

School of Dentistry

Degrees Offered

- D.D.S. in Dentistry
- M.S. in Dental Specialties (Endodontics, Orthodontics, Periodontics and Prosthodontics)
- M.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 oral health related 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 vice president 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 services 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. A designated laptop computer must also be purchased prior to the first day of class.

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

DEAN

- Anthony T. Borgia - D.D.S., M.H.A.
Georgetown University

ASSOCIATE DEANS

- Christina B. DeBiase - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)
Academic and Postdoctoral Affairs
- Michael J. Meador - D.D.S (West Virginia University)
Clinic Education and Patient Care
- Shelia S. Price - D.D.S., Ed.D (West Virginia University)
Admission, Recruitment and Access

ASSISTANT DEAN

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

CHAIRS

- Michael Bagby - D.D.S. (Loyola University of Chicago)
- Ashok Balasundaram - D.D.S. (University of Detroit Mercy)
- Bryan Dye - D.D.S. (West Virginia University)
- Amy Funk - M.S.D.H. (West Virginia University)
- L. Keith Hildebrand - D.D.S. (West Virginia University)
- Richard Meckstroth - D.D.S. (Loma Linda University)
- Peter Ngan - D.M.D. (Harvard)
- Gian Pietro Schincaglia - D.D.S., PhD (University of Ferrara)
- Bryan Weaver - D.D.S., M.D. (West Virginia University)

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

- Marvin L. Speer - D.D.S., M.S. (Loyola University of Chicago)
Endodontics
- Amy Funk - M.S.D.H. (West Virginia University)
- William Marshall - D.D.S. (West Virginia University)
General Practice Residency
- Peter Ngan - D.M.D. (Harvard University)

Orthodontics

- Matthew Bryington - D.M.D., M.S. (University of North Carolina)
Prosthodontics
- Gian Pietro Schincaglia - D.D.S., PhD (University of Ferrara)
Periodontics
- Bryan Weaver - D.D.S., M.D. (West Virginia University)
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Degree Designation Learning Outcomes

The postgraduate programs in dentistry are designed to train well qualified dentists in all aspects of the designated dental specialties offered. Advanced training consists of an integrated educational program designed to provide both knowledge in the dentally applied basic sciences and experiences in the clinical science of the designated specialty. A series of structured didactic and clinical courses provides the student with a level of knowledge and skill development necessary to practice a specialty and to prepare for a career in teaching and research. The program qualifies the student for examination and certification by the specialty board.

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS)

The Master of Science degree program requires the development of an in-depth research problem which must be reported in the form of a thesis.

LEARNING GOALS:

1. Develop competent and skilled clinicians at the specialty level.
2. Prepare and qualify residents to achieve certification by the specialty board.
3. Prepare residents to successfully manage a specialty practice.
4. Prepare and promote a career long interest in continued professional development.
5. Develop the background and experience necessary to select materials and techniques which will appropriately meet the biological, physiological and biomechanical requirements for various oral rehabilitations.
6. Introduce residents to teaching techniques and experiences enabling them to gain an appreciation for their potential role as educators.
7. Prepare residents to critically evaluate the literature and to formulate and conduct a program of research in their specialty and to write and defend a thesis [Master of Science] presenting the results of original research.

DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (DDS)

Competencies are the skills, knowledge, attitudes and judgment abilities that a dentist must have at the start of unsupervised independent practice. A graduating student must possess an array of competencies although he or she may not be proficient or expert yet. By defining a curriculum-wide spectrum of competencies, the educational mission of the School is enhanced in two ways: First, the competencies guide our curriculum design and enable us to analyze content across the curriculum. Second, we can be more focused and efficient in assessing the students' acquisition of the defined competencies. To the extent that it can be affirmed that the student acquires sufficient competency to enter the independent practice of dentistry both safely and ethically, the curriculum has more value.

The ultimate benefits of Competencies for the Graduating Dentist will be a more efficient and rational curriculum that is responsive to the educational mission of the School of Dentistry.

I. Scientific and Critical Thinking

1. Scientific Process: The graduating dentist must acquire, critically evaluate and assimilate scientific information necessary for the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, management and prevention of oral health problems.

II. Patient Evaluation

2. Examination of the Patient: The graduating dentist must be able to perform an examination that collects the medical, physical, psychological and social information needed to evaluate the systemic and oral condition(s) of patients of all ages (infant through older adult) or with special needs (including, but not limited to, persons with developmental disabilities, complex medical problems and physical limitations) and manage behavioral factors which affect oral health and use the information to implement strategies that facilitate the delivery of oral health care.

III. Diagnosis

3. Diagnosis: The graduating dentist must be able to determine a differential, provisional or definitive diagnosis by interpreting and correlating findings from the history, clinical and radiographic examination and other diagnostic tests.

IV. Treatment Planning

4. Treatment Planning: The graduating dentist must be able to develop, present, and discuss individual treatment plans for patients of all ages consistent with the patient's condition, interest, goals and capabilities.

V. Patient Treatment and Management

5. Prevention of Disease and Maintenance of Health: The graduating dentist must be able to provide care for patients of all ages that emphasizes prevention of oral diseases and supports the maintenance of existing systemic and oral health.

6. Tobacco Cessation: The graduating dentist must be able to provide evidence-based tobacco cessation strategies.

7. Diversity Awareness: The graduating dentist must be able to discuss cultural factors that impact oral health and provide culturally-sensitive care to persons with varying individual characteristics and backgrounds.

8. Control of Pain and Anxiety: The graduating dentist must be able to employ techniques to manage orofacial discomfort and psychological distress.

9. Caries Management: The graduating dentist must be able to treat and manage caries in the primary, mixed and permanent dentition.

10. Endodontic Therapy: The graduating dentist must be able to treat diseases of pulpal and periradicular origin in the primary, mixed and permanent dentitions.

11. Periodontal Therapy: The graduating dentist must be able to treat and manage periodontal disease in the primary, mixed, permanent and implant dentitions utilizing a non-surgical approach.

12. Surgical Therapy: The graduating dentist must be able to recognize, evaluate, treat and/or manage conditions requiring surgical procedures on the hard and soft tissues in patients of all ages.

13. Emergency Situations: The graduating dentist must be able to prevent and manage dental and medical emergency situations encountered in the practice of general dentistry.

14. Occlusal/TMD Therapy: The graduating dentist must be able to manage functional disorders of occlusal or non-occlusal origins.

15. Orthodontic Therapy: The graduating dentist must be able to manage developmental or acquired abnormalities in esthetics or occlusion.

16. Stomatology: The graduating dentist must be able to manage limited or common non-life threatening oral mucosal diseases or disorders.

17. Restorative/Prosthodontic Therapy: The graduating dentist must be able to provide restorations and prostheses that are correct in anatomical form, comfortable and functionally effective, and which satisfy the esthetic requirements of the patient or legal guardian.

18. Implant Therapy: The graduating dentist must be able to assess, diagnose, treatment plan and treat patients requiring single tooth posterior implant-supported restorations and mandibular implant-supported overdentures.

19. Assessment of Patient Treatment: The graduating dentist must be able to determine the prognosis for proposed patient care, evaluate the initial results of the care and determine appropriate periodic maintenance.

VI. Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

20. Community Engagement: The graduating dentist must be able to assume a leadership role in improving the oral health of individuals, families and groups in the community by planning, implementing and evaluating programs to eliminate oral health disparities through a dynamic, evidence-based and interprofessional approach to wellness.

VII. Practice Dynamics

21. Ethics: The graduating dentist must be able to discern and manage the ethicolegal issues of dental practice.

22. Dental Informatics: The graduating dentist must be able to utilize or appreciate office computerization, different forms of digital imaging and electronic communication and information retrieval for patient care, practice management and professional development.

23. Professional Practice: The graduating dentist must possess the skills to transition from dental school to various practice settings.

24. Scope of Practice: The graduating dentist must be able to know the limit of one's competence and when to make referrals to colleagues.

25. Dental Sleep Medicine: The graduating dentist must recognize and refer patients at high risk for sleep disorders and prescribe and manage oral appliances, as a member of the sleep medicine team.

The following programs within the School of Dentistry have specialized accreditation through the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Dentistry

Dental Hygiene

Endodontics

Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics

Periodontics

Prosthodontics

General Practice Residency

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency