UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

The University of Kentucky is a public, land-grant university dedicated to improving people’s lives through excellence in education, research and creative work, service and health care. As Kentucky’s flagship institution, the University plays a critical leadership role by promoting diversity, inclusion, economic development and human well-being.

WHY DENTISTRY?

U.S. News & World Report routinely ranks “Dentist” among the top of its annual The 100 Best Jobs list, largely due to a relatively high median salary, ability for a satisfying work-life balance, and the number of expected openings in the field.

A career in dentistry also has a number of more intangible advantages over other professions. One is an ability to provide practitioners with a sense of satisfaction in keeping their patients healthy, and making a real difference in their confidence and self-esteem. People enter the field of dentistry because they like helping others.

DENTISTRY AT UK

Located in the suburban setting of Lexington (population 310,000+), the UK College of Dentistry (UKCD) has a reputation for its dynamic and innovative approaches to dental education. In addition to offering a DMD program, UKCD offers advanced dental education programs in oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, general practice dentistry and orofacial pain. Total enrollment for all programs is generally around 315 students, allowing for a personalized learning experience. Additional training and educational opportunities are detailed at dentistry.uky.edu.

UKCD MISSION

Through leadership in education, patient care, discovery, and community engagement, we aim to advance oral and general health in Kentucky and beyond. We are committed to cultivating a humanistic environment that appreciates and respects the diversity of thought, culture, and experiences of all members of our community.
Our Doctor of Dental Medicine, or DMD program, strives to produce a competent dental graduate who possesses the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for the independent practice of general dentistry. Our dental curriculum, comprised of the study areas of basic science, behavioral science, preclinical dentistry, and clinical dentistry, provides students with both foundational and applied knowledge in all areas of general dentistry. The curriculum is delivered in varying formats, including traditional classroom, simulation laboratory, campus-based clinics, and community-based clinics. Through UKCD’s graduated curriculum, students are able to engage with patients and gain clinical experience early in the DMD program.

ADMISSIONS

Dental professionals should be well-rounded and committed to serving the community in which they practice. UKCD utilizes a holistic admissions process, taking into consideration an applicant’s academic performance, service, leadership, and other attributes essential to becoming a successful dentist.

UKCD operates on a rolling admission basis. Applicants are encouraged to apply early, preferably in late summer, and no later than October 1. Admission interviews may begin in September and continue until the incoming class is full. Interviews are required for admission consideration and are scheduled weeks in advance. The first offers of admission are extended on December 1.

RESEARCH

Incoming DMD students interested in taking part in an intensive research experience in conjunction with their dental curriculum have the option of applying for the Research Track program of study. Participating students will gain valuable experience in research as they support meaningful studies and will receive scholarship funds to help offset tuition fees each year they participate in the program and fully meet its requirements.
OUTREACH

UKCD’s diverse outreach and service-learning programs provide dental students with a valuable and exceptional experience. Opportunities include:

- **SEAL KENTUCKY**—School-based trips to provide dental screenings and sealants in primarily Eastern Kentucky
- **SATURDAY MORNING CLINICS**—Established in 1976, this student-led project provides free dental treatment to children several times per year
- **HUMANITARIAN TRIPS**—UKCD students have the opportunity to support international humanitarian activities while in conjunction with various other UK colleges
- **SUPPORTING LOCAL CLINICS**—Student dentists often volunteer alongside faculty at various area clinics, such as the Mission Lexington Clinic

HIGHLIGHTS

- **TYPICAL CLASS SIZE: 60–65**
- Pre-clinic technique lab allows students to get **HANDS-ON SKILL PRACTICE STARTING THE FIRST YEAR**
- **HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE** with patients also starts during the first year
- A variety of opportunities to **GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY** exist through active student organizations and more
- DMD Research Track option and other opportunities to **SUPPORT LEADING RESEARCHERS**
- **NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES** with amazing alumni
- Investing in **DIGITAL DENTISTRY** to allow students to graduate as leaders in the area
ADVANCED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

UKCD offers several advanced education programs to assist graduate dentists expand their knowledge to support specialty practice, research, and teaching. Each program has its own specific requirements, deadlines, and application procedures, available at dentistry.uky.edu.
GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY (GPR)

Designed to extend a dental school graduate’s capability to perform all phases of general dentistry, UKCD’s accredited GPR program provides additional experience and advanced training to dentists in both an outpatient and hospital setting. Residents also gain experience with the management of medically complex and special needs patients. The GPR program receives approximately 32,000 patient visits per year. Clinical experience accounts for 85 to 90 percent of a resident’s schedule. Residents may elect to complete a 12- or 24-month program for a specialty certificate.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Focus on management of medically, mentally, and physically complex patients
• Gain operating room experience
• Full IV Moderate Sedation training, following ADA recommended didactic and clinical guidelines and required by many states for dentists to receive sedation permits
• Emphasis on full scope of general dentistry from restorative, fixed and removable partial dentures to endodontics, periodontics and minor oral surgical procedures, implant placement and restoration
• Stipend available

ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

The Division of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery offers an accredited six-year integrated Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/MD Residency Program designed to offer residents extensive training in both an inpatient and outpatient setting. Programmatic areas of emphasis include outpatient anesthesia, dentoalveolar and implant surgery, maxillofacial trauma, orthognathic surgery, and head and neck pathology.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Residents provide care in multiple facilities, including Chandler Medical Center, the College of Dentistry, the Veteran’s Administration Hospital, and the University of Kentucky Children’s Hospital
• Chief residents participate in the preoperative and postoperative management of major surgery cases at the faculty practice clinic
• Formal four-month research block assigned during the fifth program year
• Stipend available during select years of program
• Applicants accepted per year: 3

OROFACIAL PAIN

The Division of Orofacial Pain offers an accredited two-year residency program specifically designed for dentists who wish to gain a broad-based experience in the field of orofacial pain. The program includes didactic, clinical, and research components. Residents evaluate and manage chronic orofacial pain patients in a multiprofessional team with psychologists and physical therapists. Residents may also have the opportunity to participate in ongoing research efforts in the clinic, depending on the availability and type of research activity at the time.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Residents spend approximately 60 percent of their time clinically evaluating and managing orofacial pain, oral medicine, and sleep apnea patients
• Emphasis placed on establishing a proper diagnosis and management plan, including collaborations with appropriate medical specialists
• Residents may extend their study to earn a Master of Science Orofacial Pain
The Division of Pediatric Dentistry offers an accredited program for dentists interested in building on their foundational knowledge and experience in treating the dental needs of child patients, including children with special healthcare needs. This program covers a full array of diagnostic and treatment experiences in different scenarios, including clinic, operating room, oral and intravenous sedation, and cases in the emergency department. The primary objective of the program is the development of skills in clinical pediatric dentistry, with a strong component in interceptive and early orthodontics and presurgical orthopedics. Upon program completion, residents receive a certificate in pediatric dentistry and meet qualifying examination eligibility requirements of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Interdisciplinary care emphasized, working closely with periodontics, prosthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and restorative dentistry
- Gain experience in diagnosis and treatment of patients with cleft lip/palate and other craniofacial anomalies
- Residents serve as DMD teaching assistants (limited to the orthodontic component of the curriculum during their second and third year) earning a stipend
- Program length: 34 months
- Applicants accepted per year: 3

The Division of Orthodontics provides a robust didactic and clinical experience in comprehensive orthodontics, with emphasis on goal-oriented diagnosis and treatment of different malocclusions. In the accredited graduate program, faculty members teach multiple treatment modalities, including functional therapy, comprehensive and interceptive care, straight-wire systems, lingual therapy, and thermoplastic, removable treatment. Upon successful completion of the program, residents receive a Master of Science degree and a certificate in orthodontics. In addition to the successful completion of clinical and didactic requirements, residents must successfully investigate and defend an independent research project and submit a manuscript suitable for publication to be eligible for graduation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Numerous opportunities for interdisciplinary work with both dental and medical clinicians
- Rotation on anesthesiology (all graduate students are required to become ACLS-certified)
- Focus on management of medically compromised patients, implant surgery, conscious sedation, and cosmetic surgery
- Exposure to a wide range of therapeutic modalities
- Applicants accepted per year: 2-3

The Division of Periodontology produces graduates with advanced specialty training in the surgical and nonsurgical treatment of periodontal disease. The program is a full-time, 36-month course of study, with strong emphasis on evidence-based decision making, consisting of clinical, research, and didactic components. The goal of the program is to prepare individuals for careers in either academic periodontology or private specialty practice. Upon completion, residents receive a certificate in periodontology, a master’s degree, and meet the eligibility requirements of the American Board of Periodontology.

HIGHLIGHTS

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- Focus on management of medically compromised patients, implant surgery, conscious sedation, and cosmetic surgery
- Exposure to a wide range of therapeutic modalities
- Applicants accepted per year: 2-3
OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Details on additional educational offerings are available online at dentistry.uky.edu/academics and dentistry.uky.edu/ce.

- Dental Assistant Training
- Externships in Craniofacial Genetics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and Oral Medicine
- Continuing education for dentists and more

ABOUT LEXINGTON

The University of Kentucky is located in the heart of Lexington, a great place to learn and live. Serving as the health care, retail, cultural, and entertainment center for both Central and Eastern Kentucky, Lexington offers many of the advantages of a large city as well as the charm and serenity of a smaller community.
This brochure was funded through the Appalachian Rural Dental Education Partnership program through the Appalachian Regional Commission. One of the aims of this partnership between Morehead State University and the University of Kentucky is to increase awareness of health careers, specifically dental careers, for students in Appalachian counties in Kentucky.