



Midwestern University Bridges Pathway

College of Dental Medicine-Illinois | College of Graduate Studies

The **Midwestern University (MWU) Bridges Pathway** provides a path to achieving the goal of becoming a general dentist for qualified students in our College of Graduate Studies (CGS) Biomedical Sciences Programs who are members of economically and/or environmentally disadvantaged populations.

The Bridges Pathway allows students to apply for provisional early acceptance to the College of Dental Medicine-Illinois (CDMI) when they meet program criteria and are accepted into the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Biomedical Sciences Program or have completed their first year of the Master of Biomedical Sciences (M.B.S.) Program.

How do I learn more?

For questions about the Bridges Pathway, our degree programs, or a potential career in dental medicine, contact the Midwestern University Office of Admissions: 630-515-7200 or admissIL@midwestern.edu

What are the benefits?

- Students gain provisional early acceptance into CDMI, and successful students will also earn a master's degree, which may improve their applications to residency programs and broaden their future career options.
- Provides students with 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 academic counseling to help keep them on track for success.
- Students have a plan for their next academic step, allowing them to focus on their studies and improve their preparedness for CDMI.
- Students in the Bridges Pathway are invited to participate in pre-dental school activities with the CDMI students.



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What are the eligibility requirements?

- Be a member of an economically and/or environmentally disadvantaged population as defined by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and as verified by MWU.
- Meet the technical standards for the CDMA degree program as defined in the [MWU Catalog](#).
- Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA and science GPA in undergraduate studies of 2.50 (on a 4.00 = A scale).
- Complete all admissions requirements for both the Biomedical Sciences and Dental Medicine Programs as described in the [MWU Catalog](#).
- Be accepted into the CGS M.A. in Biomedical Sciences Program in the same year as applying to CDMI or upon completion of the first year of the Master of Biomedical Sciences Program.
- Receive a preferred (not required) score of 17 or higher in the Total Science and Academic Average Sections of the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) within the three years prior to anticipated matriculation at CDMI. Scores of 16 or higher are preferred (not required) in each individual science section.
- Interview and be recommended for admission by the Bridges Pathway subcommittee of the CDMI Admissions Committee.
- Demonstrate a good understanding of dental medicine and a sincere interest in a career in the field.
- Apply for admission to CDMI through ADEA AADSAS. A verified AADSAS application and CDMI supplemental application must be received in the Office of Admissions by July 15 prior to matriculating into the CGS M.A. in Biomedical Sciences Program or upon completion of the first year of the Master of Biomedical Sciences Program.
- Apply to the Bridges Pathway by July 15 of the year matriculating into the M.A. in Biomedical Sciences Program or upon completion of the first year of the Master of Biomedical Sciences Program.
- Provide a personal statement with your application addressing both:
 - How your background and experiences impact your interest in and commitment to dental medicine.
 - How you meet the criteria for an environmentally or economically disadvantaged background as defined by HRSA.
- Provide a letter of support from a dentist or from a faculty member in the applicant's undergraduate or graduate program.

To remain eligible for the Bridges Pathway, the applicant must:

- Pass all courses and complete the CGS Biomedical Sciences Program with an overall GPA of 3.2 (no course replacements or repeated courses will be accepted);
- Participate in the MWU Bridges Academic Success Program;
- Complete the CGS Biomedical Sciences Program at the end of the spring quarter prior to the start of classes at CDMI;
- Be in academic and professional good standing throughout the CGS Biomedical Sciences Program. Disciplinary actions (warning or probation) will result in removal from the Bridges Pathway, and the student will not be accepted to CDMI in that same admissions cycle;
- Provide a letter of support from a CGS Biomedical Sciences faculty member, which also indicates the student's final GPA, by May 31 of the Biomedical Sciences Program year.

How to apply:

The CDMI Bridges Pathway is available through the Biomedical Sciences Program on both campuses. Eligible applicants will have access to the CDMI Bridges application within their MWU Student Portal.

When to apply:

The application deadline is July 15 each year.

