

The following is the information we heard from a few specific dental schools regarding COVID-related changes to their admissions policies for the upcoming cycle. I encourage you to visit the websites of all the schools to which you plan to apply in order to stay updated with any changes they may be making as the situation develops.

Columbia University College of Dental Medicine

Pass/fail grading on transcripts will not hurt people's applications this cycle. CDM has been doing holistic reviews on applications and will continue to do so this cycle. The deans emphasized the holistic aspect of application review and that they understand that students in the 2020 cycle will require special consideration due to COVID. Whether pass/fail grading was imposed by the school or self-selected will not hurt an applicant's chances.

CDM typically doesn't adhere to a certain number of shadowing or volunteer hours, but fewer opportunities for shadowing will be taken into account during application review. They also mentioned that they anticipate many things will be delayed this cycle, including the DAT, letters of recommendations, shadowing, and transcripts, and that they will understand if applicants aren't able to take the DAT until later in the year.

Harvard University

Harvard understands that many undergraduate schools are offering students the option to take spring and summer 2020 courses for pass/fail credit or have transitioned entirely to a pass/fail curriculum. HSDM will accept pass/fail credit Harvard will remain dedicated to holistic review of applications during this time.

More information can be found here: <https://hsdm.harvard.edu/coronavirus-updates>

University of California San Francisco

Online Courses – Many undergraduate schools have gone to online courses during the pandemic. UCSF will accept online courses if they are offered by the school at which the candidate was enrolled prior to the current crisis. For students who are beyond undergraduate school, UCSF will accept online courses undertaken to meet prerequisites regardless of the institution. Please keep in mind, these courses and units must be earned at an accredited U.S. or English-speaking Canadian institution. If you are uncertain about your specific plans, you should email the Office of Admissions & Outreach prior to enrolling in the course.

Pass/Fail Grades – UCSF will accept pass/fail grades (if it's an option, they prefer graded course work), without prejudice, for courses taken during the COVID pandemic. They have always considered grades in the context of numerous other aspects of the application, and an international crisis certainly provides a unique and compelling perspective.

This information was found on their Admissions website, accessible here:

<https://dentistry.ucsf.edu/programs/dds/admissions?fbclid=IwAR1OiK8xZljDb239EN5gVb9T3te6-GwovlzqYihDFKqyWo9XjZYmazNtfrc>

University of Michigan

University of Michigan will accept pass/fail grading for courses as long as your school doesn't include a grade below a C- in the pass category. They encourage students to choose non-pass/fail grading where possible, but won't hold it against you if you don't. They are aware that many DAT test dates have been delayed, and haven't made any official timing changes to their admissions process, but will be closely watching to see if this is necessary. University of Michigan normally has a shadowing requirement of 100 hours, but have reduced this number to 50 hours for this cycle.

This information was found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/168L4UkZBgRR_2WNpk28xMITVfKZge-cz/view

University of Nevada Las Vegas

UNLV will continue to review applications as they are completed but don't currently anticipate having to delay their Admissions cycle. If this COVID pandemic allows a minimal return to function and testing resumes over the next three months, UNLV doesn't anticipate COVID-related delays will hurt the chances for admission for applicants this cycle. However, they will be watching the situation and updating their website with any policy changes they make.

More information can be found here: <https://www.unlv.edu/dental/admissions>

University of North Carolina

UNC is aware that many DAT test dates have been delayed due to COVID – for this reason, they will be considering strong applications without DAT scores for interview invitations, but they won't be providing acceptance offers until a DAT score is received. They will accept pass/fail grading for prerequisite courses but prefer non-pass/fail grading if possible. UNC doesn't have a shadowing requirement and understands if shadowing experiences were limited by COVID.

More information can be found on their COVID updates page here:

<https://www.dentistry.unc.edu/academicprograms/dds/admissions-covid-19/>

University of the Pacific

UOP will still be waiting to officially review an application until the DAT score and letters of recommendation have been submitted, but they won't disadvantage any applications based on timing and be flexible in terms of their timeline. They are accepting online and pass/fail/no credit prerequisite courses, including labs. The website doesn't say anything about limited shadowing hours due to COVID, but the school only has a 40-hour minimum. UOP also often interviews later than most other schools.

More information on their COVID-related updates can be found here:

<https://www.dental.pacific.edu/academic-programs/doctor-of-dental-surgery/dds-admissions-requirements>

