

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

The advanced dental specialty education program in prosthodontics offers the resident a comprehensive 36-month course of study in clinical and didactic prosthodontics. The program is designed to educate qualified individuals to pursue careers as practicing clinical dental specialists in prosthodontics. The program will train new generations of prosthodontists through the combination of conventional prosthodontics and advanced digital technology, enabling graduates to provide state-of-the-art prosthodontic care for patients requiring complex prosthodontic care.

The program will provide an optimal and well-rounded academic environment for prosthodontic training through excellence in didactics, research and clinical service. During the program residents will become well-versed in contemporary biomaterials and be able to appropriately evaluate and apply these biomaterials in patient care using evidence-based approaches. They will be trained in pre-prosthetic surgery as well as digital technology associated with dental implant placement and restorations.

Graduates will be life-long learners, competent in all aspects of prosthodontic treatments including fixed, removable, implant and maxillofacial prosthodontics. They will be proficient in applying contemporary clinical prosthodontics through a combination of conventional and advanced technology.

The program meets the educational requirements for limitation of practice to the specialty of prosthodontics and prepares the student for examination by the American Board of Prosthodontics.

Students completing the program earn a specialty Certificate in Prosthodontics and a Master of Science in Dentistry degree. The program conforms to the Standards for Advanced Specialty Education in Prosthodontics and carries a full approval status from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

The program makes students educationally qualified to take the written portion of the American Board of Prosthodontics (<https://www.abpros.org/>) examination in the senior year. Residents are required to pass the written portion of the examination prior to graduation and are encouraged to continue and complete the board certification process. The examinations are usually given every year in February and immediately after the American College of Prosthodontists annual meeting.

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. Be proficient in the delivery of state of the art prosthodontic care including:
 - a. Treatment planning
 - b. Appropriate multidisciplinary consultation
 - c. Contemporary diagnostic technologies
 - d. Conventional and digital prosthodontic technologies
 - e. Surgical and prosthodontic techniques and technologies associated with dental implants

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** 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.

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.

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.

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, parts I and II or Integrated National Board

Special requirements

- International applicants must include an external credential evaluation of all international transcripts to complete the application. WES, ECE and AACRAO are some of the recommended NACES-approved providers.
- Upon acceptance in the specialty certificate program in prosthodontics, applicants must apply to the Graduate School for the M.S.D.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/>), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

- Agreement to participate in the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program
- Agreement to participate in the American Dental Education Association Postdoctoral Application Support Service
- Graduation or anticipated graduation from dental school
- Eligibility to obtain a Virginia temporary resident's license from the Virginia Board of Dentistry
- Completion of National Boards Part I and anticipated completion of Part II or completion of the Integrated National Board
- For students whose native language is not English: TOEFL (minimum score of 550-paper, 213-computer or 80-internet) or IELTS (minimum score of 6.5)

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

- Online application form
- Essay/personal statement: Applicants should share personal history that led them to apply for an educational program in prosthodontics, including plans for the future and any factors important for reviewers to know. Please limit comments to one page.
- Curriculum vitae/resume: Include a curriculum vitae/resume to give reviewers more information about applicant. Include education and work experiences, awards, honors, research experiences and personal interests.
- Undergraduate college transcripts: Include official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended before dental school.
- Dental school transcripts

- Institution evaluation form (completed by the dean of applicant's dental school)
- Personal potential index report (evaluation of different criteria by three to five evaluators compiled into a single report)
- Professional evaluation forms: Applicants can submit a minimum of two and a maximum of four PEFs per program. A letter from the prosthodontic department chair is not required, but may be included if they have personal knowledge of the applicant's skills. **Note: Professional evaluations are listed as optional for PASS; however, they must be submitted for VCU's program.**

The following supplementary items are to be submitted directly to the VCU Department of Prosthodontics:

- Application cover page
- Application fee of \$75 (U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank) made payable to VCU (Application fee is nonrefundable.)
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended after dental school, if any (If applicant has attended a program without a transcript, such as a residency, the department will need a letter from the program director documenting the experience.)
- Additional letters of recommendation (Optional; may be submitted if applicant feels they would be beneficial to the application.)
- National Board scores (Have an original score report sent directly to the program director from the National Board office in addition to enclosing a copy in the supplementary materials package/envelope. If the applicant has taken other exams – or if they wish to add to their file – applicant may send any item of this type for consideration. The National Board scores are required, even if a graduate of a foreign school, with no exceptions.)
- For students whose native language is not English: TOEFL (minimum score of 550-paper, 213-computer or 80-internet) or IELTS (minimum score of 6.5) scores (These scores are not required if the applicant went to dental school or graduate school in an English-speaking environment [USA, Canada, Australia or Great Britain, etc.]

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 (variable credit course repeated for eight credits)	8
DENS 700	Basic Sciences and Graduate Dentistry	3
Concentration courses		
OVPR 601	Scientific Integrity	1
PROS 500	Advanced Biomaterials in Prosthodontics	1
PROS 501	Prosthodontics Case Presentation and Interdisciplinary Seminar (one credit taken four times)	4
PROS 502	Digital Technology Prosthodontics (one credit taken twice)	2
PROS 503	Prosthodontic Principles (one credit taken twice)	2
PROS 600	Advanced Prosthodontics (one credit taken twice)	2
PROS 601	Surgical and Prosthodontic Principles of Implant Therapy (one credit taken twice)	2
PROS 656	Literature Review in Prosthodontics (one credit taken four times)	4
PROS 680	Clinical Prosthodontics	15
Total Hours		66

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 number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 66.

Plan of study

Year one

Fall semester		Hours
DENS 580	Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry	2
DENS 660	Interdisciplinary Care Conference	-
DENS 680	Graduate Dental Clinic	4
DENS 699	Thesis Guidance	1
OVPR 601	Scientific Integrity	1
PROS 500	Advanced Biomaterials in Prosthodontics	1
PROS 501	Prosthodontics Case Presentation and Interdisciplinary Seminar	1
PROS 502	Digital Technology Prosthodontics	1
PROS 503	Prosthodontic Principles	1
PROS 656	Literature Review in Prosthodontics	1
Term Hours:		13

Spring semester

DENS 580	Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry	2
DENS 660	Interdisciplinary Care Conference ¹	0.5
DENS 680	Graduate Dental Clinic	4

DENS 699	Thesis Guidance	1
DENS 700	Basic Sciences and Graduate Dentistry	3
PROS 501	Prosthodontics Case Presentation and Interdisciplinary Seminar	1
PROS 502	Digital Technology Prosthodontics	1
PROS 503	Prosthodontic Principles	1
PROS 656	Literature Review in Prosthodontics	1
Term Hours:		14.5

Year two

Fall semester

DENS 660	Interdisciplinary Care Conference (no credit earned in fall; continuing course) ¹	-
DENS 680	Graduate Dental Clinic	4
DENS 699	Thesis Guidance	1
PROS 502	Digital Technology Prosthodontics	1
PROS 600	Advanced Prosthodontics	1
PROS 601	Surgical and Prosthodontic Principles of Implant Therapy	1
PROS 656	Literature Review in Prosthodontics	1
Term Hours:		9

Spring semester

DENS 660	Interdisciplinary Care Conference ¹	0.5
DENS 680	Graduate Dental Clinic	4
DENS 699	Thesis Guidance	1
PROS 501	Prosthodontics Case Presentation and Interdisciplinary Seminar	1
PROS 600	Advanced Prosthodontics	1
PROS 601	Surgical and Prosthodontic Principles of Implant Therapy	1
PROS 656	Literature Review in Prosthodontics	1
Term Hours:		9.5

Year three

Fall semester

PROS 680	Clinical Prosthodontics	7
DENS 550	Update in Practice Administration	1
DENS 699	Thesis Guidance	2
Term Hours:		10

Spring semester

DENS 699	Thesis Guidance	2
PROS 680	Clinical Prosthodontics	8
Term Hours:		10
Total Hours:		66

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 number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 66.

Contact

Sompop Bencharit D.D.S., Ph.D.

sbencharit@vcu.edu

(804) 828-2977

Additional contact

Jennifer S. Gay

Administrative assistant, curriculum and advanced education

jgay3@vcu.edu

(804) 628-2027