The Midwestern University Bridges Program provides a clear path to achieving the goal of becoming a general dentist for qualified students in our College of Graduate Studies Biomedical Science Programs who are members of underrepresented minority populations, or economically or environmentally disadvantaged populations.

The Bridges Program allows students to apply for provisional early acceptance to the College of Dental Medicine-Illinois (CDMI) provided they meet one of the following requirements:

1. Acceptance into the Master of Arts in Biomedical Science (M.A.) Program, or
2. Successfully completed the first year of the Master of Biomedical Sciences (M.B.S.) Program

What are the benefits?

- Students gain provisional early acceptance into CDMI, and successful students will also earn a master’s degree, which will improve their applications to residency programs and broaden their future career options.
- Provides students an excellent foundation in pre-dental education.
- Allows students to increase their basic science knowledge and improve their study skills.
- Students receive graduate faculty mentoring and counseling to help keep them on track for success.
- Students have peace of mind knowing that their next academic step awaits, allowing them to focus on their studies and improving their preparedness for success in CDMI.

How do I learn more?

For questions about our programs or a potential career in dental medicine, contact the Midwestern University Office of Admissions: 630-515-7200 or admisIL@midwestern.edu
What are the eligibility requirements?

- Be a member of an underrepresented minority population or a member of an economically or environmentally disadvantaged population (as defined by HRSA).
- Achieve a preferred minimum overall and BCP GPA of 2.50 in the undergraduate program and a preferred DAT score of 18 or higher in the Total Science and Academic Average sections. Scores of 17 or higher are preferred in each individual science section.
- Complete all other MWU admissions requirements for both the Biomedical Sciences and Dental Medicine Programs (e.g., technical standards, prerequisites, strong interview, letter of support, knowledge of dental medicine).
- Acceptance into the Biomedical Science Program for the Master of Arts program in the same year as applying to the Bridges program or the Master of Biomedical Science program the previous year.
- Apply for admission to CDMI through ADEA AADSAS. A verified AADSAS application and CDMI supplemental application must be received in the Office of Admission by July 15 prior to matriculating into the Master of Arts in Biomedical Sciences program or after completion of the first year of the Master of Biomedical Sciences program.
- Receive favorable recommendations on interviews with the Bridges Program subcommittee of the CDMI Admissions Committee, which will consider the interview itself as well as the candidate’s overall interactions during the interview day.
- Demonstrate a good understanding of dental medicine and a sincere interest in a career in the field.
- Complete a supplemental Bridges Application by July 15 stating how you have met the program eligibility requirements.
- Provide a letter of support from a faculty member (undergraduate/graduate) or from a dentist.
- Pass all courses and maintain a 3.2 overall GPA in the Biomedical Sciences Program.
- Participate in the Bridges Mentoring Program.
- Maintain good academic and professional standing, with no disciplinary actions. Any disciplinary action will result in removal from the Bridges Program and the student will not be eligible to apply to CDMI in that same admissions cycle.
- Provide a letter of support from a Biomedical Sciences Program faculty member by the end of May of the Biomedical Sciences Program year.
- Successfully complete the Biomedical Sciences Program by the summer quarter prior to the start of CDMI fall quarter classes.

In addition:

- All prerequisite courses must be completed prior to matriculation to the Biomedical Sciences Program and CDMI.
- Students are not permitted to repeat courses for a higher grade for which they have already received credit.
- Students are not permitted to withdraw from core courses during their Biomedical Sciences Program.
- The assigned Bridges Program mentor monitors the progress of students at the completion of every quarter and will advise CDMI of any students failing to meet program requirements. The Biomedical Sciences Program provides the CDMI Dean’s Office with transcripts for all Bridges Program students.
- Students in the Bridges Program are invited to participate in pre-dental school activities with the CDMI students.

How to apply:

The CDMI and Bridges Program is available through the Biomedical Sciences Program on both campuses. Completed applications should be submitted to admisIL@midwestern.edu, using Bridges Program as the subject line.