

# DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (DDS)

Visit program website. (<https://dentistry.ucsf.edu/>)

**Degree Offered:** Doctor of Dental Surgery

## Program Leadership:

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Dean, UCSF School of Dentistry  
Associate Vice Chancellor, Oral Health Affairs  
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## Admissions Inquiries:

Julia Hwang, Director, Learner Success Center; Director, School of Dentistry Admissions

## Program Description

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Dentistry provides a unique balance of clinical excellence, research opportunities and community service as part of one of the leading health science centers in the nation. Since its founding in 1881, the School of Dentistry has evolved from the lone outpost of dental education west of the Mississippi into an international leader in the education of oral health care practitioners and scholars, comprehensive dental care and breakthrough research. The school has a tradition of service, strong clinical programs that prepare dentists for the future and research activities at the vanguard of contemporary science.

We are looking for candidates who share the school's educational objectives and can master our curriculum. We look for evidence of past achievements, as well as outstanding personal qualities and interest in contributing to the advancement of knowledge and service to the dental profession and the community.

We seek graduates who will return to their communities with the clinical, intellectual and interpersonal skills expected of a health professional. In addition, our graduates should possess the enhanced sensitivities, broad understanding, open-minded attitudes and appreciation of cultural diversity that assure equitable distribution of high-quality dental health care to all members of our society. Further, we seek people who have the discipline to apply themselves, the desire to use their talents and abilities to the fullest, and the willingness to undertake leadership roles in academia, in their profession and in their communities.

## Curriculum

UCSF and the School of Dentistry attach importance to creating a culture and environment that promotes student engagement and offers all

students an opportunity to be involved in its quality systems. The school is committed to working in partnership with its students in order to enhance all aspects of the student experience. Accordingly, our courses (as listed below) and curriculum are subject to continuous quality improvement and may change in response to feedback and learner needs.

We believe all UCSF dental graduates deserve mastery in procedural and clinical skills coupled with laser-focused critical thinking to prepare them for the next steps in their career, whether clinical practice, research, academia, public sector, or some combination. Students, faculty and staff work as a team to provide scientifically based patient-centered care. We are proud to develop clinicians who graduate as competent dentists, and as scientists.

## Admission Requirements

The UCSF School of Dentistry takes a holistic approach to our admissions process. Our Admissions Committee considers all aspects of the application. This includes the following: academic background and ability; motivation for a dental career; the potential for future success in the program and dentistry indicated by past achievements / present commitments; and an applicant's performance in an interview. The school welcomes applicants from all economic, social and cultural segments of society, and is committed to increasing the number of professionals from underrepresented minority groups.

## Applications

UCSF School of Dentistry DDS applications are processed through the American Dental Education Association - American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (ADEA AADSAS). The application can be submitted starting June 1 (accessible starting mid-May) and must be electronically submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Oct. 31. We advise you to begin your ADEA AADSAS application early to allow yourself sufficient time to complete it by the deadline. Late applications will not be considered.

## Supplemental Questions

The UCSF School of Dentistry DDS supplemental questions are in the UCSF school section of the ADEA AADSAS application.

## Transcripts and Coursework

On the ADEA AADSAS application, please submit the following:

- In the "Colleges Attended" section, report all colleges or universities attended, including any coursework taken at a foreign institution or study abroad program.
- In the "Transcript Entry" section, enter all courses taken. This includes any coursework taken at a foreign institution or study abroad program, if the ADEA AADSAS system allows you to do so. This option is not available for most non-U.S. schools.
- Request official transcripts from all U.S. and English-speaking Canadian colleges attended to be sent to ADEA AADSAS for verification. Transcripts must be received by ADEA no later than Oct. 31. Please see our International Coursework section for information about reporting international and study abroad coursework.

## U.S. Dental Admission Test (DAT)

The DAT is also required. We recommend that the DAT be taken no later than Sept. 30 so that your official scores may be uploaded to your ADEA AADSAS application by our application deadline of Oct. 31. Applications without official DAT scores received by the deadline will be regarded as

incomplete and will not be reviewed. Test scores are valid for only two years; scores accepted for the 2023-2024 admission cycle must be dated no earlier than Jan. 1, 2021.

## Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation must be submitted via the ADEA AADSAS application. All letters must be received by ADEA AADSAS by the Oct. 31 deadline.

## UCSF Fee

The University of California requires a non-refundable application processing fee of \$75. Please visit our online payment system to submit it electronically.

## Course Prerequisites

You must complete a minimum of 139 quarter units or 93 semester units (exclusive of repeated and nontransferable courses) of college work:

- Units must be earned at an accredited U.S. or English-speaking Canadian institution.
- At least 43 quarter units or 29 semester units must be completed at a four-year institution.
- Up to 96 quarter units or 64 semester units can be accepted from a community college.
- You must earn at least a "C -" grade in requirements "a" through "g."
- We recommend that you complete the prerequisites before taking the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) and filing an application. Find specific details on units and subjects (<https://dentistry.ucsf.edu/programs/dds/admissions/prerequisites/>)

## Helpful Links

- COVID-19 Related Information for Applicants (<https://dentistry.ucsf.edu/programs/dds/admissions/>)
- UCSF School of Dentistry Admissions Policies (<https://dentistry.ucsf.edu/programs/dds/admissions/admissions-policies/>)
- UCSF School of Dentistry DDS Admissions Website (<https://dentistry.ucsf.edu/programs/dds/admissions/>)

## Learning Outcomes

The School of Dentistry has twelve competency statements that a student dental graduate must demonstrate. Two are UCSF campus wide statements and ten are School of Dentistry (dental professional) specific. They are listed on the SOD Competency Standards page (<https://wiki.library.ucsf.edu/display/SODEducation/Competency+Standards/>) and the SOD website (<https://dentistry.ucsf.edu/students/education/competency-standards/>).

These statements represent broad levels of academic and clinical achievement, measured by specific faculty evaluations and written and clinical examinations at various times during the academic program. These fundamental competencies prepare the graduate for lifelong learning and success with achieving licensure, and the safe practice of general dentistry.

The School of Dentistry defines a general dentist graduate as: *"An oral health care provider who can evaluate, diagnose, prevent, and treat diseases and conditions of the oral cavity. A UCSF School of Dentistry graduate is a novice provider who is able to provide safe and effective treatment to the extent of their training and has the judgment to know when to refer for more complex treatment."*

As part of the program, students are required to challenge a number of individual high-stakes competency examinations. Competency is a complex behavior or ability essential for the general dentist to begin independent and unsupervised dental practice. Competency includes knowledge, experience, critical thinking, problem-solving, professionalism, ethical values and procedural skills. These components of competency become an integrated whole during the delivery of patient care.

## Additional Information

### Program Core Faculty

- Find a program faculty list (<https://dentistry.ucsf.edu/programs/dds/faculty/>) on the program website.

## Degree Requirements

The UCSF School of Dentistry pre-doctoral curriculum is four years (or the equivalent) in length and covers the broad range of science, art and technology in contemporary dental practice. We believe all UCSF dental graduates deserve mastery in procedural and clinical skills coupled with laser-focused critical thinking to prepare them for the next steps in their career, whether clinical practice, research, academia, public sector, or some combination. Students, faculty and staff work as a team to provide scientifically based patient-centered care. We are proud to develop clinicians who graduate as competent dentists, and as men and women of science.

UCSF School of Dentistry Competency Standards (<https://wiki.library.ucsf.edu/display/SODEducation/Competency+Standards/>)

The faculty will recommend the awarding of degrees in accordance with Academic Senate regulations for the Doctor of Dental Surgery. Candidates for the degree Doctor of Dental Surgery are required to:

- Complete and pass all core courses in the dental curriculum with grades of P or H.
- Complete and pass all clinical requirements.
- Satisfy required standards of professionalism of the School of Dentistry.

## Core Courses

Course	Title	Units
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Fall Quarter</b>		
BIOMED SCI 116	Structure of Cells, Tissues, and Organs	8
DENTALS CI 129	Introduction to Dentistry	2.5
PRV RS DEN 116	Morphology, Restorative Technique, & Biomaterials	4
PT CN CARE 111	Principles of Interprofessional Practice I	0.5
PT CN CARE 117	Introduction to Comprehensive Care I	2
SCIMETHODS 117	Foundations of Scientific Inquiry	2
<b>Units</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>Winter Quarter</b>		
BIOMED SCI 117	Infection and Host Response; Cell Physiology	8
DENTALS CI 116	Oral Structure and Development	2
PRV RS DEN 117	Restorative Technique, Crown & Bridge, & Biomaterials I	5.5
PT CN CARE 111	Principles of Interprofessional Practice I	0.5
PT CN CARE 118	Introduction to Comprehensive Care II	2.5
<b>Units</b>		<b>18.5</b>
<b>Spring Quarter</b>		
BIOMED SCI 118	Organ Systems and Human Pathophysiology I	8.5
DENTALS CI 117	Etiologies and Risk Factors in Dental Diseases	2

PRV RS DEN 118	Restorative Technique, Crown & Bridge, & Biomaterials II	6
PT CN CARE 111	Principles of Interprofessional Practice I	0.5
PT CN CARE 119	Introduction to Comprehensive Care III	2.5
SCIMETHODS 118	Professional and Community Oral Health Issues	2.5

**Units 22**

**Year 2**

**Summer**

DENTALSCI 127	Orofacial Pain: Foundations for Diagnosis and Treatment	2
PT CN CARE 129	Introduction to Comprehensive Care IV	16.5
PRV RS DEN 126	Removable Partial Dentures, Crown & Bridge, & Operative	6

**Units 24.5**

**Fall Quarter**

BIOMED SCI 127	Oral Pathology	2
DENTALSCI 125	Fundamentals of Risk Assessment, Therapy, and Prevention I	2
PRV RS DEN 127	Complete Dentures, Endodontics, & Adv Restorative Technique	5.5
PT CN CARE 112	Principles of Interprofessional Practice II	0.5
PT CN CARE 129	Introduction to Comprehensive Care IV	16.5

**Units 26.5**

**Winter Quarter**

DENTALSCI 126	Fundamentals of Risk Assessment, Therapy, and Prevention II	2
PRV RS DEN 128	Complete Dentures, Fixed Partial Dentures & Endodontics	10.5
PT CN CARE 112	Principles of Interprofessional Practice II	0.5
PT CN CARE 129	Introduction to Comprehensive Care IV	16.5

**Units 29.5**

**Spring Quarter**

DENTALSCI 128	Oral Physiology, Orofacial Pain, and TMD	4
PRV RS DEN 129	Implant and Pediatric Dentistry	1
PT CN CARE 112	Principles of Interprofessional Practice II	0.5
PT CN CARE 128	Introduction to Comprehensive Adult Dentistry	7.5

**Units 13**

**Year 3**

**Summer**

PT CN CARE 102A	Clinical Fixed Prosthodontics and Implants I	1
PT CN CARE 103A		1
PT CN CARE 104A	Management & Treatment of Periodontal Diseases I	1
PT CN CARE 106AD	Clinical Oral Medicine Rotation	1.5
PT CN CARE 107A	Clinical Endodontics I	0.5
PT CN CARE 108A	Clinical Removable Prosthodontics I	0.5
PT CN CARE 109A	Clinical Oral Surgery Rotation I	2.5
PT CN CARE 131	Foundations in General Dentistry I	4.5
PT CN CARE 139A	Comprehensive Adult General Dentistry I	5.5

**Units 18**

**Fall Quarter**

PT CN CARE 102A	Clinical Fixed Prosthodontics and Implants I	1
PT CN CARE 103A		1
PT CN CARE 104A	Management & Treatment of Periodontal Diseases I	1
PT CN CARE 105AB		2
PT CN CARE 106AD	Clinical Oral Medicine Rotation	1.5
PT CN CARE 107A	Clinical Endodontics I	0.5
PT CN CARE 108A	Clinical Removable Prosthodontics I	0.5
PT CN CARE 109A	Clinical Oral Surgery Rotation I	2.5
PT CN CARE 132	Foundations in General Dentistry II	4.5
PT CN CARE 139A	Comprehensive Adult General Dentistry I	5.5

**Units 20**

**Winter Quarter**

PT CN CARE 102A	Clinical Fixed Prosthodontics and Implants I	1
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PT CN CARE 104A	Management & Treatment of Periodontal Diseases I	1
PT CN CARE 105AB		2
PT CN CARE 106AD	Clinical Oral Medicine Rotation	1.5
PT CN CARE 107A	Clinical Endodontics I	0.5
PT CN CARE 108A	Clinical Removable Prosthodontics I	0.5
PT CN CARE 109A	Clinical Oral Surgery Rotation I	2.5
PT CN CARE 133	Foundations in General Dentistry III	4.5
PT CN CARE 130WI	Winter Community-Based Learning Lectures	0.5
PT CN CARE 139A	Comprehensive Adult General Dentistry I	5.5

**Units 19.5**

**Spring Quarter**

PT CN CARE 102A	Clinical Fixed Prosthodontics and Implants I	1
PT CN CARE 104A	Management & Treatment of Periodontal Diseases I	1
PT CN CARE 105AB		2
PT CN CARE 106AD	Clinical Oral Medicine Rotation	1.5
PT CN CARE 107A	Clinical Endodontics I	0.5
PT CN CARE 108A	Clinical Removable Prosthodontics I	0.5
PT CN CARE 109A	Clinical Oral Surgery Rotation I	2.5
PT CN CARE 112	Principles of Interprofessional Practice II	0.5
PT CN CARE 134	Foundations in General Dentistry IV	4.5
PT CN CARE 130SP	Spring Community-Based Learning Lectures	0.5
PT CN CARE 139A	Comprehensive Adult General Dentistry I	5.5

**Units 20**

**Year 4**

**Summer**

PT CN CARE 101C	Community Clinics Externship Course	8
PT CN CARE 102CD	Clinical Fixed Prosthodontics and Implants II	1
PT CN CARE 104CD	Management and Treatment of Periodontal Diseases II	0.5
PT CN CARE 105CD	Clinical Pediatric Dentistry Rotation II	2
PT CN CARE 107CD	Clinical Endodontics II	0.5
PT CN CARE 108CD	Clinical Removable Prosthodontics II	1
PT CN CARE 109CD	Clinical Oral Surgery Rotation II	4.5
PT CN CARE 141	Advanced General Dentistry I: 21st Century Clinical Topics	1
PT CN CARE 149C	Comprehensive Adult General Dentistry II	6.5

**Units 25**

**Fall Quarter**

PT CN CARE 101C	Community Clinics Externship Course	8
PT CN CARE 102CD	Clinical Fixed Prosthodontics and Implants II	1
PT CN CARE 104CD	Management and Treatment of Periodontal Diseases II	0.5
PT CN CARE 105CD	Clinical Pediatric Dentistry Rotation II	2
PT CN CARE 107CD	Clinical Endodontics II	0.5
PT CN CARE 108CD	Clinical Removable Prosthodontics II	1
PT CN CARE 109CD	Clinical Oral Surgery Rotation II	4.5
PT CN CARE 142	Advanced General Dentistry II: The Business of Dentistry	1.5
PT CN CARE 149C	Comprehensive Adult General Dentistry II	6.5

**Units 25.5**

**Winter Quarter**

PT CN CARE 101C	Community Clinics Externship Course	8
PT CN CARE 102CD	Clinical Fixed Prosthodontics and Implants II	1
PT CN CARE 104CD	Management and Treatment of Periodontal Diseases II	0.5
PT CN CARE 107CD	Clinical Endodontics II	0.5
PT CN CARE 108CD	Clinical Removable Prosthodontics II	1
PT CN CARE 109CD	Clinical Oral Surgery Rotation II	4.5
PT CN CARE 143	Advanced General Dentistry III: Practice Mngmt & Acquisition	1
PT CN CARE 149C	Comprehensive Adult General Dentistry II	6.5

**Units 23**

**Spring Quarter**

PT CN CARE 101C	Community Clinics Externship Course	8
PT CN CARE 102CD	Clinical Fixed Prosthodontics and Implants II	1
PT CN CARE 104CD	Management and Treatment of Periodontal Diseases II	0.5
PT CN CARE 107CD	Clinical Endodontics II	0.5
PT CN CARE 108CD	Clinical Removable Prosthodontics II	1
PT CN CARE 109CD	Clinical Oral Surgery Rotation II	4.5
PT CN CARE 144	Adv Gen Dent IV: Integrated Clinical Case Pres & Cont QI	1
PT CN CARE 149C	Comprehensive Adult General Dentistry II	6.5
<b>Units</b>		<b>23</b>
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>327</b>

## Non-course Core Requirements

### Technical Standards

In order to successfully complete the DDS degree, participate in all necessary aspects of dental training, and meet licensing requirements, a student must possess a minimum of certain essential physical and cognitive and emotional abilities. The standards are:

- Observation
- Communication
- Motor function
- Behavioral and social attributes
- Ethical and Legal Standards

Find complete description of the technical standards requirement (<https://dentistry.ucsf.edu/programs/dds/admissions/technical-standards/>). All students will be asked to certify that they meet the minimum technical standards to pursue dental education.