

# DENTISTRY

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DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE (DMD)

DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (DDS)

# DENTISTRY 101

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## What is a dentist?

- A dentist is a doctor, scientist, and clinician dedicated to the highest standards of health through prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of oral diseases and conditions.
- Dentists play a key role in the early detection of oral cancer and other systemic conditions of the body that manifest themselves in the mouth. They often identify other health conditions, illnesses, and other problems that sometimes become apparent in the oral cavity before they are identified in other parts of the body.

## What does a dentist do?

- Evaluates the overall health of their patients while advising them about oral health and disease prevention.
- Performs clinical procedures, such as exams, fillings, crowns, implants, extractions, and corrective surgeries.
- Identifies, diagnoses, and treats oral conditions.
- Performs general dentistry or practices in one of nine dental specialties.

Advances in dental research, including genetic engineering, the discovery of links between oral and systemic diseases, the development of salivary diagnostics and the continued development of new materials and techniques, make dentistry an exciting, challenging and rewarding profession.



# WHY DENTISTRY?

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- Service to Others: Help people maintain and improve their oral health, quality of life and appearance
- Balanced Lifestyle: Dentistry offers flexibility to balance professional and personal life
- Empower Your Patients: Give patients smiles they are proud to wear
- Technology and Research: Be involved with the scientific advancement of dentistry
- Be a Leader: Earn respect from your family, friends, and community
- Prevention/Education: Be an educator on the importance of oral health
- Detect Disease: Treat oral health and detect disease – including cancer and cardiovascular
- Be Creative: Use your artistic and scientific talents
- Success Potential: With the aging population and increase in access to care, the demand and need for dentistry is on the rise
- Self-Employment: Own a dental practice and be your own boss



# DID YOU KNOW...

Many dental academicians say the chief benefit of their career is the stimulation of working with outstanding colleagues and bright young students. Another significant benefit is the variety of activities, which can include: teaching in didactic, clinical, and laboratory areas; patient care in the clinic or a faculty practice; designing and conducting research; writing for journals; exploring new technologies and materials; and administration.



Advances in dental research including genetic engineering, the discovery of links between oral and systemic diseases, the development of salivary diagnostics and the continued development of new materials and techniques make dentistry an exciting, challenging and rewarding profession. Today's dentists are highly sophisticated health professionals who provide a wide range of oral health care that contributes to the general health and quality of their patients' lives.

Approximately 80% of all dental school graduates are general dentists while 20% of dental school graduates choose to specialize.

# SPECIALTIES AND PRACTICE OPTIONS

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## Dental Specialties

- Dental Public Health
- Endodontics
- Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics

## Practice Options

- Self-Employed in Private Practice
- Practice as a Salaried Employee or Associate
- Academic Dentistry and Dental Education
- Dental Research
- Service in the Federal Government
- Public Health Care Policy
- International Health Care



# THE DEMANDS OF DENTISTRY

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- Dental school demands perseverance, humility, honesty, and a sense of humor.
- Dental school is not about how smart you are, but more about how hard you are willing to work to achieve your dreams. You must be able to navigate disagreements with diplomacy. Maintaining a positive attitude is imperative, as it will go a long way to making your experience fulfilling and enjoyable. Your honesty will be challenged. It is important to remember that the faculty will see what you do in dental school as an example of the professional you will become.
- A career in dentistry demands good judgement, organization, critical thinking, professionalism, negotiation skills, networking skills, manual dexterity and a constant expansion of your knowledge base and skills.



\*adapted from the ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools

# MEET GEORGE JENKINS, DMD

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As a young boy growing up in Newark, New Jersey, Dr. George Jenkins had a powerful advantage over many of his peers – he had a dream. It was a dream that kept him off his crime-ridden streets and dedicated to his schoolwork. It was a dream that helped him to inspire two friends he made in high school. It was a dream that now helps him inspire countless others. That dream was to become a dentist.

Born on February 6, 1973, Dr. Jenkins lived the kind of life you would expect in one of the nation's poorest cities. But, on a fateful day when he was 13 years old, a routine dental check-up altered his course. Always an inquisitive child, he was fascinated by the tools in his dentist's office. Sensing Dr. Jenkins' curiosity, that dentist spent a little extra time with him, explaining each tool and what it was used for. These few minutes became the catalyst for the young boy's ambition.



[Read more about George Jenkins' remarkable story, and The Three Doctors...](#)



# BREAKING DOWN THE DAT

(DENTAL ADMISSION TEST)

FOUR TESTS	280 MULTIPLE CHOICE ITEMS	FIVE HOURS
Survey of the Natural Sciences: Bio, Gen Chem, Orgo	100 items	90 minutes
Perceptual Ability	90 items	60 minutes
Reading Comprehension (three reading passages)	50 items	60 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning	40 items	45 minutes

## SCORES

No passing/failing scores.

Based on number of correct responses, examinees are not penalized for guessing

Scores range from 1 to 30

**FEES: \$430.00**

# DENTAL SCHOOLS WITH PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

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- Harvard School of Dental Medicine: [hdsml.harvard.edu](https://hdsml.harvard.edu)
- NYU Dentistry: [dental.nyu.edu](https://dental.nyu.edu)
- Temple University School of Dentistry: [dentistry.temple.edu](https://dentistry.temple.edu)
- University of Florida College of Dentistry: [dental.ufl.edu](https://dental.ufl.edu)
- University of North Carolina School of Dentistry: [dentistry.unc.edu](https://dentistry.unc.edu)
- University of the Pacific School of Dentistry: [dental.pacific.edu](https://dental.pacific.edu)
- University of Pennsylvania Dental Medicine: [dental.upenn.edu](https://dental.upenn.edu)
- University of San Francisco School of Dentistry: [dentistry.ucsf.edu](https://dentistry.ucsf.edu)

# SAMPLE CURRICULUM

## FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

### First Year Curriculum

- Biochemistry
- Manual Dexterity (Virtual Reality) Lab
- Restorative Dentistry
- Histology/Embryology
- Dental Materials
- Community Oral Health I
- Intro to Medicine
- Gross & Radiological Anatomy
- Dissection
- Microbiology
- Physiology
- Dental Auxiliary Utilization (patient care)
- Radiology
- Preclinical Periodontics

### Second Year Curriculum

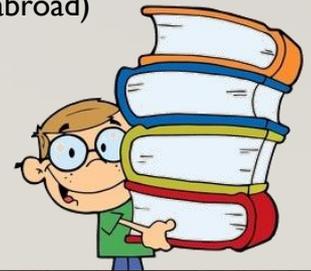
- Orthodontics
- Dentures
- Anesthesia/Pain Control/Emergency
- Community Oral Health II: Local & Global Public Health
- Pathology
- Manual Dexterity (Virtual Reality) Lab
- Fixed Prosthetics
- Pharmacology
- Dental Auxiliary Utilization II
- Principles of Medicine
- Endodontics
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Periodontics
- Adjunctive Orthodontics
- Intro to Clinics/Practice Management
- Selectives

### Third Year Curriculum

- Pediatric Dentistry Lecture/Lab & Clinic
- Endodontics Lecture & Clinic
- Periodontics Lecture & Clinic
- Health Promotion Seminar
- Practicum in Community Health Promotion
- Implant Dentistry Lecture/Lab
- Preventive and Interceptive Clinic
- Restorative Dentistry Lecture & Clinic
- Orthodontics II Lecture
- Oral Medicine Lecture
- Oral Surgery Lecture & Clinic
- Radiology Clinic
- Practice Management
- Clinic Seminar
- General Dentistry Lecture
- Selectives

### Fourth Year Curriculum

- Adjunctive Orthodontics Clinic
- Community Oral Health
- Restorative Dentistry Clinic
- Pediatric Dentistry Clinic
- Endodontics Clinic
- Admissions and Emergency Care Clinic
- Oral Surgery Clinic
- Radiology Clinic/Seminar
- Periodontics Clinic
- Hospital Assignment Clinic
- Clinical Seminar
- Externship (four weeks – US or abroad)



# ARTICLES AND BLOGS OF INTEREST

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- [Why Would Anyone Want to Become a Dentist?](#)

<http://www.dentaleconomics.com/articles/print/volume-88/issue-8/features/why-would-anyone-want-to-become-a-dentist.html>

- [A Look Into the World of Animal Dentistry](#)

[http://www.asdablog.com/a-look-into-the-world-of-animal-dentistry/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+ASDA%2FBlog+%28Mouthing+Off%29](http://www.asdablog.com/a-look-into-the-world-of-animal-dentistry/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ASDA%2FBlog+%28Mouthing+Off%29)

- [Women Dentists: Changing the Face of Dentistry](#)

<http://dent.umich.edu/about-school/sindecuse-museum/women-dentists-changing-face-dentistry>

- [Charts, Radiographs, Study Models:A Forensic Trilogy](#)

<http://www.dentistrytoday.com/forensic-dentistry/1159->

- [The Value of Emotional Intelligence in Dentistry](#)

<http://www.dentistrytoday.com/psychology/1749->

- [A Day in the Life of a Dental Student](#)

<http://www.asdanet.org/dit/>



# FOR MORE INFORMATION...

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American Dental Association ➤ [ADA.org](http://ADA.org)

The Journal of the American Dental Association ➤ [JADA.ADA.org](http://JADA.ADA.org)

American Dental Education Association ➤ [adea.org/GoDental/](http://adea.org/GoDental/)

ADEA Journal of Dental Education ➤ [JDentalEd.org](http://JDentalEd.org)

American Student Dental Association ➤ [ASDANet.org](http://ASDANet.org)

Dentistry Today ➤ [Dentistrytoday.com](http://Dentistrytoday.com)

ADEA AADSAS Application ➤ [Portal.AADSASWeb.org](http://Portal.AADSASWeb.org)

PU HPA Dental Medicine ➤ [HPA.Princeton.edu/Exploring/Dental-Medicine](http://HPA.Princeton.edu/Exploring/Dental-Medicine)

