

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY ACCREDITATION REPORT**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Receive the accreditation report from the College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa.

**Executive Summary:** The Dental and Advanced Dental Education Programs in dental public health, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, and general practice residency programs in the College of Dentistry (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. In February 2012, the College of Dentistry was informed that the dental education program and all nine of the advanced dental education programs and the general practice residency were accredited for the maximum period of seven years without further reporting required. This report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to provide “educational excellence and impact” as well as Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

**Background:**

- ◇ **Description of programs.** The mission of the College of Dentistry is to educate dentists for Iowa and beyond through excellence in patient care, education, and research.
  - ⇒ **Predocctoral Dental Education Program (DDS).** The predocctoral program is a four-year program that has several key components, including extensive basic science experiences provided by colleagues in the College of Medicine; a challenging preclinical experience with simulations through all four years; a clinical education system weighted for extensive patient contact time to combine clerkships with comprehensive care; and an extensive set of experiences with underserved populations. There were 951 applicants for the 2010-2011 class; 108 were offered admission; and 80 enrolled.
  - ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education Program in Dental Public Health.** This is a 24-month combined Master of Public Health (MPH) and Master of Science Program in Dental Public Health. Students learn how to prevent and control dental diseases and promote dental health through organized community efforts, such as dental health education of the public or administration of group dental care programs. At the time of the site visit, there were four students/residents enrolled in each year of the program.
  - ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education Program in Endodontics.** This is a 24-month program for full-time students/residents. Students learn to diagnose, prevent, and treat diseases and injuries of the dental pulp and periapical tissues. Upon completion, the students/residents receive both a residency certificate and a graduate degree. Students/residents have the option of completing the Master of Science Program in Oral Science or, upon completion of additional coursework, a Ph.D. in Oral Science. At the time of the site visit, there were four first year and four second year students/residents enrolled in the program.

- ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education program in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.** This is a 35-month full-time program. Students study the nature, identification and management of diseases (causes, processes, and effects) affecting the oral and maxillofacial regions. Upon completion, students/residents receive both a residency certificate and a graduate degree. Students/residents have the option of completing a Master of Science Program in Oral Science, or, upon completion of additional coursework, a Ph.D. in Oral Science. At the time of the site visit, there was one first-year, one second-year, and one third-year student/resident enrolled in the program.
- ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education program in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology.** This is a 36-month full-time program. Students learn to produce and interpret images and data produced by all modalities of radiant energy used for the diagnosis and management of diseases in the oral and maxillofacial region. Upon completion, students/residents receive both a residency certificate and a graduate degree. Students/residents have the option of completing a Master of Science Program in Oral Science, or, upon completion of additional coursework, a Ph.D. in Oral Science. At the time of the site visit, the program had one first-year, one second-year, and one third-year student/resident enrolled.
- ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education Program in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics.** This is a 24-month full-time program where students/residents learn to diagnose, prevent, intercept, and correct malocclusion and neuromuscular/skeletal abnormalities of the orofacial structures. Upon completion, students/residents receive both a residency certificate and a graduate degree. Students/residents have the option of completing a Master of Science Program in Oral Science or, upon completion of additional coursework, a Ph.D. in Oral Science. At the time of the site visit, the program had five first-year and five second-year students/residents enrolled.
- ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry.** This is a 24-month full-time program that instructs students/residents in providing primary and comprehensive preventive and therapeutic oral health care for infants and children through adolescence. Upon completion, students/residents receive a residency certificate. The program also offers a 36-month full-time combined pediatric dentistry and dental public health program which awards a certificate in pediatric dentistry and a Master of Science in Dental Public Health. At the time of the site visit, the program had four first-year and three second-year students/residents enrolled.
- ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education Program in Periodontics.** This is a 36-month full-time program that instructs students/residents in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases of the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth or their substitutes and the maintenance of health, function, and esthetics of these tissues or structures. Upon completion, students/residents receive both a residency certificate and a graduate degree. Students/residents have the option of completing a Master of Science Program in Oral Science or, upon completion of additional coursework, a Ph.D. in Oral Science. At the time of the site visit, the program had two first-year, two second-year, and one third-year students/residents enrolled.
- ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education Program in Prosthodontics.** This is a 34.5-month full-time program that instructs students/residents in the diagnosis, treatment planning, rehabilitation, and maintenance of the oral function of patients with clinical conditions associated with missing teeth and/or oral and maxillofacial tissues using

biocompatible substitutes. Upon completion, students/residents receive both a residency certificate and a graduate degree. Students/residents have the option of completing a Master of Science Program in Oral Science or, upon completion of additional coursework, a Ph.D. In Oral Science. At the time of the site visit, there were two students/residents enrolled in each year of the program.

- ⇒ **Advanced Education Program in General Practice Residency.** This is a 12-month full-time program which provides training beyond the level of predoctoral education in oral health care using applied basic and behavioral sciences. Upon completion, graduates are awarded a residency certificate. At the time of the site visit, there were four students/residents enrolled in the program.
  
- ◇ Purpose of Accreditation. An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met national standards for its development and evaluation. To employers, graduate schools, and licensure, certification, and registration boards, graduation from an accredited program signifies adequate preparation for entry into the profession. In fact, many of these groups require graduation from an accredited program as a minimum qualification. Therefore, accreditation is also critical for recruitment of new students.
  
- ◇ Accrediting Agency. The accrediting body is the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).
  
- ◇ Review Process. The self-study prepared by the College of Dentistry contained the responses to the standards required by the accrediting body. CODA requires different sets of standards for each level.<sup>1</sup> The standards applicable to the advanced specialty dental education programs also include requirements specific to each of the specialty areas.
  - ⇒ Predoctoral dental education standards – institutional effectiveness; education program; faculty and staff; educational support services; patient care services; and research program.
  - ⇒ Advanced specialty dental education programs standards – institutional commitment/program effectiveness and affiliations; program director and teaching staff; facilities and resources; curriculum and program duration; advanced education students/residents; research.
  - ⇒ Advanced education program in general practice residency standards – institutional and program effectiveness; educational program; faculty and staff; educational support services; and patient care services.
  
- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In September 2011, the visiting team identified strengths and weaknesses of the program. The team also determined that the College of Dentistry was in compliance with CODA's policies and procedures. The site team offered a number of suggestions to enhance the predoctoral dental education program and the advanced specialty education programs in oral and maxillofacial radiology; pediatric dentistry; and prosthodontics. No suggestions were cited for the advanced specialty education programs in dental public health; endodontics; oral and maxillofacial pathology; orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics; periodontics; and the general practice residency. Suggestions offered by the site team do not constitute accreditation or compliance requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> The complete text of standards is available at <http://www.ada.org/115.aspx>.

- ◇ Suggestions Offered by the Visiting Team. (Institutional responses are in italics.)
  - ⇒ **Predoctoral Dental Education Program.**
    - ☑ Curriculum Management – “The School should provide the students written information about the goals and requirements for each extramural site prior to the rotations.” *The documentation pertaining to the extramural program was modified in response to the Commission’s suggestions. The handbook was revised to clearly depict the overarching goals and objectives of the extramural program and two syllabi were developed.*
    - ☑ Biomedical Sciences – “The biomedical sciences and clinical faculty should continue to pursue ongoing interaction and integration of clinical and basic sciences.” *Interactions between the clinical dental faculty and the biomedical faculty that were already occurring in 2010-2011 were better described and a new Concept Lecture Concept Database was assembled to identify key themes and contents across the biomedical and dental course content.*
    - ☑ Ethics and Professionalism – “The College should develop methods to assess the importance that its graduates place on lifelong learning.” *The College has added several questions to its survey of recent graduates that ask about continuing education and ‘lifelong learning.’*
  - ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education Program in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology.**
    - ☑ Institutional Commitment/Program Effectiveness – “A process of student/resident evaluation of the program should be developed and used to facilitate a comprehensive assessment of the program’s effectiveness.” *Suggestions are still under consideration.*
  - ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry.**
    - ☑ Curriculum and Program Duration – “While the program met the threshold level of compliance for Hospital and Adjunctive Experiences, the program should provide an Emergency Room Rotation that is at least two weeks duration and is an experience beyond regular dental emergency duties.” *Suggestions are still under consideration.*
  - ⇒ **Advanced Specialty Education Program in Prosthodontics.**
    - ☑ Program Director and Teaching Staff – “Although the program was meeting the Accreditation Standards related to program director and teaching staff, the institution should proceed with recruitment of the one to two vacant positions in the department of prosthodontics in order to further enhance the program.” *A search committee has been assembled and the request to begin recruitment has been prepared.*
- ◇ Accreditation Status. In February 2012, the Commission on Dental Accreditation awarded accreditation to the College of Dentistry predoctoral dental education program and advanced dental education programs in dental public health, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, and general practice residency at the University of Iowa for the maximum period of seven years to 2018 without reporting requirements.