



ORAL &
MAXILLOFACIAL
SURGERY

ONE SMILE CAN STOP A THOUSAND TEARS

WHAT IS AN ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON?

- Oral and maxillofacial surgeons are the only dental specialists recognized by the American Dental Association who are surgically trained in a hospital-based residency program for a minimum of four years.
- Oral and maxillofacial surgeons train alongside medical residents in specialty areas that focus on the bone, skin and muscle of the face, mouth and jaw.
- Oral and maxillofacial surgeons have knowledge and expertise that uniquely qualifies them to diagnose and treat a number of functional and esthetic conditions in this anatomical area.
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery is one of many advanced dental education programs. Some students enter dental school with an existing interest in the area, others discover it once they're in dental school.

ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS DO IT ALL

DENTAL IMPLANT SURGERY

A [2014 study](#) suggests greater implant success rates when performed by a dental specialist compared with a general dentist.

EXTRACTIONS AND OTHER ORAL SURGERIES

Including: tooth extractions, apicoectomy, frenectomy, dental hemisection & root amputation, trigeminal nerve repair, soft-tissue surgeries like gingivoplasty, and crown lengthening procedures and more!

ORAL, HEAD AND NECK PATHOLOGY

The Oral Cancer Foundation estimates that close to 42,000 Americans will be diagnosed with oral or pharyngeal cancer this year. Oral cancer's mortality is particularly high, not because it is hard to detect or diagnose, but because the cancer is often discovered late in its development.

CLEFT LIP/PALATE AND CRANIOFACIAL SURGERY

As a member of a team of healthcare specialists, the oral and maxillofacial surgeon plays an important role in the carefully orchestrated, multiple-stage correctional program for cleft lip and palate patients.

CORRECTIVE JAW SURGERY

Corrective jaw surgery is performed by an oral and maxillofacial surgeon to correct a range of skeletal and dental irregularities, including the misalignment of jaws and teeth.

...and [more!](#)

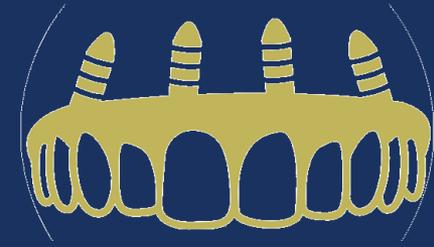
WHY IS OMFS SO UNIQUE?

- “What makes oral surgery unique is how it **incorporates dentistry and medicine**. You have the ability **work in an office and in a hospital setting on a regular basis**. Procedures can be done in the operating room or office and patients are cared for on an inpatient and outpatient basis. It **adds variety** to your practice and **enables you to see a broad spectrum of patients on a day-to-day basis**.”

Richard Bauer, DMD, MD
Pitt School of Dental Medicine



OMFS CAREER STATISTICS



\$208,000

MEDIAN SALARY

- 75TH PERCENTILE: \$208,000
- 25TH PERCENTILE: \$163,110

0.5%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

1,200

NUMBER OF JOBS

- The BLS predicts this profession will grow by 17 percent, or the equivalent of 1,200 new jobs from 2016 to 2026

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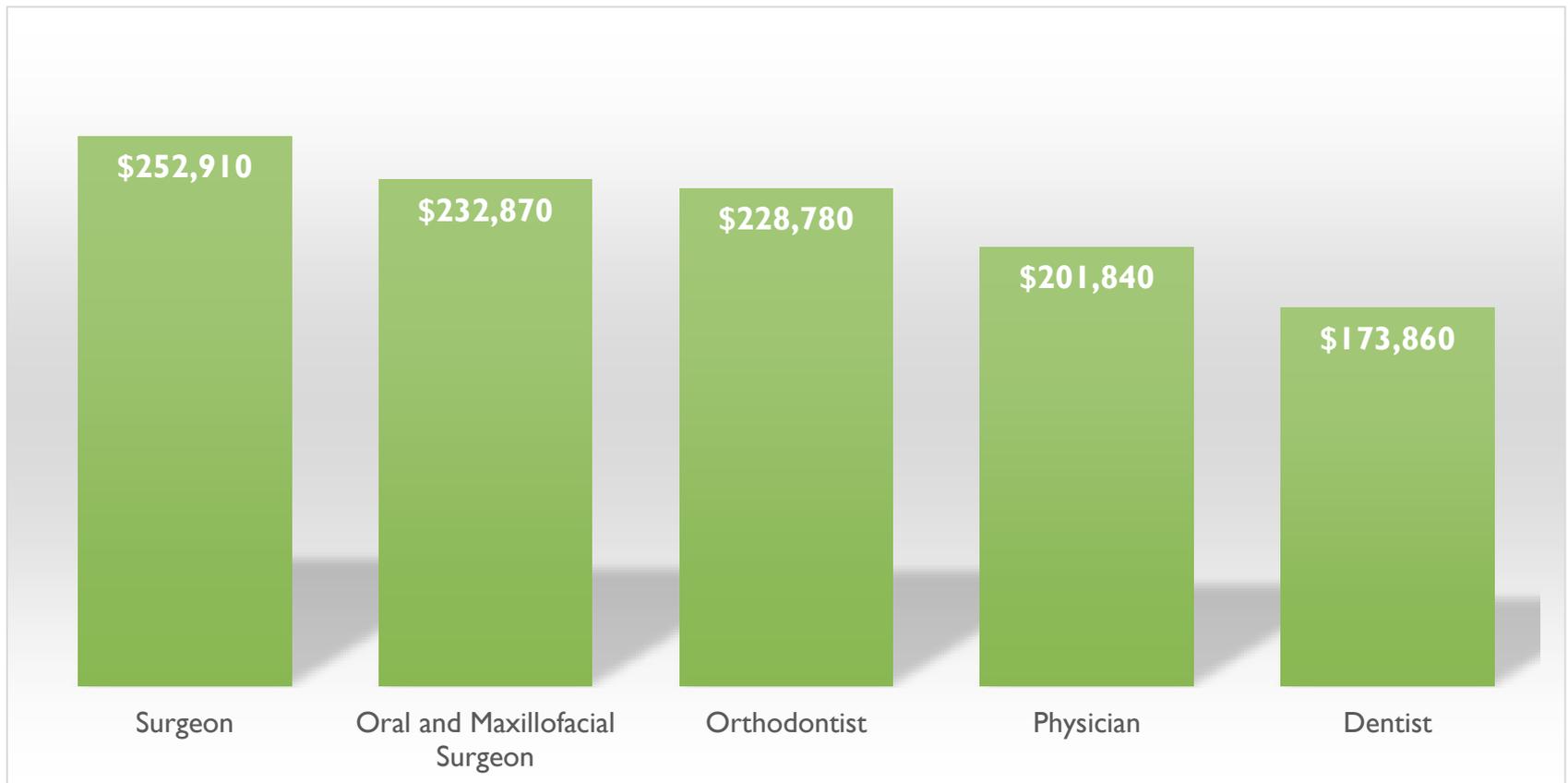
US NEWS BEST PAYING JOBS

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US NEWS BEST JOBS OVERALL

AVERAGE OMFS INCOME

COMPARED TO OTHER RELATED HEALTHCARE FIELDS



PROS AND CONS



PRO	CON
Extremely Interesting and Challenging Variety of conditions and injuries, ever evolving field, ongoing opportunities to learn new skills and procedures	Extensive Education Required 4 years undergrad, 4 years dental and 4-6 years of residency
Satisfaction of Helping Others Restore a person's ability to eat, talk and live normally - restore <i>lives</i>	Cost of Education Average indebtedness for dental school graduates is \$285,000 (but about 20% graduated with little to no debt). Learn more about financing dental school.
High Demand, High Salary Career	Competitive Residency There are more applicants to residency than residency positions available
Diverse Job Settings Can work in private practice, start your own practice, or work in academic or hospital settings	High Pressure Career complex situations, long hours, high pressure surgeries, on call hours can lead to stress and burnout

TYPICAL TRAINING FOR AN OMFS

Typical training for an oral and maxillofacial surgeon includes:

- Four years undergraduate study including predental prerequisites
- Four years dental school (to acquire a DMD/DDS degree) including Board exams
- Dental licensure exam
- Application process, interviews, and match into residency
- Four to six years residency training (six year programs often include two years in which dental school graduates acquire a medical degree).

After completion of surgical training most undertake final specialty examinations.

In addition, graduates of oral and maxillofacial surgery training programs can pursue fellowships, typically 1-2 years in length, in the following areas:

- Head and neck cancer – microvascular reconstruction.
- Cosmetic facial surgery (facelift, rhinoplasty, etc.).
- Craniofacial surgery and pediatric maxillofacial surgery (cleft lip and palate repair, surgery for craniosynostosis, etc.).
- Cranio-maxillofacial trauma (soft tissue and skeletal injuries to the face, head and neck).

DENTAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

AT SCHOOLS HISTORICALLY POPULAR WITH PRINCETON STUDENTS

Harvard School of Dental Medicine

NYU Dentistry

Temple University School of Dentistry

University of Florida College of Dentistry

University of North Carolina School of Dentistry

University of the Pacific School of Dentistry

University of Pennsylvania Dental Medicine

University of San Francisco School of Dentistry

EXAMPLE OMFS RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

UCLA School of Dentistry (Los Angeles, CA)

Yale University (New Haven, CT)

Harvard University School of Dental Medicine (Boston, MA)

Columbia University College of Dental Medicine (New York, NY)

The University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine (Philadelphia, PA)

UTH San Antonio School of Dentistry (San Antonio, TX)

University of Washington School of Dentistry (Seattle, WA)

CHANGING LIVES ONE SURGERY AT A TIME

ARTICLES THAT WILL INSPIRE YOU TO BECOME AN OMFS

- [Boy From Haiti Receives Life-Saving Surgery at Connecticut Children's Medical Center](#)
- [Lubbock Vietnam-era Veteran Closing Journey to a New Smile](#)
- [Collaboration Helped Provide Total Jaw Reconstruction for UAB Professor](#)
- [US Surgeons Remove 6-pound Tumor From Gambian Girl's Mouth](#)
- [New Technology Helps NC Veteran Gain His Smile Back](#)
- [7-Year-Old Gets Life-Like 3-D Printed Skull After Severe Fall](#)
- [What Life Looks Like After the World's Most Extensive Face Transplant](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- HPA Resources for Predental Students: hpa.princeton.edu/explore-careers/dental-medicine
- American Dental Education Association Resources for Prospective Dentists
<https://www.adea.org/GoDental>
- American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Resources for Prospective Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons: www.aaoms.org/education-research/dental-students
- Timeline for applying to dental residency programs: www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-student-resources/career-options-after-dental-school/understanding-advanced-dental-education/the-application-process