School of Dentistry

Degrees Offered

- D.D.S. in Dentistry
- M.S. in Dental Specialties (Endodontics, Orthodontics, and Prosthodontics)
- M.S. in Dental Hygiene
- B.S. in Dental Hygiene

Historical Background

The School of Dentistry was established by an act of the West Virginia Legislature on March 9, 1951, and the first class was enrolled in September 1957. A class of twenty-three students graduated in 1961, receiving the first dental degrees awarded in West Virginia. In September 1961, the first two students were enrolled in the school’s baccalaureate degree program in dental hygiene and graduated in 1965.

Mission

It is the mission of the West Virginia University School of Dentistry to promote a diverse and dynamic learning environment that addresses the present and future oral health needs of the citizens of West Virginia and beyond by providing an oral health center committed to excellence and innovation in education, research, patient care, service, and technology.

The WVU School of Dentistry offers degrees of doctor of dental surgery, master of science in dental specialties and dental hygiene, and bachelor of science in dental hygiene. The Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery offers a four-year residency program, a one-year internship, and a one-year general practice residency program. Programs leading to the master of science and doctor of philosophy degrees are available in the associated basic sciences, public health, and business. Continuing education courses for dentists and auxiliaries are offered throughout the year on a wide variety of dental topics.

Accreditation

All programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Administration

The dean is responsible for implementing the established policies of the School of Dentistry, the Health Sciences Center, and the University. The dean of the School of Dentistry reports to the chancellor for Health Sciences.

Dental Clinic

Clinical training and experience constitute a major part of the curriculum for dental and dental hygiene students. Facilities for dental and dental hygiene students include over seventy-five treatment cubicles and all necessary related laboratories. Students treat their assigned patients under close supervision of faculty and receive practical experience while rendering service to thousands of patients annually.

Books and Instruments

Dental and dental hygiene students are required to obtain necessary textbooks for the scheduled courses and special instruments for use in the various laboratories and clinics. Lists of approved instruments and books will be provided at the time of registration, and these supplies will be made available through University services. Official authorization is essential in the purchase of all instruments and books used in dental courses. All dental students must maintain a library of required textbooks through graduation. Used instruments and equipment are not acceptable.

Organizations

American Student Dental Association. Pre-doctoral and advanced education dental students are eligible to become members of the American Student Dental Association. Membership provides for student membership in the American Dental Association.

American Association of Dental Research. All dental and auxiliary students, including advanced education students, are eligible to become student members of the American Association of Dental Research during the period of enrollment in the School of Dentistry.

American Dental Education Association. All dental and auxiliary students, including advanced education students, are eligible to become student members of the American Dental Education Association during the period of enrollment in the School of Dentistry.

American Association of Women Dentists. The objectives and purposes of the West Virginia University School of Dentistry Chapter of the American Association of Women Dentists are to offer opportunities for personal growth through association with women in the dental profession, support the goals of the American Association of Women Dentists, aid in the advancement of women in dentistry, promote professional support and cooperation among its members, and promote the fundamentals of good oral health.
Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities. The Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities is an international organization for dental students and dental hygiene students interested in management and treatment of special care patients. Community services are provided by assisting with Special Olympics and presenting disability awareness programs to area grade schools. Guest speakers are sponsored on topics such as: “Managing the Hearing Impaired Patient in the Dental Office,” “Use of Restraint in Treating Patients with Disabilities,” and “Child Abuse and Neglect in Special Needs Children.”

WVU School of Dentistry Alumni Association. In a series of meetings held during May 1961, the first senior class of the School of Dentistry established the WVU School of Dentistry Alumni Association. The association promotes the educational program of the School of Dentistry. Full membership is extended to all graduates of the school, and associate memberships are available to others interested in the aims of the association.

Omicron Kappa Upsilon. On February 6, 1961, the Alpha Beta Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, national honorary dental society, was chartered at the School of Dentistry. Student membership is limited to twelve percent of each senior class. Candidates are from the academically superior twenty percent.

Dental Fraternity. Chapter of Delta Sigma Delta International Dental Fraternity.

Student American Dental Hygienists’ Association. Dental hygiene students are eligible for membership in the official organization representing the dental hygiene profession.

Sigma Phi Alpha. The Alpha Xi chapter of the national dental hygiene honorary society, Sigma Phi Alpha, was established on March 19, 1968. Student membership is limited to ten percent of each graduating class. Candidates are selected on the basis of scholarship, character, and leadership potential as a dental hygienist.

ADMINISTRATION

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ASSOCIATE DEANS
  • Christina B. DeBiase - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)  
    Academic & Postdoctoral Affairs
  • Shelia S. Price - D.D.S. (West Virginia University)  
    Admissions, Recruitment, and Access

ASSISTANT DEAN
  • Robert L. Wanker - D.D.S. (West Virginia University)  
    Student and Alumni Affairs

FACULTY

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    Endodontics
  • Richard I. Hart - D.D.S. (U. Mich.)  
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CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
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• Zachary Law - D.D.S. (WVU)
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CO-CHAIRS
• Richard L. Meckstroth - D.D.S. (Loma Linda U.)
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