	3.94	3.5
<b>University of Toronto</b>	3.96	3.6	3.95	3.6	3.96	3.6
<b>McMaster University</b>	3.84	3.0	3.84	3.0	3.87	3.0
<b>Queen's University</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Western University</b>	3.85	3.70	N/A	3.7	N/A	3.7
<b>Laurentian/Lakehead University</b>	3.80	3.0	3.80	3.0	3.83	3.0

\* Min = minimum requirement GPA average cutoff for consideration \* N/A = Not available

References

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**Table 3:** The minimum requirement for out and in province applicants and average undergraduate GPA scores of the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 entering classes at the other Canadian medical schools<sup>9-11</sup>.

School	2015/16 <sup>9</sup>			2014/15 <sup>9</sup>			2013/14 <sup>10</sup>		
	Avg	Out Min	In Min	Avg	Out Min	In Min	Avg	Out Min	In Min
Memorial University	3.85	-	-	3.85	-	-	-	-	-
Dalhousie University	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.8	3.7	3.3
Laval University	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
University of Sherbrooke	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
University of Montreal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
McGill University	3.84	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
University of Manitoba*	3.30	3.3	3.3	N/A	3.3	3.3	N/A	3.3	3.3
University of Saskatchewan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
University of Alberta	3.83	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.5	3.3
University of Calgary	3.72	3.8	3.2	3.72	3.8	3.2	3.73	3.8	3.2
University of British Columbia	N/A	85%	75%	3.83	85%	75%	3.82	N/A	N/A

Schools with a \* use a GPA scale out of 4.5

Out Min = Out-of-Province minimum requirement GPA average cutoff for consideration

In Min = In-Province minimum requirement GPA average cutoff for consideration

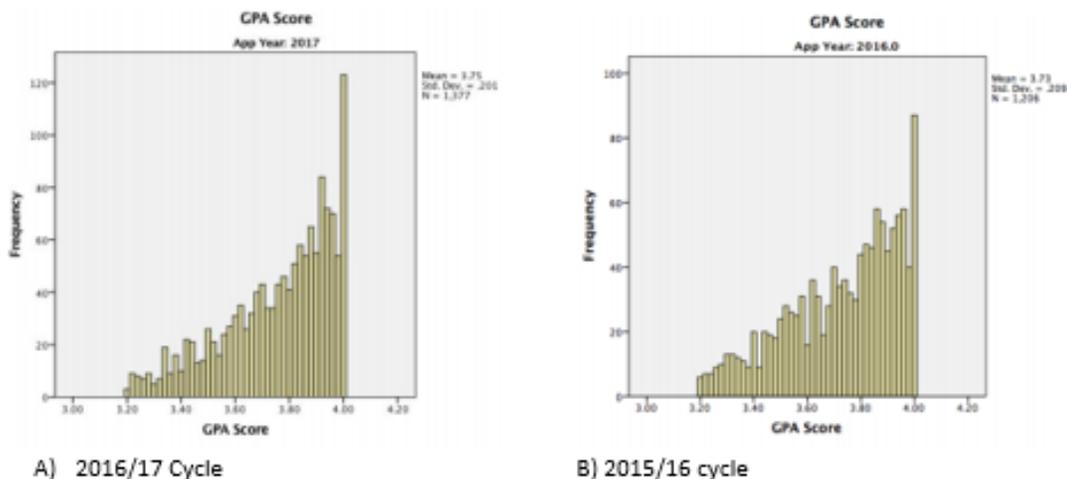
N/A = Not available

**Table 4:** The number and percentage of students in the entering classes of the University of British Columbia and McMaster University with undergraduate averages in several different percentage or GPA brackets.

UBC % Avg <sup>13</sup>	90.00-100%	85.00-89.99%	80.00-84.99%	75.00-79.99%	70.00-74.99%
2013	67 (23%)	132 (46%)	84 (30%)	4 (1%)	1 (0%)
2014	60 (21%)	129 (45%)	84 (29%)	15 (5%)	0 (0%)
2015	77 (27%)	129 (45%)	66 (23%)	15 (5%)	1 (0%)
2016	99	55	23	13	1

McMaster GPA Avg <sup>21</sup>	4.00-3.90	3.89-3.80	3.79-3.70	3.69-3.60	3.59-3.50	3.49-3.00
2013	75 (37%)	48 (24%)	47 (23%)	20 (10%)	9 (4%)	4 (2%)
2014	80 (39%)	70 (34%)	27 (13%)	14 (7%)	8 (4%)	7 (3%)
2015	89 (43%)	59 (29%)	30 (15%)	15 (7%)	9 (4%)	3 (1%)
2016	93 (45%)	56 (27%)	25 (12%)	15 ( )	11	6



**Figure 2:** The GPA averages of successful applicants in the A) 2016-2017 cycle and the B) 2015-2016 cycle at the University of Calgary, Cummings School of Medicine taken from their statistics documents<sup>15,16</sup>.



**Myth: I need to write the MCAT and excel within each component to be accepted into medical school.**

**Fact:** Similar to GPA, it is very important to do well on your MCAT exam. However, all medical schools use MCAT in different ways for their application process. Some schools, as listed in Table 5, do not currently use the MCAT in their admissions criteria at all<sup>9</sup>. Keep in mind that the University of Ottawa now recommends taking the MCAT and might factor it into future application assessments. Similarly, McMaster and University of Calgary currently only use the scores from the CARS section in their admissions criteria<sup>19,20</sup>. There are some Canadian medical schools, such as the University of Toronto, Queen’s University and Western University who use the MCAT as a threshold for admissions and if a student has a score above the MCAT threshold, then the application can be assessed<sup>22-24</sup>. In some cases, like the University of Toronto, the threshold is a set number (125 per section)<sup>22</sup>, and in other cases, like Queen’s and Western, the threshold fluctuates depending on the applicant pool that year<sup>23,24</sup>.

Although each school varies in the way they assess MCAT scores, it is recommended to achieve the highest possible score to appeal to as many medical schools as possible. The higher your MCAT score, the more competitive an applicant for medical school you are. If interested in a particular school, please consult the school website for more information specifically directed at the MCAT requirements for that school.

**Table 5:** Canadian medical schools that don’t require the MCAT exam<sup>9</sup>.

Medical Schools <sup>9</sup>
University of Ottawa <sup>17</sup>
Northern Ontario School of Medicine <sup>18</sup>
Laval University
University of Sherbrooke
University of Montreal
McGill University* <sup>28</sup>

\* Optional for students with degrees from a Canadian University, which would only be used if they render the application more competitive

**Myth: Writing the MCAT more than once has negative consequences for your application.**

**Fact:** There is some variance with the treatment of multiple MCAT scores for Canadian Medical school applications. Typically schools will require all scores to be sent to them but will either consider only your highest or most recent MCAT score. However, Memorial University currently considers all MCAT scores and takes improvement into consideration<sup>26</sup>. Table 6 lists how each of the Canadian medical schools assesses multiple MCAT scores.

References

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**Table 6:** The methods that Canadian medical schools use to assess multiple MCAT scores, including only considering the best score, only considering the most recent score and considering all scores.

<b>Best Score</b>	<b>Most Recent Score</b>	<b>Considers All</b>
Queen's University <sup>24</sup>	McMasters University <sup>21</sup>	Memorial University <sup>26</sup>
Dalhousie University <sup>27*</sup>	University of Toronto <sup>22</sup>	
McGill University <sup>28</sup>	Western University <sup>23</sup>	
University of Manitoba <sup>29</sup>	University of Saskatchewan <sup>30</sup>	
University of Alberta <sup>31*</sup>		
University of Calgary <sup>20</sup>		
University of British Columbia <sup>32</sup>		

\* Asked in application, which test score you want used for assessment. Assumed applicant would select for best score.

#### References

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# Veterinary School Applications Myths vs Facts

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**Myth: You must be in a pre-veterinary major or biology in order to apply to veterinary school**

**Fact:** If you are not in a science major, then you should be mindful of required courses that are specific to each school. However, you are able to complete any undergraduate program prior to veterinary school, as long as you take the required prerequisite courses. Table 7 outlines the Canadian Veterinary college prerequisite courses. Since this table is just a summary, please consult the website for your schools of interest if you would like more detailed information on the academic and the non-academic requirements.

**Table 7:** Prerequisites for Canadian veterinary schools, adapted by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)'s summary of course prerequisite chart<sup>33</sup>.

	Calgary*	Guelph	Montreal*	Prince Edward Island*	Saskatchewan*
Biology/Zoology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organic Chemistry	✓			✓	✓
Physics			✓		✓
Biochemistry	✓	✓			✓
Inorganic Chemistry	✓		✓	✓	✓
Math/Statistics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
English Composition	✓			✓	✓
Humanities/ Social Sciences		✓			
Genetics	✓	✓		✓	✓
Microbiology					✓
Electives				✓	✓
Cell Biology		✓			
Ecology	✓				
BSc Required	No	No	No	No	No

\* Indicates schools that only accept residents of that province (12 months of non-post-secondary school)

**Myth: It is almost impossible to get into veterinary school**

**Fact:** Although not impossible to get into veterinary school, it is very competitive. Unfortunately, veterinary medicine is known to have a very limited number of seats and there are not as many schools that offer veterinary medicine compared to human medicine. Thus, the pool of applicants is much larger than the number of seats available.

**Myth: If I apply the first time and do not get in, I will never get into vet school**

**Fact:** A lot of students do not get in on their first try, which does not mean that they should give up. According to statistics from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) for 2015: 65 applicants were accepted on their first attempt, 29 on their second, 6 on their third and 1 on their fourth<sup>34</sup>. If you are worried about not being accepted after multiple attempts, some schools allow you to call and inquire as to why you did not get in. Take this advice as constructive criticism and use it to improve your application.

**Please note that Ontario Veterinary College (Guelph) does not accept repeated courses<sup>37</sup>. All courses that are submitted must be taken during a full-time semester (2.5 credits).**

One method of improvement may include additional volunteer experiences. Try facilities that are not as common as the typical animal hospital or humane society. Volunteering at your local farm, rescue and trauma center, or zoo could give rise to unique opportunities. It is also recommended to try volunteer opportunities that are not animal related. School boards want to see applicants who are well-rounded individuals; people who can relate to one another and to their surroundings. Activities like local summer camps, charities, hospitals, school groups, clubs and mission trips can also add to your application.

**Myth: I need to take the MCAT as part of my application to veterinary school**

**Fact:** You do not need to write the MCAT in order to be eligible to apply to Canadian veterinary schools. For some time, OCV required applicants to write the MCAT. In 2016, OCV took away the MCAT requirement<sup>35</sup>. The Atlantic Veterinary College, located on the campus of the University of Prince Edward Island, requires students to write the Graduate Record Examinations, otherwise known as GRE. This exam has three sections: 1) Verbal Reasoning, which tests your ability to comprehend passages of text and draw conclusions based on those readings, 2) Quantitative Reasoning, a series of mathematical problems, and 3) Analytical Writing, which measures a person's ability to write and think critically<sup>36</sup>. For more information about the test and what location you can write this test visit the following link: <https://www.ets.org/gre>. The University of Montreal, University of Saskatchewan, and the University of Calgary do not require any examination to be written.

**Myth: As an Ontario Resident, I can apply to the five accredited Veterinary Schools in Canada.**

**Fact:** The province in which you reside is the province that you are permitted to apply to. As residents of Ontario, we can apply only to OVC in Guelph, ON<sup>38</sup>. To be considered a resident of any province, you must live in such province for 12 months not attending post-secondary education. Canadians may also apply to International Schools (AVMA Accredited) in the USA or the Caribbean<sup>39</sup>. Please see individual school websites for international student requirements.

## References

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# Pharmacy School Applications Myths vs Facts

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**Myth: You need to have written the PCAT when applying to pharmacy school.**

**Fact:** Although not all universities require the PCAT, it is required for the University of Toronto and the majority of pharmacy schools in the United States of America.<sup>40</sup> Many Canadian schools, such as the University of Waterloo, do not require a PCAT score. Instead, additional weight is placed on reference letters, relative pharmacy experience, and overall university grade averages.<sup>41</sup> Table 8 specifies the PCAT requirement for each pharmacy school in Canada.

**Table 8:** The PCAT requirement for each pharmacy school in Canada.

	PCAT Requirement
University of Toronto (Ontario) <sup>40</sup>	Yes
University of Waterloo (Ontario) <sup>41</sup>	No
Dalhousie University (Nova Scotia) <sup>42</sup>	No
University of British Columbia <sup>43</sup>	No
University of Alberta <sup>44</sup>	No
University of Manitoba (Winnipeg) <sup>45</sup>	No
University of Saskatchewan <sup>46</sup>	No
Memorial University of Newfoundland <sup>47</sup>	No
Laval University (Quebec) <sup>48</sup>	No
University of Montreal (Quebec) <sup>49</sup>	No

**Myth: There is no big difference between a PharmD or Bsc.Pharmacy.**

**Fact:** Though both degrees from professional schools will allow you to become a pharmacist, many university are switching from BSc.Pharmacy to PharmD as a career in pharmacy is becoming more extensive and specialized.<sup>50</sup> A PharmD gives graduates additional pharmacy opportunities, specifically regarding roles outside of the traditional community or retail work-related fields.<sup>50</sup> In Canada, PharmD graduates can specialize in clinical and hospital-related settings.<sup>50</sup> This shift has lead universities to offer an increasing number of PharmD programs. Table 9 indicates which degrees are offered at the Canadian pharmacy schools.

## References

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**Table 9:** The degrees offered at each Canadian pharmacy school.

	PharmD	BSc.Pharmacy
University of Toronto (Ontario) <sup>40</sup>	✓	
University of Waterloo (Ontario) <sup>41</sup>	✓	
Dalhousie University (Nova Scotia) <sup>42</sup>	✓ (For 2019)	✓
University of British Columbia <sup>43</sup>	✓	
University of Alberta <sup>44</sup>	✓ (For 2018)	✓
University of Manitoba (Winnipeg) <sup>45</sup>		✓
University of Saskatchewan <sup>46</sup>	✓ (For 2018)	✓
Memorial University of Newfoundland <sup>47</sup>	✓ (For 2018)	✓
Laval University (Quebec) <sup>48</sup>	✓	
University of Montreal (Quebec) <sup>49</sup>	✓	

**Myth: You need an extremely high average to be considered for admission.**

**Fact:** Though a high average can be important when applying to pharmacy school, work-related or volunteer experience is also a factor in admissions.<sup>41</sup> For example, it is possible that a student with an average of 80% (the minimum overall average required for the university is 75%) may be considered for admission if their pharmacy-related experience and references are much stronger and extensive opposed to a fellow candidate with a 95% average. It is important to demonstrate strong interest and passion for pharmacy through your work or volunteering. Minimum requirements vary depending the university, for example, the University of British Columbia has a minimum overall average of 65%.<sup>43</sup>

Grades are weighted highly for admissions and it is important to achieve the highest academic average that is possible for you. It may be useful to utilize your university academic advisors for help with goal setting and planning for your applications. Trent academic advising can be found here:

<https://www.trentu.ca/advising/peterborough.php>

**Myth: You only need high grades in your prerequisite courses.**

**Fact:** All universities in Canada consider your overall university average for all years enrolled as opposed to the average of just the school's prerequisite requirements.<sup>41, 51</sup> Pharmacy schools are looking for students who are well rounded and capable of working hard in subjects beyond science and math courses.<sup>41, 51</sup>

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# Dental School Applications Myths vs Facts

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**Myth: The Manual Dexterity Test component of the DAT is mandatory for all schools.**

**Fact:** Most schools do not require the Manual Dexterity component and have removed it from their prerequisites over the years. Currently, only University of Alberta, Université de Montréal, and Université Laval require it.<sup>52</sup>

**Myth: You need a full undergraduate degree in order to apply to dental school.**

**Fact:** Most universities begin accepting applications after the completion of either 10.0 credits or 15.0 credits towards an undergraduate degree of your choice, i.e. you may apply after second or third year. This is conditional upon the completion of certain prerequisite often including introductory biology, introductory chemistry, organic chemistry, introductory physics, and a social science/humanities credit of your choice. Most schools also allow you to apply if you expect to finish the required number of credits by the May of year of admission. Refer to the admissions guidelines of specific schools to ensure you meet their academic requirements. Table 10 outlines when you may apply to each dental school.

**Table 10:** Credits required to be eligible to apply to Canadian dental schools.

	# of credits
University of Alberta (Alberta) <sup>53</sup>	10.0
University of British Columbia (British Columbia) <sup>54</sup>	15.0
Dalhousie University (Nova Scotia) <sup>55</sup>	10.0
Université Lavale (Quebec) <sup>56</sup>	20.0
University of Manitoba (Manitoba) <sup>57</sup>	10.0
McGill University (Quebec) <sup>58</sup>	20.0*
Université de Montréal (Quebec) <sup>59</sup>	20.0
University of Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan) <sup>60</sup>	15.0
University of Toronto (Ontario) <sup>61</sup>	15.0
Western University (Ontario) <sup>62</sup>	20.0*

\* Can apply during final year

## References

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**Myth: All dental school applications require reference letters.**

**Fact:** Unlike medical school applications, many dental schools do not take reference letters into consideration when evaluating applications. In fact, University of British Columbia explicitly states in their guidelines that they are not accepted<sup>63</sup> and University of Alberta even declares that any and all reference letters will be sent back to the sender.<sup>64</sup> Dalhousie University is the only university that requires reference letters in their application. They request three letters, one of which must be from a university professor who has taught or supervised you during your degree.<sup>65</sup> McGill University does not ask for reference letters but requires a list of referees for verification of the integrity of your submitted CV.<sup>66</sup>

**Myth: Summer courses do not count towards my GPA.**

**Fact:** Each school has a different policy, outlined in Table 11. For schools where policy is not explicitly stated, it is assumed that summer courses are accepted and are included in the calculation of a cumulative GPA. However, it is recommended to contact the respective Admissions Office and clarify any concerns.

**Table 11:** Dental school regulations regarding acceptance of summer school credits.

Dental School	Summer School Policy
University of Alberta (Alberta) <sup>53</sup>	Only 5.0 of 10.0 credits required for application must be taken during the fall/winter school year, i.e. the rest may be summer courses.
University of British Columbia (British Columbia) <sup>67</sup>	Summer courses are accepted.
Dalhousie University (Nova Scotia) <sup>55</sup>	Not explicitly stated.
Université Lavale (Quebec) <sup>56</sup>	Not explicitly stated.
University of Manitoba (Manitoba) <sup>57</sup>	Of 10.0 required credits, 4.0 credits must be taken during the fall/winter terms, resulting in the completion of at least two fall/winter terms, i.e. the rest may be summer courses.
McGill University (Quebec) <sup>58</sup>	Summer courses are accepted but the degree should still be completed on a full-time basis.
Université de Montréal (Quebec) <sup>63</sup>	Not explicitly stated.
University of Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan) <sup>69</sup>	Summer courses are accepted as prerequisites but are not included in GPA calculation.
University of Toronto (Ontario) <sup>61</sup>	Not explicitly stated.
Western University (Ontario) <sup>62</sup>	Summer courses are not used in GPA calculation.

References

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**Myth: It does not matter when I take the DAT.**

**Fact:** The Canadian Dental Association does not have restrictions on who may take the DAT. However, it is recommended that students take the DAT as early as possible.<sup>68</sup> Most schools do not accept DAT exam results past the November of the year of application, with Dalhousie University not accepting DAT results past the February of the year of application.<sup>65</sup> This is because the results are not guaranteed to arrive at the admissions office before applications are evaluated. It is also recommended to take the DAT earlier, so you have the opportunity to retake the test if you desire more competitive scores. However, it is recommended to wait until after first or second year to take the exam in order to ensure any material that overlaps with the curriculum of first and second year science courses is studied thoroughly.

**Myth: Going to a Canadian dental school is the only way to become a dentist.**

**Fact:** While going to a Canadian dental school is advantageous because of its proximity to home and absence of international tuition fees among other reasons, there are other options. The National Dental Examination Board of Canada (NDEB) is partnered with the United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland. This means that a Canadian student, if accepted, may participate in one of many accredited dental programs from these countries, recognized by Canada. Upon completion, they only need to complete the NDEB examination, just as graduates of Canadian programs do, in order to receive certification and be allowed to practice.<sup>69</sup>

References

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