

Frequently Asked Questions

Dental Scholars Program

What standardized test scores are accepted for admission?

For the Dental Scholars Program, we accept either the DAT or GRE. We can accept MCAT if the student can provide some explanation for the change in interest from medical to dental school.

Is there a minimum GPA and DAT (or GRE) score required for admission into SGS?

No. Applicants are admitted based on the overall strength of the application.

If a student is subsequently admitted into dental school, is credit given for dental school courses taken at SGS?

This varies from school to school. Check with the admissions office of the school(s) of interest to you. In the case of Rutgers School of Dental Medicine (RSDM), credits for dental school courses are no longer transferable.

If I am accepted into dental school, do I need to complete the master's program before matriculating into dental school?

Dental schools differ on this requirement, so you should check with the admissions office of the school(s) you are interested in attending. RSDM requires that all students complete the graduate programs in which they are enrolled (including the Dental Scholars Program) before they matriculate to RSDM.

If I am admitted to dental school before completion of the Dental Scholars Program, can I get the master's degree while in dental school?

*Yes, as long as the dental school will allow you to matriculate before you have completed the degree (**RSDM does not – see above**). The SGS allows you to transfer a maximum of 6 credits from another graduate school (dental, medical, another graduate school) to meet the 30 credits required to graduate at SGS. Thus, you could finish 24 (or more) credits at SGS and then transfer up to 6 “graduate” credits from another program. Note: you must earn a grade of B or better in courses requested for transfer.*

Do I need to complete the SGS Dental Scholars Program before applying to dental school?

No

What academic credentials are competitive for admission into dental school?

This depends on the dental school(s) of interest to you. In the case of RSDM, you are required to complete at least one semester of the SGS Dental Scholars Program (or any other comparable program) before RSDM will consider inviting you for interview.

What is the best time to apply to dental school?

The best time to apply is when your academic credentials (including shadowing and service hours), are enough to make your application competitive. ADEA AADSAS opens applications the first

week of June. However, early application without competitive credential will not get you an invitation for interview.

Is it recommended to apply to dental school while applying to the master's program?

If your credentials are not strong enough to be competitive for dental school interview, it is best to improve your academic standing in the master's program before applying to dental school.

What proportion of students admitted into RSDM are New Jersey residents?

Approximately 80% of the students admitted to RSDM are New Jersey residents. It takes one year of stay in New Jersey to qualify for residency.

How many students from the SGS Dental Scholars Program get admitted to dental schools? A

recent study of Dental Scholars who have completed the program during the past 10 years indicates that over 55% have been admitted to one or more dental schools.

How many students from SGS Dental Scholars Program get admitted into RSDM?

It varies from year to year. RSDM admits 90 students from an applicant pool of 2,000 to 3,000 students (nationwide). Eleven of the 90 students in the 2017 class of RSDM are graduates of SGS Dental Scholars Program.

Does RSDM offer guaranteed interview to SGS Dental Scholars?

Yes. Rutgers School of Dental Medicine offers guaranteed interviews to students who earn a 3.7 GPA after at least 20 credits, with a DAT score of at least 20 Total Science and 20 Academic Average.

If I qualify for “guaranteed interview” to RSDM, which academic year would I be interviewing for?

You will be interviewing for the subsequent academic year.