

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Academic Programs Committee, University Council

Date: March 19, 2026

Presented by: Paul Jones, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

Subject: Bachelor of Science Dental Therapy Admission Qualification Changes

MOTION

It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the admission qualification changes for the Bachelor of Science in Dental Therapy, effective for the 2027-2028 application cycle.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The College of Dentistry is proposing an admission change to the Bachelor of Science in Dental Therapy program to align the program's admission requirements with Saskatchewan's new high school graduation standards, under which only *one* 30-level English course is required as a prerequisite. As a result, several options are being removed, although English Language Arts will continue to be the preferred course.

With this change, a second elective is being added where students can choose either a natural science elective or a fine and performing arts elective to maintain a five-subject admission average.

Additionally, the personal statement requirement is being removed and replaced with an interview process, which is intended to provide a more accurate representation of applicants.

CONSULTATION

The College of Dentistry submitted a proposal to the Academic Programs Committee (APC) on February 4, 2026. APC had the opportunity to review the proposal and voted in favour of the changes. University Council has the authority to approve changes to admission qualifications. Senate confirmation of the decision is required before the changes can take effect.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Bachelor of Science Dental Therapy Admission Qualification Changes

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Degree(s) Bachelor of Science	
Fields of study Dental Therapy	
Concentration (i.e. option, specialization within a major, themes, streams, focus, etc.):	
Academic Unit (unit offering the program): Dentistry	Proposed date for implementation: Fall 2027
Contact person name Jamie Wilkie	Email jamie.wilkie@usask.ca
Motion Carried at the College Faculty Council Approval or equivalent: MOTION: That the updated Dental Therapy admission template be approved as distributed. <i>Uswak G./Gomes L</i>	

Admission requirements are made up of several factors including admission qualifications and selection criteria which are governed under the [Policy on Admission to Degree Programs](#).

Select the area in which you are proposing to change/create:

Admission Qualifications

These are the credentials that an applicant must present in order to establish eligibility for admission. They include but are not restricted to objective qualifications such as high school subjects, secondary or post-secondary standing, minimum averages, English proficiency, and minimum scores on standardized tests. Qualifications may vary for some admission categories. Admission Qualifications become part of your "Admission Requirements" for applicants.

Admission category

Admission categories are approved at a university wide level and are a way to differentiate and compare applicants with similar qualifications (i.e. Regular Admission, Special Admission, Indigenous Specific Seats, etc.).

Enrolment Management

Changes to the capacity of seats available for new admits if different from the college/school strategic enrolment plan.

Selection Criteria

The means by which a college assesses and ranks its applicants for admission. They include but are not restricted to admission test scores, cut-off averages, interview scores, departmental recommendations, auditions, portfolios, letters of reference, admission essays, definitions of essential abilities for professional practice, and the relative weighting to be given to the various requirements. Selection criteria may vary for some admission categories.

Learner Pathway

Different routes that individuals choose to progress into, within, and out of the post-secondary education system. Note: If the learner pathway requires individuals to adhere to a **different set of admission qualifications** this would then require Council level approval.

RATIONALE

Describe the rationale for the admission change and provide a statement from College/School leadership recommending the change and how it relates to the strategic mission and enrolment plan of the College.

Admission Qualifications

- Saskatchewan's high school graduation requirements are changing to require only one Grade 12-level English course instead of two, with the first graduates under this new standard expected in 2027. In response, we propose adjusting our prerequisite to require only one 30-level English course. Additionally, we recommend removing Français Immersion, Literature 30, and Composition 30 as language options, as English Language Arts remains our preferred choice.

To maintain a five-subject admission average following this change, we suggest adding a second elective prerequisite. This would include the option of a natural science or a fine or performing arts elective, with the condition that no more than one elective may fall within the fine or performing arts category.

The determination of whether proof of English proficiency is required is no longer based on an applicant's first language, but rather on the language of instruction and examination in their previous education. Therefore, we propose removing the descriptive text currently included for the English proficiency requirement and replacing it with a hyperlink to the official English Proficiency Requirements page.

- We have determined that personal statements do not provide an accurate representation of applicants. Therefore, we propose removing the letter of personal introduction from the High School, Mature, and Hygienist admission categories and replacing it with an online interview component.
- Since there is no differential tuition for the DT program and to ensure applicants are assessed within the correct applicant category, we propose requiring all applicants to provide proof of residency—whether in Saskatchewan or out of province. The admission template includes the proposed criteria for verifying both Saskatchewan and out-of-province residency, which we recommend implementing.

Selection Criteria

- To accommodate the proposed removal of the letter of personal introduction and the introduction of an online interview component, we recommend revising the selection criteria for the High School, Mature, and Hygienist categories so that the online interview directly replaces the letter of personal introduction, including its associated weighting.
- Applicants with dental-related training or education tend to be more successful in the program. To recognize this, we propose incorporating a bonus point system into the selection criteria for applicants in the High School and Mature student categories who have relevant dental-related education or training. A maximum of five points may be added to an applicant's overall score based on their post-secondary education and/or training in a dental-related field.

Note: The Academic Programs Committee is responsible for evaluating academic implications of admission requirements. Approval at APC, Council and Senate (where applicable) does not imply approval of required resources (faculty complement, additional space requirements, etc.). Academic units are responsible for implementing these changes within the resources available including any incremental tuition generated.

Admission Qualifications

High School Graduates

1. Required high school classes

Completion of the following courses or equivalents with an average of at least **70%**:

- Biology 30
- Foundations of Mathematics 30 **or** Pre-Calculus 30
- English Language Arts A30 **and or** B30 **or** English Language Arts A30 and Francais Immersion 30 **or** English Language Arts B30 and Francais Immersion 30 **or** Literature 30 and Composition 30
- ~~One~~ **Two** additional Grade 12 course in a Social Science, Humanities, **Natural Science or Fine or Performing Art (a maximum of one Fine or Performing Art subject)**

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2. English proficiency

If your first language is not English, you may have to prove **proficiency in English** before admission.

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3. ~~Letter of personal introduction (intent letter)~~ **Online Interview**

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Please provide a one-page essay that will give us a clear picture of who you are and, most importantly, why you want to pursue a career in dental therapy (minimum 500 words, maximum 1000 words). **All eligible applicants seeking admission are required to attend an online interview as part of the selection process. Interviews are granted based on the academic average and letters of support.**

4. Letters of support

Please provide two letters of support. Letters may provide information such as your suitability for and commitment to study, past education experience, personal qualities, etc. Possible sources for letters of support may include but are not limited to: past instructor/teacher, employer, community or spiritual leader, or other suitable personal reference.

Dental Therapy

5. Proof of residency

Applicants must prove their residency as a Saskatchewan or out of province resident.

Mature Students

Mature students who have been out of school for at least one year are eligible for admission. The minimum high school average for mature students is 60%. Applicants having completed a high school equivalency program (i.e., GED) may be considered on an individual basis.

1. Required high school classes

Completion of the following courses or equivalents with an average of at least **60%**:

- Biology 30
- Foundations of Mathematics 30 **or** Pre-Calculus 30
- English Language Arts A30 and or B30 **or** English Language Arts A30 and Francais Immersion 30 **or** English Language Arts B30 and Francais Immersion 30 **or** Literature 30 and Composition 30
- One Two additional Grade 12 course in a Social Science, Humanities, Natural Science or Fine or Performing Art (a maximum of one Fine or Performing Art subject)

2. English proficiency

If your first language is not English, you may have to prove **proficiency in English** before admission.

3. Letter of personal introduction (intent letter) **Online Interview**

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Dental Therapy

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Please provide two letters of support. Letters may provide information such as your suitability for and commitment to study, past education experience, personal qualities, etc. Possible sources for letters of support may include but are not limited to: past instructor/teacher, employer, community or spiritual leader, or other suitable personal reference.

5. Proof of residency

Applicants must prove their residency as a Saskatchewan or out of province resident.

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Dental Hygienist Applicants

Applicants will be eligible for admission if they:

- have graduated from a Canadian or US dental hygiene program.
- are currently licensed to practice dental hygiene in any Canadian province or territory.
- have at least 1 year of clinical dental hygiene experience in public or private practice.
- provide a letter of good standing from their licensing regulator(s).
- ~~provide a letter of personal introduction (intent letter).~~ Attend the online interview
- provide letters of support (two (2) letters).
- are Canadian citizens or permanent residents or landed immigrants.
- provide proof of residency

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The dental therapy program allows dental hygienists to complete the BSc(DT) program in one year.

Internationally-trained Dentist Applicants

Dental Therapy

Applicants will be eligible for admission if they:

- have completed a minimal four-year degree in dentistry (e.g., DDS, DMD or BDS) from a dental program from an academic institution not recognized by the Commission on Dental Education of Canada (CDAC).
- have completed the Advanced Dental Admissions Test (ADAT) of the American Dental Association. ~~Acceptable dates are March 1, 2023-2024 – August 31, 2025-2026.~~
- IDDP or DT USask Assessment of Clinical Skills Examination and interview score. ~~(acceptable dates 2021-2025-2022-2026).~~
- are proficient in English as per the [University of Saskatchewan acceptable levels of academic English](#).
- ~~are~~ Canadian citizens or permanent residents, or landed immigrants in Canada.
- [provide proof of residency](#)

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Dental Therapy USask Assessment of Clinical Skills Examination and interview

Applicants may be selected to participate in the Dental Therapy USask Assessment of Clinical Skills Examination and interview. Selection of applicants will be based on ADAT score. Applicants will be assessed on clinical skills as well as communication skills in a clinical setting. The interview will be conducted as a traditional panel interview.

The assessment and interview will be conducted at the University of Saskatchewan College of Dentistry in Saskatoon over a 1-day period.

Indigenous Applicants

This program has seats designated for Indigenous applicants. Verification of Indigenous Membership/Citizenship at the University of Saskatchewan is led and determined by the [deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin: Indigenous Truth policy](#) and Standing Committee in accordance with the processes developed to enact the policy. [Verification of Indigenous Membership/Citizenship with documentation](#) is a condition of acceptance for this program.

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Saskatchewan Residents

To be eligible as a Saskatchewan resident, applicants must have resided in Saskatchewan for at least FOUR years immediately prior to September 1 of the year admission is being sought. ~~For 2027-2028, applicants must have resided in Saskatchewan since September 1, 2023.~~ Applicants who have left the province, but previously lived in Saskatchewan for an accumulated period of 15 years (permanent residency), will be considered residents. Applicants who have previously lived in Saskatchewan for an accumulated period of less than 15 years and who do not qualify under the four-year requirement will receive credit of one year toward the four-year requirement for every four years of residency in the province. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to the four-year Saskatchewan residency rule.

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In order to support a claim as a resident of Saskatchewan, the following proof and circumstances will be taken into account:

- Date of issue of your Saskatchewan Health Card¹ AND either the date of issue of your Saskatchewan Drivers' License² OR Saskatchewan Income Tax Forms confirming taxes paid in Saskatchewan.
 - Applicants who have completed four years of full-time study at a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution immediately prior to the year admission is being sought are considered Saskatchewan residents. Official transcripts must be submitted by the document deadline to support this claim.
 - Reasons for any break in continuity of residence, which includes attendance at an out-of-province educational institution, summer employment where applicable and any other reason deemed to be relevant
 - Saskatchewan high school transcript (if you are NOT currently registered at the University of Saskatchewan) or
 - Resident of the Yukon, Northwest or Nunavut Territories.
1. If the date of issue of your Saskatchewan Health Card is newer than the original date of issue, a letter from Saskatchewan Health confirming the date of issue is required.

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2. If the date of issue of your Saskatchewan Driver's License is newer than the original date of issue, a Drivers Abstract is required.

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Out of Province Residents

To be eligible as an out of province resident, applicants must have resided outside of Saskatchewan for at least TWO years immediately prior to September 1 of the year admission is being sought. ~~For 2027-2028, applicants must have resided outside of Saskatchewan since September 1, 2025. Applicants who have relocated from their home province, territory, or country to Saskatchewan will be considered out-of-province residents if the four-year Saskatchewan residency requirement has not been met.~~

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In order to support a claim as an out of province resident, the following proof and circumstances will be taken into account:

- Date of issue of your provincial Health Card¹
- Date of issue of your provincial Drivers' License²
- Out of province Income Tax Forms confirming taxes paid outside of Saskatchewan.
- Applicants who have completed two years of full-time study at a post-secondary institution outside of Saskatchewan immediately prior to the year admission is being sought are considered out of province residents. Official transcripts must be submitted by the document deadline to support this claim.
- Out of province high school transcript
- Household/Utility Statements or Lease Agreements
- Immigration documents

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1. If the date of issue of your Health Card is newer than the original date of issue, a letter from your Provincial Health Authority confirming the date of issue is required.

2. If the date of issue of your Driver's License is newer than the original date of issue, a Drivers Abstract is required.

Agency Sponsorship

To address national dental therapy workforce needs, the program will make seats available to enable agencies from Saskatchewan and across the country to recruit and sponsor students to study and then undertake return of service agreements with the agencies upon graduation. This is a key pathway to filling unfilled dental therapy positions across Canada.

The University of Saskatchewan and the dental therapy program will not be directly involved in agency recruitment of potential sponsorship students or the terms of any agency-student return of service agreements but will provide support to sponsors and potential sponsored students.

All sponsored students must meet the program's admission requirements and once admitted, must maintain the academic standing requirements for promotion and graduation.

Submission of a sponsorship application does not guarantee acceptance by the University of Saskatchewan and the program. Sponsorship priority will be given to Indigenous students in accordance with the admission priorities of the program.

The number of available sponsorship seats will follow the program's admission policy to balance provincial and national dental therapy workforce needs. Up to 17 seats per year are open to out-of-province residents and can be sponsored by non-Saskatchewan agencies. The remaining 11 seats are for Saskatchewan residents and are eligible for sponsorship by Saskatchewan agencies.

If in any given year there are not enough qualified Saskatchewan applicants, these seats will be opened to out-of-province applicants, including agency-sponsored students.

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If in any given year there are not enough qualified out-of-province applicants, these seats will be opened to Saskatchewan applicants, including agency-sponsored students.

Sponsorship students may indicate their preference for which campus they want to study, but not all requests are guaranteed to be accommodated.

Eligible agencies include:

- First Nations and Inuit communities and Indigenous governments
- Federal, provincial, and territorial governments
- Regional health authorities

Selection Criteria

High school graduates and mature students

A total maximum of 40 points will be awarded to applicants in the following areas:

- Academic average - 20 points
- ~~Letter of personal introduction (intent letter) - 10 points~~ ~~Online Interview - 10 points~~
- Letter of support (2 of them - 5 points each) - 10 points

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*Applicants who have completed relevant post-secondary education and/or training in a dental-related field may be eligible for bonus points in the admission process. A maximum of 5 bonus points may be applied to the applicant's overall points.

Applicants must provide official documentation (e.g., transcripts, certificates or employer letters) to verify eligibility for bonus points. All documentation must be submitted by the document deadline. Failure to provide sufficient proof will result in ineligibility for bonus point consideration.

Dental hygienists

Dental hygienist applicants will be ranked via several selection factors. A total maximum of 25 points will be awarded to applicants in the following areas:

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- Academic average (dental hygiene program) - 5 points
- ~~Letter of personal introduction (intent letter) - 10 points~~ ~~Online Interview - 10 points~~
- Letter of support (2 of them - 5 points each) - 10 points

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Internationally trained dentists

Internationally trained dentist applicants will be ranked using three selection factors. A total maximum of 25 points will be awarded to applicants in the following areas:

- Advanced Dental Admissions Test (ADAT) score - 10 points
- USask Assessment of Clinical Skills Examination score - 10 points
- USask panel interview score - 5 points

Required Documentation

Applications are not complete until **all** required documents are received. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all required documentation is received. Applicants can check the status of their application online by logging in to their application. Please ensure that the Admissions Office, College of Dentistry has a current address, telephone number, and email address.

High school graduates and mature students

- ~~Letter of personal introduction (intent letter)~~
- Two letters of support
- Official transcripts
- ~~Other applicable documentation~~
- ~~Proof of residency~~

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Dental hygienists

- Official transcripts (dental hygiene program only)
- Letter of good standing from licensing regulator(s)
- ~~Other applicable documentation~~
- ~~Proof of residency~~

Dental Therapy

Internationally trained dentists

- Advanced Dental Admissions Test (ADAT)
- USask Assessment of Clinical Skills Examination and interview score
(acceptable dates 2021-2025~~2022-2026~~)
- Other applicable documentation
- Proof of residency

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Consultation with the Registrar (CWR) – Proposal Highlights

Title of Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Dental Therapy [B.Sc.(DT)] – Changes to Admission Requirements and Selection Criteria

General Description: The College of Dentistry proposes the following changes:

Admission Requirements:

- Require one 30-level English course, rather than two. This involves indicating English Language Arts as the preferred prerequisite and removing Français Immersion, Literature 30, and Composition 30 as options.
- Maintain the five-subject admission average; however, add options to use a natural science or fine/performing arts elective (with a limit of one fine/performing arts elective).
- Indicate that proof of English Proficiency will follow USask’s English Proficiency rules; provide link to rules.
- Remove the personal statement requirement from the High School, Mature, and Hygienist admission categories and replace it with an online interview.
- Require proof of residency for all applicants and include criteria for verification of both Saskatchewan and out-of-province residency.

Selection Criteria:

- Replace personal statement with online interview requirement for High School, Mature, and Hygienist categories. Weighting will remain the same for interview as it was for personal statement.
- Add maximum of five bonus points to applicant score, based on post-secondary education and/or training in a dental-related field.

College Approval: College of Dentistry Faculty Council approved, December 17, 2025.

Provost’s Office Review: Provost’s office has reviewed and supports proposal.

Effective Term: 2027-28 application cycle

Course implications

- N/A

Registration and classes

- N/A

Convocation

- N/A

Financial and Budget

- N/A

Student Mobility

- N/A



PROVOST & SFO CONSULTATION

To: Academic Programs Committee of Council

From: Kyla Shea, Academic Programs and Planning Specialist

Date: January 30, 2026

Re: Dental Therapy Admission Changes

SUMMARY

The Provost and Strategic Finance Offices are aware of these changes and have been advised by the College of Dentistry that these changes will not negatively impact program enrolment. Therefore, a financial review was not completed.

Date: January 30, 2026		Communicated By: Kyla Shea
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