

Dean's Awards for Community Service & Engagement

The **Dean's Awards for Community Service & Engagement** were established by students to recognize and promote dedication to community service among students at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD). The UMSOD Office of Student Affairs (OSA) manages these awards and collaborates regularly with the Student Government Association's (SGA) Community Service Chairs.

Community Service & Engagement Overview

Community service & engagement hours must focus on improving the broader Maryland community and/or supporting the UMSOD community. Students may choose to be involved in individual activities or service projects with a group. Activities are not limited to those related to dental education and awareness but must reflect meaningful community engagement. While there are numerous opportunities to volunteer at sanctioned UMSOD functions—such as those organized by the Offices of Admissions, Alumni Relations and Development, and Student Affairs— please note that a maximum of ten (10) hours per semester for UMSOD volunteer functions will count toward eligibility for awards. Other than UMSOD service hours, there is no set limit on the number of hours for community service associated with any approved outreach. Awards will be conferred at the end of senior year.

Exclusions

To prevent double counting of hours already recognized or credited elsewhere, the following activities are excluded from the Dean's Community Service & Engagement Awards:

- Community service events that are part of externships, coursework, or are required curriculum activities
- Fundraising activities
- Service required by the UMB President's Student Leadership Institute (PSLI) or other UMB-sponsored service projects or university engagement initiatives

Hours and Timeline for Dental and Dental Hygiene Students

Starting in the Fall 2025 Semester (May 27, 2025)

Dental Students	Volunteer work over seven (7) full semesters is considered for the award.
Dental Hygiene Students	Three (3) full semesters and a portion of the final semester as outlined by the Division of Dental Hygiene count toward the award.
Dean's Award for Community Service & Engagement	DDS and DH students who average 15 hours of service per semester will receive this award.
Dean's Award for Outstanding Community Service & Engagement	DDS and DH students who average 25 hours of service per semester will receive this award.

Submission Guidelines

- Dental students must submit their hours to their class Community Service Chair within two weeks of the completed activity. Class Community Service Chairs record hours and report them on the first of the month to the SGA Community Service Chairs.

- Dental Hygiene students submit fall and spring hours in their spring semester only to the Community Service-Learning Course Director of DHYG 423.
- Seniors should ensure any outstanding hours are submitted no later than **March 1**.