

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Essential Requirements for Admission and Matriculation

The mission of the School of Dentistry is "...to graduate exceptional oral health care professionals, contribute to the scientific basis of treatments for diseases of the orofacial complex, and deliver comprehensive dental care." To achieve this mission, the School of Dentistry has established specific goals.

Admission to the School of Dentistry is open to all qualified individuals in accordance with the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. §701 *et seq.*) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*) Qualified individuals must satisfy the School of Dentistry's minimum technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

Dental education requires that the accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of skills and professional attitudes and behaviors essential to the profession. Students require observational, organizational communication, sensory, motor, intellectual, behavioral, technical, and social skills to successfully negotiate the curriculum. The School of Dentistry is mindful of the unique nature of dental curricula. It is the responsibility of the School of Dentistry's admissions committee to select applicants who are qualified to successfully complete the required training. As part of the education process, students in all of the School's clinical programs are required to provide treatment for patients and to practice treatment techniques with student partners. Students are required to serve as patients for their classmates in performing such diagnostic and reversible procedures as local anesthesia administration, the making of impressions, sealant placement and oral prophylaxis. The Dental School has the responsibility of ensuring timely and safe treatment of all patients during these and other processes inherent in comprehensive care.

Candidates and students must have aptitude, abilities and skills in five areas: (1) observation (2) communication (3) motor function (4) quantitative and intellectual conception (5) behavioral and social stability. Technological compensation can be made for some disability in these areas, but a student should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary would mean that a student's judgment is mediated by someone else's knowledge, powers of selection, observation, organization or clinical ability. Therefore, third parties cannot be used to assist students in accomplishing curricular requirements in the five skill areas specified above.

Observational

Observation necessitates functional use of the sense of vision, touch and other sensory modalities. A student must be able to:

- Acquire information and skills through demonstrations and experiences in the basic, behavioral and dental sciences;

- Observe patients accurately, at a distance and close at hand, with or without standard instrumentation, to acquire information for written documents;
- Observe and note verbal as well as non-verbal communications;
- Visualize information presented in images from paper, film, slides, computer displays and video; and
- Interpret radiographs and other graphic and 3-D images.

Communication

A student must be able to:

- Speak intelligibly, and sensitively with patients;
- Elicit and transmit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture and perceive non-verbal communication, e.g. in order to allow the development of a health history;
- Communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written English with all members of an interdisciplinary health care team, the patient, and the patient's family or legal representative during both emergency and non-emergency situations;
- Read and apply appropriate information and instructions contained in requisitions, notes and the electronic patient record; and
- Understand and apply clinical instructions given by others.

Sensory and Motor Coordination and Function

A student must:

- Have the gross, fine muscular coordination and equilibrium necessary to execute precise and finite movements inherent in providing general care and emergency treatment for patients;
- Have exceptional use of both touch and vision;
- Be able to perform palpation and other diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers;
- Be able to perform laboratory procedures and work with standard laboratory materials;
- Be able to reach and manipulate dental equipment to all positions in order to control the operating environment; and
- Be able to activate the emergency medical system.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

A student must:

- Be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize;
- Be able to perform problem solving skills, e.g. including those listed above, efficiently and expediently in emergency and non-emergency situations; and
- Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Behavioral and Social Competencies

A student must:

- Possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients;
- Follow faithfully the policy on attendance (<http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/dentalstudent/policies/predoctoral/attendance.html>)
- Possess exceptional organizational skills and be able to multitask;
- Respect the time and privacy of other students, colleagues, staff and faculty;
- Exhibit the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients, colleagues, clinical and administrative staff, and all others with whom the student interacts in the professional or academic setting, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age or other attributes or affiliations that may differ from those of the student;
- Be able to tolerate physically and emotionally taxing workloads and to function effectively when stressed;
- Be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients;
- Be able to accept appropriate suggestions and criticism and, if necessary, respond by modification of behavior; and
- Display empathy, integrity, concern for others, and interpersonal skills, interest and motivation in becoming a dental professional.

Other Requirements

A student must comply with university immunization requirements as outlined at: <http://cf.umaryland.edu/umpolicies/usmpolicyinfo.cfm?polid=142>

The admission of a student who is chronically infected with Hepatitis B Virus will be considered on a case-by-case basis after consultation with a panel of experts in Infections Diseases. This panel will consider the Hepatitis B e antigen status, the health of the student and decide what, if any, restrictions and monitoring are necessary for the student during their training in dentistry or dental hygiene.

Applicants with Disabilities

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry provides reasonable accommodations for applicants with disabilities.

An applicant is not disqualified from consideration due to a disability. Applicants are not required to disclose a disability to the Committee on Admissions. Applicants with questions about the School's Essential Requirements for Admission and Matriculation in relation to their disability are encouraged to discuss the issue of accommodation with the University's Office of Educational Support and Disability Services.

<http://www.umaryland.edu/disabilityservices/index.html> Applicants may request reasonable accommodation in Admissions by contacting the University's Office of Education Support and Disability Services.

Some of the aptitudes, abilities and skills described in the Essential Requirements can be attained with technological compensation or other reasonable accommodation. However, individuals using technological supports or other accommodations must be able to perform in an independent manner. The use of trained intermediaries to carry out functions described in the Essential Requirements will not be permitted by the School of Dentistry. Intermediaries, no matter how well trained, are applying their own powers of selection, observation or organization, which could affect the student's judgment and performance. Therefore, the School will not permit third parties to assist a student in the clinical training area to accomplish curriculum requirements and skills identified in the Essential Requirements. Other accommodations will be given due consideration, and reasonable accommodations will be made where consistent with curriculum objectives.

An applicant who has not been offered admission to the School of Dentistry may, but is not required to, disclose a disability and request accommodation during the admissions process. An applicant who chooses voluntarily to disclose a disability should write the Director of Educational Support and Disability Services for the University to begin University procedures for disability accommodation.

<http://www.umaryland.edu/disabilityservices/about/mission.html>

After admission, admittees who have not yet accepted a place in a class at the School of Dentistry, admittees who have accepted a place and matriculating students can disclose a disability and request accommodations with the Director of Educational Support and Disability Services.

Enrolled Students with Disabilities

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry provides reasonable accommodations for enrolled students. Enrolled students with questions about the Dental School's Essential Requirements for Admission and Matriculation in relation to their disability are encouraged to discuss the issue of accommodation with the University's Office of Educational Support and Disability Services.

<http://www.umaryland.edu/disabilityservices/index.html> Enrolled Students may request reasonable accommodation by contacting the University's Office of Education Support and Disability Services and must renew accommodations with that same office each semester.

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