Your U.S. dental school journey may easily be mapped on paper. It starts with the ADEA CAAPID® (Centralized Application for Advanced Placement for International Dentists) and ends when you graduate with your degree.

The journey in the middle is the most important part. You must choose where to apply and attend wisely. Here are some key questions to ask when exploring dental schools.

**Academic Experience**

- Are coursework and clinical experiences combined with first-time dental students?
- What opportunities will I have for hands-on clinical experience and patient interaction?
- Is the school on the semester or quarter system, and how long are the breaks between semesters and quarters?
- What kinds of research opportunities does the school offer dental students?
- In terms of time (i.e., four weeks, a semester), how much of my clinical experience occurs in a community or hospital setting or outside of dental school?
- When in the program do students start getting clinical experience?
- Are externships available?
- How are clinical rotations or externships arranged, and where are they typically located?

**Student Support and Services**

- What support services are available to students, such as academic advising, counseling and career guidance?
- Are there student mentorship programs or tutoring resources?
- What clubs or extracurricular activities does the school and the community offer?

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Are there any additional requirements for foreign trained applicants, such as:
  - Citizenship/Visa requirements.
  - Language proficiency exams (e.g., TOEFL),
  - Test requirements for admission (e.g., NBDE, INBDE, ADAT) and/or
  - International Transcript Evaluations?