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Dear Alisha,

This report is a part of our personalized consulting service for you. This report does not include any generic recommendations. In other words, it is prepared based on your needs regarding your college application in the United States. We prepared this report with respect to your educational background as well as your future educational plans in the US. The main aim of the report is very simple. We would like to contribute to the brainstorming that you must undertake during this process, rather than providing you with specific directions regarding application steps and procedures. As an international education consulting company, we provide and believe in personalized consulting through sessions that lead to better brainstorming and, accordingly, better decisions made by the student him/herself.

We reviewed your ECE evaluated transcripts as well as your TOEFL scores. We assume that you are familiar with the overall higher education system in the US and the schools' expectations of international applicants. There are more than 4,500 higher education institutions in the system. There are also more than 1.1 million international students in the US, compared to the 4 million mobile students around the world. The higher education budget is around \$700 billion, and this substantial investment makes the US system the best in the world. Among US schools, Harvard University has the largest endowment with assets totaling approximately \$37 billion, followed by Yale with \$26 billion. The quality of education, even at an average university, is very good. Receiving a diploma from a US-based university means prestige and a higher income.

There are thousands of different majors offered at US colleges. Admissions for some majors are extremely competitive, for various reasons. Medical science-related majors are especially competitive. There are two major reasons for such competitive admissions and their resulting low acceptance rates. The first reason involves the nature of these programs. The value of human health is extremely important in this country, and the professionals (e.g., medical doctors, psychologist, nurses, physician assistants, dentists, etc.) who will be involved in administering treatment procedures are selected carefully. Schools want the "best of the best" students, and unfortunately there is limited room for international applicants. For instance, if a student wants to apply to a graduate-level psychology program in this country, he/she has to have at least 3.0 (out of 4.0) grade point average (GPA). The schools specifically indicate 3.0 as the minimum GPA requirement from undergraduate studies. When it comes to acceptance rates, the numbers become more challenging for health-related majors. I will give you an example from the University of Florida's College of Dentistry. In 2017, 1,606 students applied to the school, and only 93 of them were able to enter the DMD program. Their average GPA from undergraduate studies was 3.78/4.00. The second reason for such a competitive admission process is the income that a dentist makes as soon as he/she graduates from the college. The



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starting salary for a dentist is \$118,000 in this country, and compared to the average salary of a teacher (\$45,000), a very good life awaits dentists. As a result, thousands of people are applying to those colleges that prepare students for this field.

Schools have special policies regarding international applicants, and diversity is always welcomed. However, in many cases, the acceptance rate of international students for all programs is lower than the rates for domestic students.

The US higher education system allows international students to work after their degree completion. Optional practical training (OPT) permits students to work up to 27 months after receiving their undergraduate or graduate degrees. For your major, however, this timeframe is only 12 months. Students can also work in fields related to their area of study. For instance, if you get your degree in dentistry, you cannot work at McDonald's. There is another program called curricular practical training (CPT) that allows students to work during their studies (off campus). CPT however uses your OPT time, and it is just an option to use your 12 or 27 months before your graduation.

I know that your first location choice for your applications is Florida. For higher education, US News and World Reports ranks Florida first among all 50 states. The primary reason for this ranking is affordability; colleges and universities in Florida offer high-quality education at a reasonable price. When it comes to DMD program tuitions, however, Florida schools are extremely expensive. DMD program tuition at the University of Florida (UF; ranked No. 1 in Florida and 35th nationwide) is \$68,202 for non-residents (including international students) and, as emphasized on their web page, scholarships are limited. The tuition of the DMD program at UF is very high even for Florida residents (\$41,720). Our experience also indicates that the chance of receiving a scholarship for international students is very low compared to domestic students. However, I would like to remind you of the annual income of dentists in the US. I am not sure whether you are going to stay in this country or return to India in the future, but such an education will definitely pay you back (although they do accept your dental education in India, UF requires you to have at least permanent residency; accordingly, you cannot apply to this school).

You completed ECE for your transcripts, and your undergraduate GPA (best prediction) is 3.28/4.00. This keeps you in the running for US admissions, and your father indicated that there will be more credits (from an internship) added to your transcripts in the near future, which will increase your overall GPA a little bit more. I will be very candid: if your GPA were lower than 3.0 (out of 4.0), I would advise you against even trying to apply to DMD programs in the US. My research shows that, like psychology programs, DMD programs only consider applicants with GPAs higher than 3.0. However, as I highlighted above, it would be better to have a GPA over 3.7 or 3.9 since the competition is real. On the other hand, you have some failing grades in your ECE report. As a person who also worked at admission



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departments of colleges, I can tell you that Fs in transcripts will give a designated officer pause.

I also looked at your TOEFL scores. Your overall score is 92/120, which is sufficient for most of the college applications. Many colleges require a minimum TOEFL score of around 78-82 out of 120. However, I recommend that you retake the test, as there are minor problems with your results. Specifically, your reading and listening scores are 20 out of 30. In some cases, schools also require minimum scores for sections. For instance, while some schools require a minimum TOEFL score of 90 from applicants, many also require a minimum score of 23 in each section. In your case, they may think that your reading skills are weak, and that such a weakness may cause you difficulty during your study in the program. On the other hand, higher TOEFL scores mean a greater chance of admission into the programs. When you choose your schools, please consider those details too. Retake the test and try to hit 100 or above. Devote extra review time to weaker areas so that you can achieve a better balance among your section scores.

I would like to focus on some potential schools that you can apply to in Florida. First of all, I recommend that you narrow down your choices to 5 or 6 schools. There are few schools offering dentistry-related programs in the US, and few in your preferred state of Florida. Unfortunately, many schools are only accepting applicants who are either US citizens or green card holders. Please also consider this reality when you are choosing your schools. Accordingly, in order to reach out to the target number of 5 or 6 schools for your applications, you will have to add more states to your search. For instance, the University of Florida only accepts applications from US citizens or green card holders. You can review their policy in this regard by visiting the following link (<https://admissions.dental.ufl.edu/d-m-d/ufcd-requirements/applicants/>).

I would like to focus on the Nova Southeastern University (NSU) College of Dentistry first. When I search colleges, I always look at the international students' admissibility for the college. NSU accepts international students, and they have even specifically designed a program for international students to become eligible for a US license. Their web page is very clear about this, and you can get more info from the following link (<https://dental.nova.edu/graduate/international.html>). For admission requirements, see (<https://dental.nova.edu/international/index.html>). Again, this program is designed for international applicants, and NSU is the first private dental college in Florida. They do not have updated tuition rates, however it must be around \$45,000 per year. Since it is a private institution and it has a special program for international students, your chances of admission will be higher.

Jacksonville University (JU) is also accepting international students for their school of orthodontics. I am not sure what program you are interested in specifically, but I encourage you to peruse their web page. The requirements for application are



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similar, including submission of US National Board scores Part I & II (if available). Obviously, the tuition of the program is unreasonably high for international students (\$140,000 per year). However, I believe there will be a partial scholarship awarded, so if the features of one of their programs align with your expectations, you might also consider applying to JU. Without a complete application, you never know by how much they will reduce the total tuition. The application fee is \$175.

There are some states that need more domestic and international students due to lack of college enrollment. Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana are among them. You can search the schools in those states. I picked one from Alabama. University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry accepts international students. You can click the links below and consider applying this school.

(<https://www.uab.edu/dentistry/home/students/future-students/international-dentist-program-idp/idp-admissions-and-requirements>)

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Your father also mentioned the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). There are different programs offered at the school of dentistry; however, I have to emphasize that UCLA is one of the best public colleges in the United States. It will be extremely competitive for any program that they offer. They accept international students, and you become eligible for licensing in the US. Their continuing education department offers enrollment in less competitive and non-competitive programs, but those programs do not qualify you for the license. For more information, please see (<https://www.dentistry.ucla.edu/>). The specific program Advanced Esthetic and Restorative Dentistry is also very unique, and I recommend that you apply. Your father reached out to the school and talked to the designated officer, Louis Gutierrez. You can ask some specific questions to make sure that your chances of admission fall within a reasonable range. Ask him their acceptance rate for the program. As indicated on their web page, *"Some states in the U.S. allow 2-year graduates the opportunity for licensure. Please contact the individual states for specific requirements."*

I found another California school, University of the Pacific, which has a good program that aligns with your expectations. I investigated the program admission requirements and your credential is sufficient for the applications (they seek a 2.0 minimum GPA, for instance). Simply click the link below and see the program's features (<http://dental.pacific.edu/academic-programs/international-dental-studies>). Please note that although the school is expensive, they may reduce the tuition with a partial scholarship. Click this link for the tuition and overall cost of this school (<http://dental.pacific.edu/academic-programs/international-dental-studies/ids-tuition-and-fees>).



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My primary concern is about the failing grades in your evaluated transcripts. I also do not know the budget that your parents have established for your education. Your TOEFL score can be increased and I believe that you can handle this easily. We are going to complete the resume and the personal statement soon as a part of our agreement. I have tried to facilitate better brainstorming through this report and to show you how to do things alone. Personalized consulting is extremely important for success and I hope this report will help you to achieve better results.

In many cases, we provide full consulting to our clients (both domestic and international) which can even include writing emails on behalf of the students until receiving acceptance into a program (we do not guarantee any college acceptance, regardless of student aptitude). In addition, we provide consulting sessions regarding internal cultures of the universities, assignments, faculty's expectations, rules, regulations, timelines, etc. We also involve the parents in the overall process, since in many cases they are the financial sponsors for their children. Such consulting is more expensive but in most cases we secure thousands of dollars in scholarships from top schools (again, this is not guaranteed). Good luck with your progress.

Prepared by Erkan Acar, PhD.