

THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

The College of Dentistry, a College within the University of Nebraska Medical Center, is located in Lincoln, Nebraska, on the east campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This location is only five minutes from the city campus and 15 minutes from the Lincoln airport. Also on the east campus are UNL's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Law, the Barkley Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic, and the Nebraska Center for Virology.

The College of Dentistry's faculty are organized into five academic departments that work together to advance the college's mission: *to continually improve the oral health of the people of Nebraska and beyond through a humanistic approach to education, extraordinary patient care and innovative research*. Departments include: Adult Restorative Dentistry, (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/about/departments/ard.html>) Dental Hygiene (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/about/departments/dental-hygiene.html>), Growth & Development (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/about/departments/growth-development.html>), Oral Biology (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/about/departments/oral-biology.html>), and Surgical Specialties (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/about/departments/surgical-specialties.html>).

The College of Dentistry has six advanced dental education programs in the areas of pediatric dentistry (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/programs/postgraduate/pediatrics.html>), endodontics (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/programs/postgraduate/endodontics.html>), periodontics (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/programs/postgraduate/periodontics.html>), and orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/programs/postgraduate/orthodontics.html>), plus a general practice residency (GPR) (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/programs/postgraduate/gpr.html>) and an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD (<https://www.unmc.edu/dentistry/programs/postgraduate/aegd.html>)) program. The residency programs in pediatric dentistry and GPR operate in facilities at UNMC in Omaha, and the AEGD in Lincoln, Omaha, and other areas in Nebraska. Courses in the College of Dentistry are open only to those students who are formally accepted by the Admissions Committee as students in the College of Dentistry.

History

The College of Dentistry in Lincoln was started as the Lincoln Dental College in 1899. It became affiliated with the University of Nebraska in 1903 when dental students were enrolled in the University for the basic science portion of the curriculum and received their clinical instruction from the Lincoln Dental College. In 1918, the College of Dentistry was formally made a unit in the University of Nebraska and was recognized as a college in the University of Nebraska by the State Legislature in 1919. In 1979, it became part of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The College of Dentistry has a proud history and its graduates have practiced with distinction in all areas of the United States and around the world.

Philosophy

A major goal of the College of Dentistry is to provide the physical facility and service atmosphere conducive to comprehensive patient care. The aim of the College of Dentistry is to prepare competent general dental practitioners and dental hygienists who can satisfactorily practice dentistry and dental hygiene in any area of the country and render patient-centered comprehensive care. Emphasis is placed on the understanding of the community, of preventive dentistry, and of all

components of the therapeutic procedures constituting the professions of dentistry and dental hygiene.

Mission, Vision, and Values

The mission of the UNMC College of Dentistry is to continually improve the oral health of the people of Nebraska and beyond through a humanistic approach to education, extraordinary patient care, and innovative research.

UNMC COD will transform oral healthcare in Nebraska by implementing exceptional education, collaborative research, community service, and integration with the healthcare team to achieve patient-centered care.

We value our strong sense of community. We are committed to compassionate care, collaborative learning, and the continuous exploration of knowledge. We demonstrate integrity, accountability, intellectual curiosity, and passion in everything we do. We respect diversity and its contributions to our culture of excellence.

Accreditation

The University of Nebraska is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the accrediting agency for the region in which the University is located.

UNMC College of Dentistry is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The CODA will review complaints that relate to a program's compliance with accreditation standards. The Commission is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dental and dental-related education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for treatment received by patients or individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff, or students.

A copy of the appropriate accreditation standards and/or Commission's policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 or by calling (312) 440-4653.

Licensure

Completion of our DDS program fulfills educational requirements for eligibility for licensure examinations and post-graduate training (i.e. a residency), which ultimately leads to licensure in all US states and territories. Completion of our BS in Dental Hygiene program fulfills educational requirements for eligibility for licensure examinations, which ultimately leads to licensure in all US states and territories.

Definition of a Graduate

The College of Dentistry strives to create a learning environment in which each graduate is instilled with the determination to provide conscientious care to patients, along with a sense of responsibility to self, the community, and the profession. The curriculum for students of both dentistry and dental hygiene provides an orderly progression of knowledge and skills, reflecting the interdependence of biological, behavioral, and clinical sciences. At the same time, the curriculum is flexible, permitting variations in background, interests, and career goals and allowing for the development of each student's potential.

Overall, the dental program of the College focuses on three interwoven areas:

- Scientific Foundations
- Competencies for Cognitive and Psychomotor Skills, and
- Competencies for Professional and Ethical Values.

Each of these areas addresses a set of foundations or competencies upon which the College curriculum objectives are based. Therefore, upon completion of the predoctoral dental program, the student is expected to demonstrate achievement of the stated competencies in each area.

Scientific Foundations

It is acknowledged that the dental college's basic science curriculum is essential in establishing a sound scientific basis for the practice of dentistry and is far more encompassing of modern biomedical science than is included in the clinical competency statements that follow.

Competencies for Cognitive and Psychomotor Skills

1. **Scientific Process:** The new dentist must be competent to acquire, critically appraise, communicate, and apply the clinically relevant biomedical information necessary for providing evidence-based comprehensive care to patients.
2. **Behavioral Sciences:** The new dentist must be competent to promote, improve, and maintain oral health by applying the fundamental principles of behavioral sciences and managing interpersonal communications while providing patient-centered care to a diverse population in a multicultural-work environment.
3. **Patient Assessment:** The new dentist must be competent to collect biological, psychological and social information needed to evaluate the medical and oral condition, including screening for head and neck cancer, for patients in all stages of life.
4. **Diagnosis:** The new dentist must be competent to distinguish normal from abnormal clinical states and interpret historical, clinical, and imaging data as well as apply other diagnostic tests to develop a diagnosis for patients of all ages.
5. **Treatment Planning:** The new dentist must be competent to develop, present, discuss, and obtain informed consent for individual, evidence-based treatment plans. Such treatment plans must consider the patient's age, condition, interests, prognosis, and capabilities and include recognizing complexity and identifying when a referral is indicated.
6. **Definitive Treatment:** For patients in all stages of life, the new dentist must be competent to:
 - a. Employ techniques to manage orofacial discomfort and attributed psychological distress during the provision of care.
 - b. Prevent and/or manage the dental and medical emergency situations encountered in the practice of general dentistry.
 - c. Treat and/or manage caries in the primary, mixed, and permanent dentition.
 - d. Diagnose and/or manage temporomandibular disorders.
 - e. Treat and/or manage developmental or acquired and functional occlusal abnormalities of the primary, mixed, or permanent dentition.
 - f. Recognize and manage oral mucosal and osseous disorders.
 - g. Provide pulpal therapy.
 - h. Provide periodontal therapy.
 - i. Treat and/or manage conditions requiring uncomplicated surgical procedures on the hard and soft tissues.
 - j. Provide restorations and prostheses, including dental implant prosthodontics that are appropriate in form and function, and

which satisfy the reasonable comfort and esthetic requirements of the patient.

- k. Communicate with and manage dental laboratory procedures in support of patient care.
- l. Assess the treatment needs of patients with special needs.
- m. Evaluate the outcomes of treatment, recall strategies, and prognosis.

Competencies for Professional and Ethical Values

1. **Practice Management:** The new dentist must be competent to develop and assess practice goals, evaluate models of health care delivery, and lead the oral health care team, including collaboration with other health care professionals.
2. **Ethics:** The new dentist must be competent to appropriately apply ethical reasoning, professional values, and legal and regulatory concepts in the provision and/or support of health care services.
3. **Oral Health Promotion:** The new dentist must be competent to provide patient education and care that emphasizes prevention of oral diseases and supports improving and maintaining oral health in patients of all stages of life.
4. **Self-improvement:** The new dentist must be competent to self-assess professional knowledge, skills, and values to support self-directed lifelong learning.
5. **Critical Thinking:** The new dentist must be competent to use critical thinking for scientific inquiry and patient care.
6. **Research:** The new dentist must be competent to recognize and apply fundamental principles of basic, clinical and translational research methodology to the comprehensive care of patients.