

Dental Representative: Preparing for the DAT and Resources

<https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/index.asp>

General Information - what is the DAT?

The Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) Program is conducted by the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) to help students assess their aptitude for a career in dentistry and to assist dental schools in selecting first-year students.

The English DAT consists of two components:

- 1) Survey of Natural Sciences Test, a Perceptual Ability Test, and a Reading Comprehension Test
- 2) Manual Dexterity Test (MDT).

****There is no Reading Comprehension Test on the French DAT****

2021 onwards → registration for the written DAT component is separate from registration for the MDT component, and these components are administered separately during different sessions.

All important information needed to register for the DAT is provided in the DAT Information section. Applicants should review this information before beginning the registration process. <https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/information/>

Sections (as of 2020): a brief description of what these sections include

Scope of the DAT

SCOPE OF DENTAL APTITUDE TEST (DAT)		
Component	Number of Questions	Time allotted
Manual Dexterity Test (MDT)	N/A	30 minutes
Survey of Natural Sciences (SNS)	70 questions (Biology 1-40 chemistry 41-70)	60 minutes
Perceptual Ability Test (PAT)	90 questions	60 minutes
Reading Comprehension Test (RCT)	50 questions	50 minutes

There are 4 examinations included in the English DAT and 3 examinations included in the French DAT. The tests are administered over one half (½) day and include:

1. **Manual Dexterity Test (MDT)** - Carving a specified model out of a cylindrical bar of soap specially made for the DAT.

- a. The Manual Dexterity Test is **optional** as some dental schools do not use the manual dexterity test results. Check with the school(s) you are interested in applying
- 2. Survey of Natural Sciences** (40 Biology and 30 General Chemistry questions)
Biology - origin of life; cell metabolism (including photosynthesis); enzymology; cellular processes; thermodynamics; organelle structure and function; mitosis/meiosis; biological organization and relationship of major taxa (using the five-kingdom system: monera, planti; anamalia; protista; fungi); Vertebrate Anatomy and Physiology etc.
- General Chemistry** – Stoichiometry and General Concepts (percent composition; empirical formulae; balancing equations; moles and molecular formulas; molecular formula weights; molar mass; density; calculations from balanced equations; gases (kinetic molecular theory of gases; Dalton's, Boyle's, Charles', and ideal gas laws); etc.
- 3. Perceptual Ability** (90 questions; 15Q each subset)
- 1) apertures or known as keyhole
 - 2) view recognition or known as Top-Front-End View
 - 3) angle discrimination
 - 4) paper folding
 - 5) cube counting
 - 6) given 2D and must know the 3D form.
- 4. Reading Comprehension (English DAT only)** (50 questions)
Consists of 3 reading passages. Ability to read, organize, analyze and remember new information in dental and basic sciences.

The English- and French-language examinations require approximately 3 and 2 hours respectively. There are **no scheduled breaks during the exam**. Please plan accordingly. If you require a bathroom break, it will be possible only during the official exam time.

Canadian schools that require the DAT

***MDT was omitted for 2021 cycle**

University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Manitoba
Dalhousie University

University of Toronto
Western University
McGill University (2021 cycle DAT was omitted)
Université de Montréal
Université Laval (French only)
University of Saskatchewan

General Concepts and Skills to know for the DAT arranged in a table

- **Aim an average score of 21**
- **2 pieces of ID with photos**
- Up to 5 official transcripts of your DAT scores are included in the DAT registration fee (and one personal copy); more than 5 schools then additional cost.
- Everything you need will be provided (i.e., pencils will be provided)
- Do not start filling out anything. They will tell you when to start, when to write your name, etc.
- No calculators

2020 exam (COVID Edition)

- Limited seating's available. First come first serve to write the test. May have to travel if the preferred location is full to write the test.
- This video which outlines what to expect on Test Day at the Prometric Test Center:
<https://www.prometric.com/test-takers/what-expect>
- You will be asked to store all items in a storage locker. It is best that you leave all unnecessary items at home or in the car
- Assigned seating's and must wear a mask at all times. Both medical masks and cloth face coverings are acceptable. Masks with exhale/one-way valves are prohibited, due to the lack of viral particle filtration provided by these masks.
- You **MUST** arrive at your scheduled Test Center 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment time

Registration + when it is offered (Canada)

All registrations **must** be completed using the DAT website. You **must** register before the DAT registration deadline

https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/register_dat/dat_registration/step_1.asp

Usually 2 test days in a year: November and February

- Registration for the DAT exams will open in sometime late summer (i.e., July)
- https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/register_dat/

Resources to help prepare (free or with cost)

DATCrusher Registration: <https://datcrusher.ca>

DAT Bootcamp Registration: <https://datbootcamp.com>

- can use Biology notes for free: <https://datbootcamp.com/bootcamp-biology-notes/>
- Practice Test #1 is free

Practice typing fast for CASPer: <https://www.keybr.com/>

OUAC grading system conversion: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/omsas-conversion-table/>

- Schools like UofT follow this grading system
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Dental Registration Portal for American Dental Schools:

https://www.adea.org/GoDental/Application_Prep/Preparing_for_Dental_School.aspx

- Have other great resources in the website

Kaplan Free DAT practice: <https://www.kaptest.com/dat/free/dat-20-minute-workout>

DAT Destroyer Textbook: <https://orgoman.com/products/dat-destroyer>

Free Practice DAT perceptual ability: <https://jcoreview.com/dat/pat/angle-ranking/angle-ranking-techniques/video>

Tips on PAT: <https://patbooster.com/pat-trainer/keyhole/>

<https://www.dentalschooldigest.com/rock-dat-working-pat/>

BIOLOGY NOTES: <https://www.notion.so/DAT-Bootcamp-Bio-Academy-c9625820803548d698a9b47c5dd35fa4>

DAT study tips: <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2015/06/dat-study-tips.pdf>

- (American Version but useful still)

Practice DAT test: <http://orgomanonline.com/free-dat-tests/overview.html>

Sample Hole Punching (PAT section): <https://www.docdroid.net/2TzrZnP/sample-datcrusher-printable-holepunching-generator-pdf>