HOW-TO GUIDE

STARTING A PRE-DENTAL CHAPTER
Introduction to ASDA

Welcome to the American Student Dental Association (ASDA)! We realize that it can be overwhelming to start a new ASDA chapter and to know where to begin. Therefore, we created this start-up guide to help you build a strong ASDA chapter. We wish you much success with your chapter this year. If you have any questions along the way, contact Danielle Bauer, director of membership, at Danielle@ASDAnet.org.

ASDA structure

The American Student Dental Association is the largest student-run organization for dental and predental students. It is the only national association entirely devoted to student concerns and the student viewpoint on professional issues in dentistry. ASDA currently has 2,000 predental members and 24,000 predoctoral members at each of the 66 dental school chapters in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

According to ASDA’s Standing Rules of the Board of Trustees, each undergraduate institution in the U.S. and its territories may establish an ASDA predental chapter. There shall not be more than one predoctoral and one predental chapter at any school campus. New chapters must be approved by the Council on Membership and Board of Trustees prior to receiving a charter.

The ASDA central office is located in the American Dental Association (ADA) building in downtown Chicago. The association employs 15 staff to manage the association and implement strategic objectives and policies adopted by ASDA’s House of Delegates (see ASDAnet.org/staff for staff listing and contact information). ASDA operates on a budget supported by student membership dues, product sales, sponsorships and affinity program royalties.

ASDA, the American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) are all independent organizations that maintain close working relationships. ASDA retains its own governance structure and leadership apart from the ADA and ADEA. This allows the organization to direct resources to the issues of greatest importance to students and enables the association to express opinions and take positions that may be different from those of the ADA and ADEA.

ASDA mission statement

The American Student Dental Association is a national student-run organization that protects and advances the rights, interests and welfare of dental students. It introduces students to lifelong involvement in organized dentistry and provides services, information, education, representation and advocacy.

Role of the chapter

The chapter is a very important component in ASDA’s predental initiatives and programming. Chapters serve a pivotal role in the two-way flow of information between the national association and predentals at the local level.
Chapter membership consists of the active members at each school. The purpose of the chapter is to:

- Promote the mission of the association to local predental students.
- Educate, inform and involve local members in the activities of the association.

**Resources**
The key communication vehicles that ASDA uses to keep chapters informed include: the monthly e-newsletter *The Polished Predental*, ASDA predental Facebook page, ASDA predental Instagram page and the predental chapter webpage.

*The Polished Predental* is a monthly e-newsletter emailed to all predental members on the first Tuesday of the month. It contains information on upcoming deadlines and events, new programs and resources for chapters, member benefits and more. *The Polished Predental* features individuals and ASDA chapters, in hopes that you'll be inspired by ideas and successes from around the country. It is important to read *The Polished Predental* each month, and pass on important information to your chapter.

The predental chapter webpage resides under the “Get Into Dental School” tab at ASDAnet.org. This web page includes much of the information listed below and more. New resources are added regularly.

- Predental Organizational Toolkit
- Oral Health Education Programs for Predental Clubs
- Creating Community Service Committees for Predental Clubs
- Predental Month
- DAT Week
- ASDA chapter requirements

**Presentations and videos**
- [Predental ASDA presentation](#) – Use this PowerPoint presentation to inform about the benefits of joining ASDA as a predental member. It includes notes so that any student can give the presentation to predental students or a predental chapter.
- [Videos](#): ASDA has produced many videos for predentals that can be presented at your chapter events on topics such as, the DAT, choosing a dental school, non-traditional paths, scholarships and more.

**Key contacts**
The ASDA central office employs full-time staff who specialize in specific aspects of association management. The contact information for the central office is online at [ASDAnet.org/staff](http://ASDAnet.org/staff).
Taking it to the next level: Why become an ASDA predental chapter?
Your university may already have a successful predental club in place. With thriving membership, why do you need ASDA? No matter how successful your predental club is, by affiliating with the American Student Dental Association, your new chapter will grow and receive national recognition by converting to an official ASDA chapter. This will allow your club to better support and prepare its members for their futures.

While predental clubs range from struggling to stellar, all ASDA predental chapters are held to a high standard and are nationally regarded. By converting your existing club to an ASDA chapter or creating an ASDA chapter at your school, you are bringing instant recognition and the backing of a recognized, national organization. Predental chapters also gain from these benefits:

- **Support from national ASDA staff and the Predental Advisory Committee.** These individuals provide chapters with the necessary support to aid you in your chapter’s success.
- **Access to chapter resources available at ASDAnet.org.** These resources include “how-to” guides, chapter training and tips for leadership transition.
- **Chapter-only incentives.** Predental chapters will be included in many membership recruitment and engagement challenges. These competitions are often linked to incentives, such as cash awards for the winning chapter.
- **National and District ASDA meeting attendance.** Predental chapters are invited to all national and many district-wide events. These events include: district leadership summits, National Leadership Conference and Annual Session. Chapters will benefit from leadership training and learning about issues that affect dentistry.
- **Exclusive use of ASDA’s name and logo.** By becoming a predental chapter, your organization will benefit from being a part of a renowned brand.

Applying for a national charter
Before your predental organization begins to take advantage of ASDA’s benefits, it must have an approved national charter. It is important to note the requirements for becoming a chapter, as not all existing predental clubs will qualify. Additionally, due to limited resources and to maintain existing standards, there are a limited number of predental chapters ASDA can support. We recommend working closely with your school advisor throughout the process.

**Requirements:**
In order to be recognized as an official predental chapter of ASDA, chapters must meet the following requirements:

- Have at least **10** national ASDA predental members (please note: all chapter members and leaders must be current ASDA predental members).
  - Not sure if you’re a member? Contact our membership department.
- Completed application with a faculty member or pre-health advisor signature, leadership roster and a $50 application fee. ASDA requires that chapters have a president, vice president and advisor. All other positions are optional.
• Chapter constitution and bylaws and signed constitution declaration form. ASDA can provide a template for chapters to use as reference. All updated versions should be sent to the central office for file.
• Signed affiliation agreement.

Selection process:
If you would like to start an ASDA chapter at your school in the U.S. or its territories, the first step is to fill out this request form. A staff member will follow up with the documents required for your chapter application. Applications will be accepted twice a year: March 31 and September 30. All completed applications received up to that date will be sent to the Council on Membership and Board of Trustees for review and approval. The council will make selections based on:

• The applying university’s commitment to ASDA. Holding events in line with ASDA’s mission statement can demonstrate this commitment.
• Strength of the current predental club at the university. Strong predental clubs often make strong predental chapters. While all undergraduate schools are invited to apply, existing clubs with strong leadership are favored.
• Motivation for becoming an ASDA predental chapter. This is determined through free response questions on the application.

Structuring your chapter: hybrid, converted or standalone model
If your school currently has a predental club, there are three options to consider when forming a national ASDA predental chapter.

The hybrid structure allows for the greatest amount of flexibility. Existing predental clubs can remain in place while providing an additional opportunity for ASDA chapter members. In the hybrid model, all predental club members would remain in “the club” while students choosing to join national ASDA would have an “upgraded” membership and be recognized as a “chapter member.” ASDA membership is highly encouraged, but members not ready to commit to dentistry can wait to join the chapter and still remain a member of the club. Members, both club and chapter member, may pay local club dues. All ASDA chapter members pay national dues.
The converted model would dissolve the predental club in favor of the predental chapter. Each member of the chapter would be required to be a national ASDA member. All members of the organization would be recognized as part of a national ASDA chapter. All members can participate in chapter and national ASDA events. All ASDA chapter members pay national dues.

The standalone model applies to schools without a predental club or if a student wishes to form an ASDA predental chapter separate from their school’s predental club. Any national ASDA member may apply for charter at their school assuming they meet the requirements as part of the affiliation agreement. Only one ASDA predental chapter can exist per school.

Getting started

Whether you are converting an existing predental club or starting a predental chapter from scratch, taking the initiative and seeing it through shows your devotion to dentistry. Since starting a predental chapter can be complex, proper planning is critical to success. Before you commit, make sure you are willing to devote the time and energy, and are truly passionate about this endeavor—a lot is riding on the success of your efforts!

The following information is organized into steps with recommendations provided. Depending on your specific school and whether you are transitioning a current predental club or starting a chapter from scratch, some of these steps may be conducted concurrently or not at all. Regardless, this information is based on best practices of successful predental chapters, so it is highly recommended that all topics are at least discussed by chapter leadership. This section is designed to provide a general overview; the specific details of forming and running a predental chapter are discussed later in this guide.

Step one: Buddy up and form your preliminary plan

It is a good idea to find another student or two with similar goals to help you through the process of starting the chapter. This core team should be open to each other’s ideas and willing to work hard. Both are critical components to the long-term success of the chapter. Decisions should generally be agreed upon by consensus; however, one person must be the ultimate decision-maker to move the process forward.

With your team, come up with a few items your chapter wants to address and its purpose or mission. This should be accomplished in association with the predental/pre-health advisor(s) at your college. Not only will they help you formulate your plan, they can also help gather other predental students for informal meetings to discuss what you are putting together, solicit their concerns and find out what they want to get out of chapter membership. Remember, you are forming the chapter to help other students, as well as yourself, on the path towards dental school. Their input early on is critical to ensure your chapter’s success.

An additional option, if your school offers a pre-health club, is to check with the officers to see what they do for their predental members, how many predental members they have and collaborate on how to meet the needs of these students together.
**Step two: Ensure the higher-ups are on board**

Now that you have a plan, you want to make sure your school will support you. With the help of your predental faculty advisor, reach out to the dean of students or administrator in charge of student organizations to obtain their approval. Make sure you are prepared to present your short- and long-term plans, your purpose, goals and what you hope to accomplish with your chapter. While your administration may already understand and appreciate the importance of ASDA, a well-prepared explanation of why an ASDA predental chapter would be beneficial at your school will aid you in receiving their support.

Ensuring you have every specific detail in place is likely not necessary at this point. The goal here is to gain approval to move forward. But remember, being over-prepared for this meeting is always better than being underprepared. Make sure you are ready to discuss finances, membership, leadership structure, meeting locations, fundraising, volunteer events, etc. These are topics that may be addressed in your meeting. Additionally, ensure you are prepared to receive any guidelines, regulations and documents your specific institution requires to be a sanctioned organization. Now that your school is on board, your team can begin to move forward.

**Step three: Begin the process**

Hopefully, you have already been in contact with the ASDA membership staff throughout this process. If not, now would be the time to reach out to them to discuss where you stand in the process and what you still need to do to become an official chapter. When you speak to ASDA’s staff, make sure you are prepared to discuss the specific regulations and guidelines of your school regarding student organizations, in addition to the specifics of your chapter. Since every college is different, ASDA needs to understand what they require of your chapter, so potential misunderstandings between ASDA and your school can be mitigated.

Also, you are required to formally appoint a faculty member as your chapter’s sponsor. It may or may not be the person who has advised you thus far. The important point is finding the right fit—the right faculty member who shares your goals and those of ASDA and is able to advocate for chapter leadership to the dean and administration. A wise choice for a faculty advisor would be someone who also has a great relationship with the administration.

Based on recommendations from successful ASDA predental chapters, the best time to return to your school office that oversees student organizations is after gaining formal affiliation with ASDA. The goal is for your ASDA chapter to be approved as an official student organization at your institution with all of the rights and privileges that entails. Depending on your school policies, this meeting may be scheduled throughout the year or held only once per academic year for all student organizations. Regardless, you need to make sure your plan and documents are in order and you have everything ready to present, whether or not a formal presentation is required. Professionalism is key here. Remember, your ultimate goal is to be a dentist and a respected member of the community. The best time to put that on display is now by making sure you have everything required and the paperwork is prepared for approval.
**Step four: Formalize your ASDA predental chapter**

Now that you have met with several predentals, your school and ASDA, you can pull it all together and formalize the routine operations of your organization. Schedule the first meeting of your new ASDA predental chapter. Advertise and invite the predental students you gathered from the advisor meetings and students who are part of other predental or pre-health clubs on campus. Invite your faculty advisor and possibly ask them to speak to the chapter. Ensure all members give him/her the respect they deserve. They are likely volunteering their time to help you and the chapter become successful.

Provide an agenda of items to be discussed at your first official meeting, such as purpose, goals, leadership, introduction to ASDA, benefits, etc. However, expect there will be many questions of a new organization, so allocate enough time for questions from prospective members. Remember, they are there to determine their interest in your chapter. It may be your only chance to convince them to join. Be sure that students leave with all their questions answered.

**Step five: Continue the momentum and inspire ASDA fever**

You will need to maintain momentum to ensure your chapter’s success. Continue to promote your organization around school and through social media. Facebook can be a wonderful resource for keeping your club members up-to-date on meeting dates, volunteer opportunities, ASDA and local predental events, etc. You also may want to set up a general email for your organization so members can contact you with questions or suggestions.

Continue to find ways to attract new members and retain current members. Some ideas include:

- Create a member referral incentive program.
- Present membership certificates to your chapter members at the end of the school year and develop awards such as “Most Active Member,” “Perfect Meeting Attendance” and "Most Recruited Members."
- Discuss the possibility of holding a year-end banquet for the chapter and sell tickets to defray the costs.
- Create membership collateral and apparel for your chapter.
- Develop additional leadership positions within your organization to get more members involved and to delegate the work.
- Network and collaborate with other predental clubs in your area and determine meeting topics, speakers and volunteer plans. You may also find dentistry-related volunteer events on your state dental association’s website or at a dental school near your institution. For a link to your state’s site, go to ASDAnet.org/state-associations/. To find an ASDA predoctoral chapter, go to ASDAnet.org/chapter-map.

Finally, research the needs of your community and brainstorm how your predental chapter can help. Send a survey to students using a free service such as Survey Monkey. Use the data you gather to update your organizational goals. One of your main goals should be to make your chapter relevant to attract and maintain as many members as possible. Make it a point to gather valuable dental-related resources for your members, especially if the resources provided by the predental advisors at your school are lacking.
While this may seem overwhelming, remember these are just suggestions. Everything doesn’t have to be accomplished at once. You want your chapter to continue to grow each year. This process is larger than just you or even your current members, so build a strong foundation that will last.

**Running a chapter**

Once you’ve attained approval to start a chapter, the focus should be on the key components of running the new chapter. These components can be broken into chapter goals, resource allocation and leadership structures.

**Chapter goals**

Work with your leadership team and develop specific goals for your chapter to accomplish. Be realistic in your first year about what your chapter can do. Examples include:

- Organize monthly chapter events throughout the year. Vary the format so that some are educational, some are social and others allow for networking.
- Hold two fundraisers throughout the year to provide funds for local events.
- Recruit 50% of predentals on campus to the chapter.

**Chapter resources**

ASDA has created many resources for predental organizations that can be used to start and build a chapter. The primary goal will be to create an incentive program to attract new members. Stay up-to-date with all the incentives offered through ASDA. Be familiar with the benefits offered by national ASDA that will be of value to your members and communicate those benefits. Many webinars, e-newsletters and handbooks are on the ASDA website, and many of them are available only to national ASDA members.

**Leadership structures**

One of the most important aspects of ASDA is to develop leaders. A new chapter should emphasize the importance of a leader in the dental community and beyond. This can be done by inviting a guest speaker to speak about leadership, holding leadership skills workshops and encouraging members to apply for national and district predental leadership positions, as well as attend ASDA national conferences. Additionally, an executive board should be formed to oversee the important components of the chapter. The executive board should work as a team to oversee all chapter functions and ensure the chapter meets its mission and goals.

An ideal structure for a chapter includes positions for president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. ASDA requires that chapters have a president and vice president, but the treasurer and secretary positions are optional. Other leadership positions that may be added if necessary include: activity chair, community involvement chair and membership chair. Below are sample position descriptions:

**President**

The president is the primary contact for the chapter and the “external spokesperson” of the group who regularly interacts with other student organizations and university officials. He or she is the liaison between the student organization, the advisor and other university or
community contacts. The president’s actions will dictate the direction and success of the chapter. They are responsible for the events, meetings and affiliations the chapter may have. The responsibilities of this position include but are not limited to:

- Preside over executive board and chapter meetings
- Oversee chapter event planning and activities
- Maintain a current list of members
- Submit all required paperwork to the university and to national ASDA
- Delegate event planning (finding speakers, appropriate topics, meeting locations, etc.) to committees as needed
- Act as an ambassador for the chapter and encourage other predentals to join

**Vice President**

The vice president is the president’s “right-hand person” and maintains continuous contact with the president. Their cooperation on tasks will ensure the chapter’s progress on a variety of difficult issues. The vice president may move to the president position at the end of their term, if your chapter decides to structure the positions in this manner. The responsibilities of the vice president include but are not limited to:

- Supervise student organization meetings in the absence of the president
- Assist the president with the oversight of the student organization including fundraising, event planning, etc.
- Work with the chapter treasurer to prepare an annual budget
- Assist in membership recruitment efforts
- Schedule locations for meetings and events
- Coordinate chapter fundraising efforts with the treasurer

**Treasurer**

The treasurer manages the chapter’s finances. This position requires attention to detail when completing paperwork and the ability to fiscally manage a budget. The treasurer should keep officers and members informed about the chapter’s financial activities. The responsibilities of the treasurer include but are not limited to:

- Prepare the annual chapter budget
- Monitor the chapter’s revenues and expenses
- Dispense funds as directed by the executive board
- Fulfill all purchase requests
- Collect funds and deposit to the chapter’s account
- Pay bills
- Keep a detailed record of all transactions, i.e. deposits, checks and adjusting entries
- Prepare monthly financial reports and documents to keep the membership informed about the organization’s financial status

**Secretary**

The secretary serves to connect the chapter with its members by providing updates on relevant opportunities. The responsibilities of the secretary include but are not limited to:

- Take minutes at every executive board and chapter meeting
• Maintain a record of ideas and chapter business
• Maintain and update contacts of the organization, including members
• Send meeting minutes and pertinent information to members
• Provide members information regarding meeting location and time, prior to meetings
• Assist with projects where needed
• Maintain communication between the president and individual participants (this may include emails, letters, and phone calls)

Community Involvement Chair
The community involvement chair is primarily responsible for the implementation and evaluation of community engagement activities, which include public programs, community meetings and public gatherings, internships, employment recruitment and more. The chair identifies and implements opportunities for involvement between the surrounding communities and other constituencies. This person should:
  • Schedule, implement and periodically suggest new community-based programs, partnerships and other engagement initiatives
  • Implement meetings, surveys and other ways for communicating with and receiving feedback
  • Be present in the community to hear community concerns, provide information about community engagement and advocate for participation
  • Distribute information to the community and broader publics about the organization and its initiatives
  • Distribute information to members regarding engagement activities

Membership Chair
The membership chair is responsible for recruitment and retention of members for the chapter. The chair will identify prospective members, be familiar with the benefits and services offered by ASDA and send communications to potential and current members to encourage them to join. This person should:
  • Develop ideas and campaigns to recruit and retain members for the chapter
  • Create membership collateral (flyers, posters, emails, social media posts, videos) to promote to potential members
  • Host a new-member event for incoming students
  • Create new benefits and services for members
  • Coordinate with local ASDA predoctoral chapters to help with recruitment efforts

Organizing events
Your first impression to your school as an ASDA chapter will most likely be through your first event. Whether you are organizing a social event, community service event or fundraiser, it is important to follow some basic planning guidelines.

1) Be professional in everything you do.
   • Make sure your administration approves everything before you hold the event.
2) Make the event relevant.
   • You would like your first event to represent you as a chapter and organization.
3) Publicize!
   • Make sure to get the word out through multiple channels and promote the event as sponsored by ASDA. Don’t underestimate the usefulness of emails, flyers, Facebook and most of all, word of mouth. Providing food is a great way to get your members to attend.
4) Invite your administrators and faculty.
   • It is always a good idea to reach out to your administration. Faculty want to mingle with the students, and this is a great way to gain administrative support.

Types of events
It is important to vary the types of events that you hold so that they appeal to the most members. Some students will be more interested in social events, whereas others may care more about community service. To maximize your value to members, be creative and offer variety in your events and activities. Here are examples of the types of activities to consider:

Wellness events
Walk/run, dance, yoga, marathon, etc.
   • You can either organize your own or encourage your members to create a team and participate in an existing event that raises money for a cause your chapter supports (ex: Relay for Life).
   • Participate in ASDA’s monthly wellness challenges or Wellness Month in September.

Community service events
Collection drives
   • Blood drive through American Red Cross or your state’s blood center.
   • Collect dental care supplies to donate to a charity of your choice.
Volunteering
   • Spend time at a local hospital or clinic.
   • Give a presentation about dental hygiene to community organizations/schools.
   • Participate in Give Kids A Smile event with local dentists and dental students.

Educational events
   • Show a film or documentary about current dental issues.
   • Show a clip about a new piece of dental equipment or technology.
   • Present a webinar from ASDA’s library on topics focused on getting into dental school.

Informative lecture-style meetings
   • Invite a local dentist to share their experience in practice, talk about a day in the life of a dentist and give advice to members.
   • Invite a local dental student to share their experience at dental school, relate a day in the life of a dental student and give advice to members.
• Invite recruiters from different branches of the military, along with the Public Health Service Corps, to discuss different scholarships offered.
• Discuss current topics that dentists and dental students are facing (use ASDA’s website and publications for topics and talking points).
• Hold an ASDA informational meeting and discuss the benefits of the organization and how members can be more involved.
• Present a timeline for applying to dental schools and what members can do to make themselves stronger applicants.
• Present an overview of the DAT and different study materials and methods.
• Present a review of dental schools and the different factors that are important when selecting a program.
• Invite a dental school admissions counselor to speak about their school and what they look for in prospective students.
• Partner with Memorang, Crack the DAT, Coursesaver or another test prep company to sponsor a scholarship and provide more tips on taking the DAT.

Interactive meetings
• Hold a meeting to discuss which courses to take and which professors are the best at the beginning of each course request season.
• Invite a guest speaker from your university’s writing center to hold a personal statement workshop.
• Make cards for a local nursing home or children’s hospital around the holidays.
• Hold mock interviews and discuss appropriate attire and etiquette.
• Invite dental students to give a tutorial like suturing bananas.
• Discuss dental blogs (e.g., ASDA’s Mouthing Off, Curious Dentist, Excursives, ADA New Dentist, etc.)

Panel-style meetings
• Invite local dental students to answer questions about dental school and the admissions process.
• Organize a panel of accepted students from your chapter to give advice to members.

Recruitment events
• Set up a booth at a school-wide club or career fair.
• Promote your predental organization via pre-health courses and other more broad pre-health organizations.
  o Partner with one of these organizations on an event to give your predental organization more publicity.
• Organize at least one large-scale event each year that gives a voice to your organization.
  o Consider doing this during October for ASDA Predental Month, April for ASDA DAT Week or January for ASDA’s Week of Service in January.
• Use philanthropic and educational events to recruit new members.
Organized dentistry events

- Participate in ASDA DAT Week in April and Predental Month in October. Sign up early to receive materials for your event. Hold a viewing party for one of the webinars held during the events. Designate a time to inform students about ASDA and encourage them to join. More information is at ASDAnet.org/DATweek and ASDAnet.org/predentalmonth.
- Try to get a group to register and attend the National Leadership Conference (ASDAnet.org/nlc) or Annual Session (ASDAnet.org/annualsession). Plan group travel to help make the trip more manageable and fun.
- Look up what district you are in and contact your district trustee (ASDAnet.org/trustees) to inquire about district events that members of your chapter can attend.
- Reach out to your local ASDA predoctoral chapter (ASDAnet.org/chapter-map) and ask what events they have for predentals. Many chapters organize predental days or predental conferences.
- Contact the local or state dental associations to ask if members of your chapter can attend any meetings or volunteer to help with the meetings or continuing education courses.

Recreational events

Related to dentistry
- Try to combine with a community service event—your members will have fun while also raising money and awareness for an important cause.

Unrelated to dentistry
- Bowling, movie screening and ice-skating are great ideas. These events are important for your members to get to know each other and allow for the exchange of ideas in an informal setting.

Fundraising events

Fundraising is a necessary component of an active chapter. Chapters raise money to benefit a community service project, hold social events, travel to national meetings or offer other benefits for their members. For your first fundraiser, it may be smart to emulate the structure of a successful fundraiser held at another school. Some examples include: bake sales, t-shirts, calendars, raffles, etc.

Membership

Predental membership in ASDA runs on a calendar year from January 1 to December 31 and costs $68/year. ASDA offers many benefits for predental members. Below are some that you can use in your recruitment efforts. The full list of member benefits is available at ASDAnet.org/benefits.

Students may ask you why they should join ASDA as a predental member. Many students who are part of your predental club may not understand the difference between your club and an ASDA chapter. Here are a list of reasons you can provide to members on the benefits of joining national ASDA:
• Involvement in ASDA makes you a more competitive applicant for dental school admissions. Joining ASDA can set you apart from the competition and show your commitment to organized dentistry early in your career.
• ASDA is the number one resource for predental students. Our website includes members-only information exclusively for predental students.
• Predental members receive the invaluable guide—Getting Into Dental School: ASDA’s Guide for Predental Students. Save time researching schools with this guide that includes detailed information on all 66 schools.
• The ASDA website has countless webinars and videos just for predentals. Topics range from DAT preparation, interviewing, and tips for paying for and choosing a dental school.
• Develop leadership skills through one of the six national leadership positions for predentals – Predental Consultant and 5 Predental Advisory Committee members.
• Members receive discounts on DAT resource materials, such as a discounted rate on the new DAT flashcard app Memorang and 10% off Crack the DAT. Using these member discounts alone pays for the membership dues – and then some.
• Have a dental school interview? Make sure you know what is happening in dentistry by reading ASDA’s premier magazine Contour and blog Mouthing Off—written for students by students to explore what is going on in today’s fast-moving dental climate.
• Access to 24,000+ current dental students through the membership directory—find students at your prospective dental schools.