

University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine
The Americans with Disabilities Act
General Information, Policies and Non-Academic Standards Pertaining to
Admission and Postmatriculation

Overview

Applicants for Admission

All individuals who meet the academic requirements of the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine (SDM) may apply for admission. If an applicant is invited for an interview, and if the applicant so requests, the SDM will make reasonable accommodations in the admission process to meet their needs. However, if an accommodation in the admission process is requested for a disability, neither the applicant's medical history nor disability status will be considered in deciding on suitability for admission. Furthermore, if an applicant volunteers information about a disability or medical condition at any time during the admission process, the Undergraduate Admissions Committee will not seek further information about its cause, severity, nature, prognosis or treatment. Thus, during the admission interview, applicants will not be asked to disclose any disability or request for accommodation.

Accepted Applicants

All applicants selected for admission must attest in writing to their ability to meet the SDM's Technical Standards, which follow. The applicant requesting accommodation must disclose and document the disability and specify the accommodation needed. The SDM will provide reasonable accommodation for the known physical and mental disabilities of academically-qualified individuals whom it accepts. Exceptions to the SDM's provision of accommodation are:

1. the accommodation requested would fundamentally alter the nature of the educational program, or
2. the accommodation requested would cause undue financial or administrative hardship to the University, or
3. the accommodation requested would pose an actual, significant risk of substantial harm to the health or safety of others.

If an applicant falls into the any of the above exceptions then their acceptance into the SDM will be withdrawn.

Applications for accommodation must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Students for the SDM. Documentation must include the type of disability (diagnosis), appropriate verification of the disability, i.e. physician's examination, psychometric testing, etc., and the accommodations required, i.e. extra time for examinations.

Enrolled Students

Students enrolled in the SDM, who claim a disability and also request accommodation, must disclose and document their disability and specify the accommodation needed to meet the Technical Standards. Furthermore, the SDM may inquire about a student's medical or psychological status following matriculation if significant academic or technical performance problems arise. Three exceptions to the SDM's provision of accommodation have been listed above. All issues relating to disability and accommodation will be referred to the Associate Dean for Students.

Confidentiality

All information about the disability of an applicant, admittee or enrolled student shall be collected on special forms and held in separate files and shall be treated confidentially, except that a) administrators and instructors may be informed about restrictions on the workload or duties of the student and about the accommodation granted, b) first aid and safety personnel may be informed if the disability might require emergency treatment, and c) government officials investigating compliance with the ADA or other applicable laws shall be given relevant information upon request. Information about the disability of an applicant, admittee or student shall be used only in accordance with the ADA and other applicable laws.

Funding of Accommodations

Costs of needed alterations or accommodations, if reasonable, will be borne by the University if they are not already owned by the individual or are not otherwise funded.

Non-Academic (Technical) Standards for Admission, Matriculation and Continued Enrollment

1. The University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine observes Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Executive Order 11246, as well as relevant Federal anti-discrimination statutes, Connecticut General Statutes and University of Connecticut policies. Nevertheless, the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine requires that candidates for the DMD degree and applicants to postgraduate programs possess certain non-academic capabilities.

2. The DMD degree signifies that its holder is a dentist prepared to practice or to enter postgraduate training. The DMD degree is and must remain an undifferentiated degree which, when granted, attests to the mastery of general knowledge and requisite skills in all fields of dental practice. A candidate for the DMD degree must gain understanding of the basic sciences related to structures, functions and interrelationships among body systems in both health and disease. The candidate must develop competency in clinical skills which include but are not limited to patient assessment, treatment-planning, patient education, prevention of oral disease, control of pain and anxiety, prevention and management of dental and medical emergencies, and the diagnosis, management and treatment of the major oral diseases and conditions. The DMD degree candidate must also gain an understanding of behavioral science concepts from the fields of psychology, sociology, public health and administration applied to the delivery of care and to the management of a dental practice. A candidate for the DMD degree, therefore, must possess capabilities in the areas listed below in order to acquire the knowledge and to develop the skills necessary to function as a fully competent, independent professional.

Candidates for advanced graduate degree programs, for clinical certificate programs and for residency programs must be capable of fulfilling all academic and, where appropriate, all clinical requirements particular to the postdoctoral program.

3. Non-academic Capabilities
 - a. Observation

DMD and postdoctoral candidates must be capable of acquiring specified information in the basic sciences presented by demonstrations and other experiences which include but are not limited to physiologic and pharmacologic studies in animals, in microbial cultures and through microscopic images of organisms and of tissues in normal and pathologic states. In addition, candidates must be capable of observing patients accurately, both at a distance and close-at-hand, of acquiring information from written documents, and of perceiving images on paper, film, slide, video, radiograph and other digital and analog depictions of physical, biological and sociological information, either without or with the use of assistive devices.

Whenever a candidate's capabilities of observing or of acquiring information through the senses are compromised, the candidate must demonstrate acceptable alternative ways to acquire essential information.

b. Communication

Candidates for the DMD degree and for postdoctoral programs must be able to communicate with and to observe patients and other healthcare providers in order to elicit information, to describe changes in mood, activity, posture and condition, and to perceive non-verbal communications.

Whenever a candidate's capability of communicating is compromised, the candidate must demonstrate acceptable alternative ways of acquiring and transmitting essential information.

c. Motor

Candidates for the DMD degree and for postdoctoral programs must be capable of performing palpation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers, and of conducting appropriate tests and procedures. Candidates must be capable of the gross and fine motor functions required to provide general and emergency dental care.

d. Mental

DMD and postdoctoral candidates must be capable of measuring, calculating, reasoning, analyzing, integrating, synthesizing, understanding and remembering information. In addition, candidates must be capable of comprehending three-dimensional and spatial relationships among structures and of problem-solving, and of doing so in a timely fashion.

e. Behavioral and Social

DMD and postdoctoral candidates must have the emotional health to use fully their observation, communication, motor and mental capabilities. Candidates must be capable of tolerating physically taxing workloads and of functioning effectively under stress. They must be capable of adapting to change and of functioning in the face of uncertainty. Among the indicators of these capabilities are interpersonal skills such as compassion, integrity, interest and motivation.

Certification of Ability to Meet Non-Academic Standards

I have read and understand the above non-academic standards, and I hereby certify that I am able to meet these standards either without or with accommodation . Please check one.

NAME (please print)

SIGNATURE

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

DATE