

DENTISTRY, MASTER OF SCIENCE IN (M.S.D.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN PERIODONTICS

Program goals and objectives

The didactic requirements of the M.S.D. are combined with the goals of the M.S.D. program to provide the student with a strong clinical background which is supported by a strong background in research methodology.

Program goals

1. To provide an academic environment for inquiry in which expertise and knowledge in basic sciences and clinical periodontics can be achieved
2. To provide a sound background in medicine as it applies to the periodontal patient
3. To provide a sound background in oral pathology
4. To be able to interpret, critique and apply periodontal and associated literature
5. To develop sound diagnostic, clinical, nonsurgical and surgical skills
6. To provide didactic instruction and clinical training in the area of dental implants
7. To provide methods of pain and anxiety control, including ADA certification in intravenous conscious sedation
8. To provide an environment for the interpretation and implementation of research
9. Enable successful completion of the American Board of Periodontology exam
10. To develop sound lifelong didactic and clinical learning skills
11. To provide specialists in periodontics for community health care, professional service and dental education

Program objectives

1. To be exposed to the basic sciences and be able to apply concepts to clinical periodontics
2. To be able to critically critique and interpret the old and new literature
3. To have an understanding of oral pathology and medicine as it applies to management of the periodontal patient
4. To have residents become exposed to and proficient in multiple nonsurgical and surgical treatment modalities
5. To become competent in the treatment planning, site preparation, surgical placement and maintenance of dental implants
6. To obtain competency and certification in enteral and parental conscious sedation
7. To complete research, M.S.D. and prepare a paper for presentation and publication
8. To prepare the student to successfully complete Part I and II of the American Board of Periodontology examination
9. To develop communication and presentation skills and lifelong learners

Student learning outcomes

Graduates of this program will:

1. Be able to formulate and conduct a research project relevant to their discipline
2. Practice evidence-based advanced level dentistry
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate with patients, colleagues in general dentistry, dental specialties, medicine and other health care practitioners
4. Demonstrate advanced clinical skills in the provision of ethical and informed patient care
5. Become proficient in the delivery of state-of-the-art periodontic care including:
 - a. Diagnosis treatment and planning as it applies to the periodontal patient
 - b. Expertise in systemic/medical considerations affecting patient periodontal status and provision of care
 - c. Outcomes assessment
 - d. An in-depth knowledge of oral medicine and oral pathology
 - e. Advanced clinical skills in a comprehensive variety of periodontal and dental implant treatment modalities
 - f. Management of medically compromised patients
 - g. Emergency management of periodontal conditions
 - h. Management of orofacial pain and dental anxiety, including ADA certification in intravenous conscious sedation
 - i. Use of emerging techniques of periodontal treatment

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/>) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the **academic regulations section** for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/>)

Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master's or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student's graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student's

faculty regarding the student's academic achievements and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/candidacy/>)

Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>)

Apply online today. (<https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/>)

Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
M.S.D.	Fall (Jul 1 start date)	Jul 1, a year previous to entry	National Dental Boards, part I and II or the Integrated National Board

Upon acceptance into the speciality certificate program in periodontics the applicants must apply to the Graduate School for the M.S.D. program.

In addition to the **general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School**, the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Agreement to participate in the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program
2. Agreement to participate in the American Dental Education Association Postdoctoral Application Support Service
3. Graduation or anticipated graduation from dental school
4. Eligibility to obtain a Virginia temporary resident's license from the Virginia Board of Dentistry
5. Completion of National Boards Part I and Part II by time of matriculation (current dental student applicants) or successful completion of the Integrated National Board.
6. Minimum grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 scale) or the equivalent, or a ranking of the top 50 percent of the dental school class.
7. Completion of TOEFL or IELTS (for students whose native language is not English)

Application to the periodontics concentration is through the ADEA PASS program. The PASS application should include the following items:

1. Current curriculum vitae or resume
2. Official copies of dental school transcripts
3. GPA/class ranking forwarded from the dean's office of the dental school attended
4. Three letters of recommendation from individuals who can personally attest to the applicant's personal and professional qualities, including at least one letter from an individual who can discuss periodontal skills
5. For international students:
 - a. Test of English as a Foreign Language (original copy and minimum IBT score of 92 is required for consideration) or International English Language Testing System (original copy and score of 6.5 or greater acceptable; test must be taken within two years of application date)
 - b. An official, detailed, course-by-course evaluation by Education Credential Evaluators or World Education Services

The following supplementary items must be submitted directly to the VCU Department of Periodontics.

1. Personal statement indicating the applicant's interest in the specialty of periodontics, including information about experience and career goals (personal and professional)
2. \$50 application fee payable to VCU Department of Periodontics with memo line reading "for application fee"
3. 2x2 inch photograph
4. **Formal application [PDF]**

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>), a cumulative GPA of 3.0 must be maintained. Students must receive a minimum grade of B for all required courses. Students will take written and oral examinations and must obtain a minimum grade of B or a passing grade. If either is not obtained, then the examination must be retaken. For research the student must have a thesis defense, present a poster and prepare a manuscript for submission by May 1 of the third year. Extensions may be approved, but students are responsible for the expense.

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
Core courses		
DENS 550	Update in Practice Administration	1
DENS 580	Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry (two credits taken twice)	4
DENS 660	Interdisciplinary Care Conference (0.5 credits earned twice) ¹	1
DENS 680	Graduate Dental Clinic (four credits taken four times)	16
DENS 699	Thesis Guidance (two credits taken four times)	8
DENS 700	Basic Sciences and Graduate Dentistry	3
Concentration courses		
DENS 630	Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference (0.5 credits taken six times) ¹	3
PERI 508	Physical Diagnosis	2

PERI 511	Anesthesiology Rotation	1.5
PERI 512	Conscious Sedation (two credits taken twice)	4
PERI 514	Introduction to Periodontics	3
PERI 520	Principles of Periodontics (two credits taken twice)	4
PERI 552	Implantology	1
PERI 619	Clinical Pathology Rotation	0.5
PERI 630	Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar (1.5 credits taken six times)	9
PERI 650	Periodontal Literature Review (three credits taken six times)	18
PERI 654	Treatment Plan: Case Presentations (one credit taken six times)	6
PERI 656	Current Literature Review (three credits taken six times)	18
PERI 680	Clinical Periodontics	15.5
PERI 719	Specialty Practice Management	0.5
Total Hours		119

1

For DENS 660, students register for .5 credits for both fall and spring semesters in the first two years of the program. They receive a continuing grade in the fall semester and grade at the end of the spring semester for the entire year. Students take the class four times for .5 credits each time, but they are only graded for two 0.5 credit classes

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 119.

Plan of study

Year one

Fall semester		Hours
DENS 580	Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry	2
DENS 630	Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference	0.5
DENS 660	Interdisciplinary Care Conference (no credits earned in fall; continuing course) ¹	-
DENS 680	Graduate Dental Clinic	4
DENS 699	Thesis Guidance	2
PERI 508	Physical Diagnosis	2
PERI 512	Conscious Sedation	2
PERI 514	Introduction to Periodontics	3
PERI 520	Principles of Periodontics	2
PERI 552	Implantology	1
PERI 630	Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar	1.5
PERI 650	Periodontal Literature Review	3
PERI 654	Treatment Plan: Case Presentations	1
PERI 656	Current Literature Review	3
Term Hours:		27

Spring semester

DENS 580	Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry	2
DENS 630	Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference ¹	0.5

DENS 660	Interdisciplinary Care Conference	.5
DENS 680	Graduate Dental Clinic	4
DENS 699	Thesis Guidance	2
DENS 700	Basic Sciences and Graduate Dentistry	3
PERI 511	Anesthesiology Rotation	1.5
PERI 512	Conscious Sedation	2
PERI 520	Principles of Periodontics	2
PERI 630	Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar	1.5
PERI 650	Periodontal Literature Review	3
PERI 654	Treatment Plan: Case Presentations	1
PERI 656	Current Literature Review	3
Term Hours:		26

Year two

Fall semester

DENS 630	Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference	0.5
DENS 660	Interdisciplinary Care Conference (no credit earned in fall; continuing course) ¹	-
DENS 680	Graduate Dental Clinic	4
DENS 699	Thesis Guidance	2
PERI 630	Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar	1.5
PERI 650	Periodontal Literature Review	3
PERI 654	Treatment Plan: Case Presentations	1
PERI 656	Current Literature Review	3
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

DENS 630	Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference	0.5
DENS 660	Interdisciplinary Care Conference ¹	0.5
DENS 680	Graduate Dental Clinic	4
DENS 699	Thesis Guidance	2
PERI 619	Clinical Pathology Rotation	0.5
PERI 630	Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar	1.5
PERI 650	Periodontal Literature Review	3
PERI 654	Treatment Plan: Case Presentations	1
PERI 656	Current Literature Review	3
Term Hours:		16

Year three

Fall semester

DENS 550	Update in Practice Administration	1
DENS 630	Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference	0.5
PERI 630	Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar	1.5
PERI 650	Periodontal Literature Review	3
PERI 654	Treatment Plan: Case Presentations	1
PERI 656	Current Literature Review	3
PERI 680	Clinical Periodontics	7
PERI 719	Specialty Practice Management	0.5
Term Hours:		17.5

Spring semester

DENS 630	Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference	0.5
PERI 630	Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar	1.5
PERI 650	Periodontal Literature Review	3
PERI 654	Treatment Plan: Case Presentations	1
PERI 656	Current Literature Review	3

PERI 680	Clinical Periodontics	8.5
Term Hours:		17.5
Total Hours:		119

1

For DENS 660, students register for .5 credits for both fall and spring semesters in the first two years of the program. They receive a continuing grade in the fall semester and a grade at the end of the spring semester for the entire year. Students take the class four times for .5 credits each time, but they are only graded for two .5-credit classes.

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 119.

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