Notes On Texas Medical & Dental School Coursework

Texas requires more Biology prerequisites:

- Most med/dental schools with specific prerequisites require a baseline of 2 biology courses + labs which usually translates to 8 semester credit hours for biology. However, Texas schools currently require 14 biology credit hours.

Converting Dartmouth courses to their equivalent semester hours.

- **At Dartmouth, a course + lab translates to 4.5 semester credit hours**. Therefore, with a minimum of 2 biology foundation courses you have 9 credit hours, which fulfills the baseline requirements at most med schools (many students do take more for MCAT preparation, their major, or just out of interest).
- **A course without a lab, or a lab course without a lecture, is equivalent to 3.5 semester credit hours.** Because Texas requires 14 biology semester hours, two courses + labs would NOT be sufficient for Texas schools. Even with a third foundation course at 13.5 credit hours, an applicant would just miss the Texas requirement.

Ideas for getting enough credit hours at Dartmouth for Texas:

- If a student has 3 foundations and one other course, or 2 foundations and 2 other courses then they would have enough credit hours. Some biology-centered neurosciences courses may count for one of them.

Supplementing beyond Dartmouth:
A student could also supplement their biology class hours by taking a final course at a community college, state college, or extension course during the application cycle - many students are able to do this while also working full-time. Even an online course would be sufficient since it would not require more lab hours.