

For all prospective dental students (Both DMDAS and DMD):

As part of the dental curriculum, you will take courses where you will learn about the biology of the human dentition and practice preparing teeth for restoration. The laboratory portion of these and other subsequent courses depend heavily on a collection of extracted human teeth.

You will learn root canal therapy mainly by performing root canal procedures on extracted human teeth that you collect. You will need many average size, intact, hydrated, (not dry/brittle) teeth of all types: maxillary and mandibular molars, premolars and anterior teeth (restored teeth are acceptable).

It is important that you begin collecting teeth now! Start with your family dentist. Ask your orthodontist about other dentists in your area who extract teeth (oral surgeons can be helpful). It is very important that you have a wide variety of teeth. All these dentists were once students too and learned their skills using extracted teeth they collected from practicing dentists, so they fully understand. The extracted teeth may contain restorations but should otherwise be of good quality (not severely broken down by decay or damaged during extraction), and must be hydrated. You should plan to collect teeth from several offices in order to obtain enough teeth for your dental education. You should collect at least **100** usable teeth in disinfection solution (and many more teeth are strongly recommended) by the time you start dental school. You should continue to collect teeth after acceptance in order to be prepared for future courses. Attached you will find a letter that you may provide to dentists you approach with storage instructions.

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY



Dental Clinic Administration (MC 621)
801 South Paulina Street
Chicago, IL 60612-7211

Dear Doctor,

The undergraduate dental students at the University of Illinois at Chicago – College of Dentistry are required to collect extracted human teeth for use during their pre-patient care dental education. Working on extracted teeth is recognized as an important component in dental education and we are asking for your kind support by saving extracted teeth for our students.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings — 2003* state that extracted teeth may be collected for use in the dental education setting.¹ In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) clarified their *Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standard* to allow for the collection of teeth as specimens for use by dental students.²

When collecting teeth please:

- Remove all visible blood and gross debris
- Store in a well-constructed closed container labeled with a bio-hazard symbol and the word "Biohazard"
- Store teeth in water immediately. For disinfection purposes, storage is preferred in a solution of 10% formalin, or 25% sodium hypochlorite ("bleach")

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

We appreciate your support to dental education.

Sincerely,

Robin Waner, RDH, MS
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¹ CDC, "Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings — 2003," MMWR, Vol. 52, No. RR-17, December 2003, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5217a1.htm>, accessed June 6, 2013

² OSHA, "Standard Interpretations: 05/12/1992 – Bloodborne Pathogen standard as it relates to extracted teeth. Standard Number 1910.1030" May 1992, http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=20659, accessed June 6, 2013