Prosthodontics

Degree Offered

• Master of Science

General Information

The School of Dentistry and its Department of Restorative Dentistry offer a program of advanced study and clinical training leading to the degree of Master of Science. The program requires a minimum of thirty-three months (three academic years and two summers) of full-time residency in the School of Dentistry. It is designed to qualify dentists for careers in prosthodontic clinical practice, teaching, and research.

A stipend plus tuition waiver will be provided for graduate students in Prosthodontics at the end of the second year for summer session and fall/spring semesters. Special fees are not covered by the tuition waiver. You must pay special fees each term/semester.

Inquiries concerning this program should be directed to the Office of Academic and Postdoctoral Affairs. Applications will be processed in the School of Dentistry. Applicants approved for admission to the program will be notified soon after interviews have been completed.

This program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. For details about the faculty, publications and alumni information, please visit the Department website at http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/Academic-Programs/Graduate-Programs/Master-of-Science-in-Prosthodontics.

Program Goals

The postgraduate program is designed to train well qualified dentists in all aspects of prosthodontics. Advanced training in prosthodontics consists of an integrated education program designed to provide both knowledge in the dentally applied basic sciences and experiences in the clinical science of prosthodontics. These include but are not limited to, complete denture prosthodontics, removable partial denture prosthodontics, fixed partial denture prosthodontics, maxillofacial prosthetics, and surgical and prosthodontics dental implantology. A series of structured didactic and clinical courses provides the student with a level of knowledge and skill development necessary to practice prosthodontics as a specialty and to prepare for a career in teaching and research. The program qualifies the student for examination and certification by the American Board of Prosthodontics.

Graduate Courses

Advanced Clinical Prosthodontics: Advanced prosthodontic practice in the areas of fixed and removable partial dentures, complete dentures, tempomandibular dysfunction, maxillofacial prosthetics and surgical and prosthodontic implant therapy.

Advanced Implant and Periodontal Therapy: Didactic and clinical experience in periodontal surgical therapy including: wound healing, crown lengthening, regeneration, grafting and implant placement.

Advanced Oral Surgery: Advanced study of therapeutics, hospital protocol, and surgical aspects of oral surgery involving lectures, seminars, demonstrations, and clinical applications.

Advanced Prosthodontic Theory: Advanced theories and techniques in fixed and removable partial dentures, complete dentures, maxillofacial prosthetics, implantology and geriatric prosthodontics to include case presentations, literature surveys and articulator analysis seminars.

Advanced Topics: Biomedical Sciences Module Series: The Biomedical Sciences Module series has been designed as an online course for students enrolled in the advanced education programs in the WVU School of Dentistry. Four modules are planned. They include pharmacology, physiology/biochemistry, anatomy/histology/embryology, and microbiology/imunology/genetics.

The content of these modules focuses on the clinical application of each of the biomedical sciences to dentistry. Cases will be used to integrate theory and practice. Students will attend a virtual classroom by viewing online lectures, reading prescribed materials, and interacting with faculty and classmates through an online discussion forum.

Advanced Topics: Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

Applied Biostatistics for Health: Statistical models, distribution, probability, random variables, tests of hypotheses, confidence intervals, regression, correlation, transformations, F and Chi-square distributions, analysis of variance, and multiple comparisons.


Research: Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper, or equivalent scholarly project or a dissertation.

Special Studies in Oral Pathology: Advanced study of local or systemic disease processes affecting oral structures through seminars, assignment of specific topics, or research activities.
Teaching Practicum: Supervised practice in college teaching of dentistry.

Faculty
Director
• Mark W. Richards - D.D.S. (University of Washington)

Professors
• Mohssen Ghalichebaf - D.D.S. (University of Istanbul)
• Harold Reed - D.D.S. (West Virginia University)

Assistant Professor
• Bryan Dye - D.D.S. (West Virginia University)

Admission Requirements
The program’s admission requirements are as follows:

• Must have passed National Dental Board Examination – Part I.
• Must have earned a D.M.D./D.D.S. degree, or its equivalent.
• Must be a graduate of a U.S. or Canadian dental school.
• Must be proficient in the English language.
• Must display evidence of scholastic and clinical achievement that would indicate the applicant’s ability to progress in a program of this nature. Generally, a minimum grade point average of 3.0 is required.
• Must apply to the program through the Postdoctoral Application Support Service (PASS, http://www.adea.org/) and have all application materials in PASS by July 15. For more detailed information go to the School of Dentistry website (http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/Academic-Programs/Graduate-Programs/Master-of-Science-in-Prosthodontics).
• Must become familiar with the West Virginia School of Dentistry’s policy and procedure for Bloodborne Pathogens and Infectious Diseases.
• Must consent to and pass a criminal background investigation prior to final acceptance.
• Must provide evidence of vaccination for rubella, rubeola, mumps, hepatitis B, tetanus, meningococcal, meningitis, varicella, and polio.
• Must provide evidence of a negative PPD test performed within the previous twelve months. A positive PPD test result must be accompanied by an appropriate chest x-ray report and follow-up treatment plan.
• Must meet certain Federal and University standards regarding the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). To comply with these standards, all individuals admitted to the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) and dental graduate programs must successfully complete the Biomedical Responsible Conduct of Research (BRCR) online course offered by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). The BRCR course must be completed no later than 30 days after beginning your first semester in the education program. Failure to satisfy this requirement within the specified period of time will impact your enrollment.

Degree Requirements — Master of Science Degree
• Fulfill University requirements for graduate study.
• Complete thirty-three months (three academic years and two summer sessions) of consecutive full-time advanced study and clinical training at the School of Dentistry.
• Complete an approved master’s thesis based on original research completed during the course of study in an area related to Prosthodontics.
• Must satisfactorily pass a final oral examination.
• Must complete all didactic and clinical work in the required curriculum.
• Demonstrate satisfactory clinical competency in this field.
• Complete a minimum of eighty-seven credit hours. This includes sixty credit hours of prosthodontic courses, a minimum of fourteen credit hours of selected basic science subjects, six hours of teaching practicum, and a research/thesis (seven hours).
• Achieve a 3.0 GPA or an overall competence in the student’s field. A minimum grade of B must be earned in all work attempted in the master’s program. A grade of C or below in two courses will require a faculty review of the student’s progress. A third C or below will result in suspension from the program.

Program Curriculum
FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM
In the first year of the program, the resident is introduced to the specialty of prosthodontics, its scope, and its history. The resident receives instruction in the laboratory and clinical aspects of complete dentures, removable partial dentures, fixed partial dentures, maxillofacial prosthetics, implant prosthodontics, implant surgery, and treatment of temporomandibular dysfunction. The resident is required to know and use the materials and techniques for fabricating oral prostheses and to become proficient at performing all phases of laboratory work related to clinical patients.

The resident will participate in seminars on specific topics in prosthodontics and on the relationship of prosthodontics to the other specialties. The resident will study biostatistics, research methodology, and select an in-depth research problem for thesis development and publication.

SECOND-YEAR PROGRAM

The second year of the program is a continuation of the first year of training, with increased emphasis on the clinical treatment of patients and the advanced concepts of prosthodontics. The resident will spend more time conducting a research study and in the development of a thesis. A topic in the field of prosthodontics will be selected and developed into a high quality table clinic for presentation at the American College of Prosthodontists annual session.

THIRD-YEAR PROGRAM

The third year of the program continues with more advance clinical treatment and concepts of prosthodontics, including the completion of three patients to meet the current requirements for presentation to the American Board of Prosthodontics. The resident will spend a significant amount of time treating older adult patients.