Shepherd University
Shepherd University is a state supported liberal arts university in historic Shepherdstown, West Virginia. With 4,100 students, Shepherd offers excellent academic preparation, a wide range of four-year programs, and a supportive learning environment that fosters academic and career success. Shepherdstown is a friendly college town on the banks of the Potomac River. Washington D.C., and Baltimore are each only 65 miles away and easily accessible by car or daily commuter trains.

WVU School of Dentistry
As the state’s only dental school, students are provided a learning environment in which to develop the technical competence, intellectual capacity and professional responsibility for meeting the oral health needs of West Virginians. The WVU School of Dentistry has been West Virginia's oral health education center for over five decades. Defined by excellence in service, education, and community outreach, the WVU School of Dentistry contributes to the oral health of all people, especially the citizens of West Virginia. The school’s faculty consists of highly trained dentists and scientists who are also expert teachers. Recognizing the importance of community service, students participate in oral health outreach activities such as visits to high schools, hospitals, public health agencies and senior centers to stress the importance of oral health.

WVU Eastern Division
The Eastern Division of the WVU Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center provides community-based, health-science education in the Eastern Panhandle. The Division’s Clinical Education Program allows medical students to spend their third and fourth years of medical school learning clinical skills directly from community providers in the region.

For more information, contact:

Dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Shepherd University
P.O. Box 5000
Shepherdstown, WV
25443-5000
Phone: (304) 876-5227 or (800) 344-5231, ext. 5227
Fax: (304) 876-5028
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Associate Dean for Admissions, Recruitment and Access
West Virginia University School of Dentistry
G110-H Health Sciences North
P.O. Box 9407
Morgantown, WV 26506-9407
Phone: (304) 293-1680
Fax: (304) 293-8561
Web site: www.hsc.wvu.edu/sod

West Virginia University
Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center - Eastern Division
Office of Student Services
2500 Foundation Way
Martinsburg, WV 25401
Phone: (304) 596-6312
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Web site: www.hsc.wvu.edu/eastern

Dental Students in the Eastern Panhandle
A joint program of Shepherd University and the WVU School of Dentistry
Admission Requirements for High School Seniors

• Written letters of recommendation from a science teacher, a math teacher, a principal or guidance counselor, and a community leader
• Demonstrated maturity, citizenship, leadership, service, and scholarship
• Minimum 3.75 high school GPA and a minimum ACT of 24 or SAT of 1100
• Successfully complete interview with DentSTEP admissions committee

Students accepted into the program will be guaranteed admission to the WVU School of Dentistry if they:

• Successfully obtain the required courses for admission
• Maintain overall and science GPAs of 3.50 at Shepherd
• Take the Dental Admission Test (DAT) and score at or above the average score
• Fulfill preparatory citizenship, community service, and dental shadowing requirements
• Successfully complete an application and interview

Ongoing Requirements

To remain in the program while enrolled at Shepherd, students must:

• Maintain 3.50 overall and a 3.50 science GPA
• Participate in the DentSTEP community service and shadowing programs
• Maintain standards of honesty, integrity, and citizenship
• To remain in the program while enrolled at WVU, students must meet the School of Dentistry academic and professional standards.

Dental Students in the Eastern Panhandle (DentSTEP)

Along with having an impact on the health of a region, a career in dentistry offers a variety of challenges and rewards. Today oral health professionals focus not only on the diagnosis and detection of oral health problems, and educate patients on how to prevent oral disease, but also on the importance of oral health to overall systemic health and well-being. Dentists are important members of the healthcare team. There are many career options in dentistry including private practice, academic dentistry and public health. Dentists in private practice serve as their own boss, allowing them flexibility to balance their professional and personal lives. The need for dentists is expected to continue as the demand for oral health care grows.

DentSTEP is a joint program of Shepherd University and the West Virginia University School of Dentistry that helps simplify the process of dental school admission while easing the financial burden of the application process. The program gives motivated Shepherd students early access to the School of Dentistry and unique opportunities to better prepare them for WVU's challenging dental program.

DentSTEP allows qualified students applying for admission to Shepherd to also apply for early admission to the WVU School of Dentistry at the same time. After graduation from Shepherd, students will attend WVU’s Morgantown campus to complete four years of dental education. Senior dental students have unique opportunities to participate in a community-based clinical rotation in rural West Virginia health care facilities and may be assigned to a designated clinical site in the Eastern Panhandle region.

Admission to DentSTEP is open to up to two top high school seniors in West Virginia each year. Students are selected in a competitive process, which includes application and interview. Because the WVU School of Dentistry values diversity, students from groups that are under-represented in dental school programs are encouraged to apply. WVU and Shepherd University are both aware of the need for dentists in the Eastern Panhandle and see this program as part of their mission to serve the community.

Required Shepherd University coursework:

• Biology/Zoology - Introductory class plus 2-4 upper division classes
• Chemistry - General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry with labs
• Biochemistry - 1 year with labs
• Physics - 1 year with labs
• Mathematics - Statistics/epidemiology
• Psychology - Normal and abnormal, 1-2 classes
• Philosophy/Ethics - 1-2 classes
• General Studies - U.S. History, World History, etc.
• One year each - English, computer literacy, sociology
• One semester - Art or music appreciation

Dental Students in the Eastern Panhandle (DentSTEP) Along with having an impact on the health of a region, a career in dentistry offers a variety of challenges and rewards. Today oral health professionals focus not only on the diagnosis and detection of oral health problems, and educate patients on how to prevent oral disease, but also on the importance of oral health to overall systemic health and well-being. Dentists are important members of the healthcare team. There are many career options in dentistry including private practice, academic dentistry and public health. Dentists in private practice serve as their own boss, allowing them flexibility to balance their professional and personal lives. The need for dentists is expected to continue as the demand for oral health care grows.

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