A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

We are thrilled you want to learn more about the UNMC College of Dentistry. Our college has a 123 year history of excellence in education, research and patient care, and an exciting future. What sets us apart from other dental schools is our small, supportive learning community. Our faculty and staff are passionate about helping our students thrive.

We recently added new state-of-the-art learning spaces - our clinical and virtual simulation laboratory and digital design studio - where our students use the most innovative learning technology available today to learn the latest clinical techniques and skills. By adding this technology to our supportive learning community, we are offering a unique educational experience that guides our students to becoming competent, passionate oral health care providers.

The foundation of our long-standing tradition of excellence is our extraordinary people, including our students who contribute to our mission of improving the oral health of the people of Nebraska and beyond through participating in outreach activities, serving our patients and conducting research. We are always excited to welcome new learners into our community who share our passion for improving the lives of others through oral health care. We invite you to come visit and see what makes the UNMC College of Dentistry special.

FAQs

What are the prerequisites?
For consideration for admission, students must complete 90 semester hours, and are strongly encouraged to complete a four-year degree program, prior to matriculation into dental school. Predental work may be completed at any accredited university, college or community college in the US or Canada.

Required courses
English Composition, two semesters (6 hours)
Inorganic Chemistry with laboratory, two semesters (8 hours)
Organic Chemistry with laboratory, two semesters (8 hours)
Biology with laboratory, two semesters (8 hours)
Physics with laboratory, two semesters (8-10 hours)

Suggested elective courses include: anatomy, biochemistry, cell biology, comparative anatomy, embryology, genetics, histology, immunology, microbiology, physiology, psychology, scientific Greek or Latin, statistics.

How many students do you admit?
We accept 52 students each year. We typically receive 500+ applications.

Student Demographics
Among the first-year students in 2022:
• 73% are Nebraska residents, 44% are from rural areas
• 54% female, 46% male
• Average GPA: 3.71
• Average DAT: 20

Where do graduates go?
Among the graduating class of 2022:
• 72% went into private practice
• 26% advanced education residencies
• 2% went into public health

What do you learn in dental school?
We offer students the education, clinical and research experiences, and emphasis on professional values that they need to begin professionally practicing dentistry upon graduation. The dental program curriculum provides an orderly progression of knowledge and skills, reflecting the interdependence of biological, behavioral and clinical sciences. At the same time, the curriculum is flexible, permitting variations in background, encouraging diverse interests and allowing for the development of each student’s potential.

The basic programs of the college focus on five interwoven areas: 1.) scientific development, 2.) diagnostic skills and treatment planning, 3.) clinical treatment and technical performance, 4.) practical administration, and 5.) personal, professional and community responsibility.

How do students learn? What are your teaching approaches?
Students have valuable hands-on learning experiences in our patient care clinics and through participating in numerous community outreach programs. To prepare students for working with patients, they build their skills in our clinical and virtual simulation laboratory using the most advanced simulation technology. In our collaborative, interactive classrooms, faculty use the latest learning technology to make dentistry come to life. All students have the opportunity to participate in and lead cutting-edge research.

How do students pay for dental school?
Nearly 100 percent of the students at the college receive some form of financial assistance. A number of grants and scholarships are available to students through the College of Dentistry. Awards vary from $200 to full tuition. Federal loans and grants are available through the UNMC Office of Financial Aid.
Why the UNMC College of Dentistry?

Small class sizes & faculty-to-student ratios
With a small class size, our students thrive in our close-knit, supportive environment. Students receive personalized guidance and mentoring from our nationally renowned faculty members who have expertise in all areas of dentistry.

Hands-on learning via simulations
In our innovative clinical and virtual simulation laboratory, students learn the latest clinical techniques through virtual dental trainers which use the most advanced simulation technology to achieve a high level of realism, allowing students to feel the difference between enamel, dentin, pulp and caries. Cutting-edge 3D, virtual reality and haptics technology allow students to navigate and manipulate virtual clinical environments.

Hands-on learning in digital dentistry
In our new digital design studio, students have access to the latest CAD/CAM technology for designing dentures and restorations, and an equipment studio with milling machines, 3D printers and other technology.

Hands-on learning in patient care clinics
We have created a highly effective clinical model that closely resembles providing comprehensive care within a private practice. Students are assigned to teams that provide patients with all the care they need. This clinic model promotes a sense of teamwork and helps students build relationships with their patients.

Hands-on learning in specialties
Students can work alongside postgraduate residents to provide care to patients with more advanced treatment needs in our six postgraduate clinics: endodontics, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, general practice residency and advanced education in general dentistry. After graduation, students are encouraged to apply for UNMC’s advanced education residencies.

Hands-on learning with community outreach
Our many community outreach programs (Special Olympics, SHARING Clinic, etc.) allow students to volunteer their time and talents to provide services to underserved populations that have little or no access to oral health care. Students have memorable, rewarding experiences helping those in need while they practice their clinical and communication skills.

Collaborative, interactive classroom learning
Our faculty members utilize the latest interactive classroom technology. We are a leader in developing innovative e-modules to teach important concepts and our iWall allows students to interact with educational content through touch-enabled software and virtual reality. To our knowledge, we are the only dental program in the nation with an iWall, offering our students a truly unique educational experience.

Student-lead research projects
Our students lead cutting-edge, award-winning research projects with guidance from our faculty. Students have opportunities to present their research findings at national meetings and many receive top honors for their work.

Extraordinary faculty
Our faculty have a great impact on our students’ success. Many of our faculty are involved with cutting-edge research, lead local and national outreach activities for underserved populations, serve in leadership roles in organizations including the American Dental Education Association, and are dedicated practitioners, providing patient care using the latest clinical techniques.

Focus on student wellness
First-year students take a wellness class where they build skills to enhance their well-being. Students have access to a wealth of health and wellness services.

“When I was considering dental schools, the UNMC College of Dentistry stood out to me because they really listen to their students and do everything they can to ensure we succeed. It is very much the community setting I was looking for. On my first visit, I felt like I was home.”
- Shelby Brown, class of 2023

“The technology we have here is impressive. The amount of opportunities and resources we have to practice our hand skills is unbelievable. We also have the most amazing people - students, faculty and staff. It’s a very collaborative, supportive environment. We all work together to help each other succeed.”
- Laura Shaw, class of 2025
Admissions Timeline

Students are enrolled in the UNMC College of Dentistry each August. Candidates apply for admission approximately one year before they wish to be admitted to the college.

The early application deadline is October 1. Applicants are encouraged to apply in June, July or August.

May or Earlier
Take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) so that results are available prior to the early application deadline of October 1. The DAT can be taken through Prometric Test Centers. (ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test)

June - September
Apply by using the ADEA AADSAS (American Dental Education Association Associated American Dental Schools Application Service) online application. (adea.org/GoDental)

Applicants should not wait for DAT scores, transcripts or other application materials before applying through AADSAS. Applicant files are updated as these materials are received.

August - November
Candidates under serious consideration will be invited to interview with the admissions committee during this time. Interviews are offered by invitation only.

December
First round admission notifications are sent in early December.

Selection Factors

We strive to recruit students with diverse backgrounds by promoting a culture of inclusion that embraces the richness of diversity and respects individuals for their cultures, contributions and points of view.

The UNMC College of Dentistry does not require a minimum grade point average or DAT score.

All students considered for admission must be academically prepared. Students must possess intellectual capability and stability, social and perceptual skills, and physical capability to observe, communicate and perform motor skills adequately to satisfactorily complete the rigorous curriculum.

Important factors in selection include the following:

• Academic background - grade point average and science grade point average
• DAT scores
• Campus, community and dental career (shadowing) involvement
• State of residence - One of our missions is to develop Nebraska’s oral health workforce; however, 40% or more of our enrolled students come from across the country.

Note: Letters of evaluation are strongly encouraged. Evaluations of a student’s progress and potential by a predental adviser or committee are appreciated. Letters of evaluation are to be submitted through AADSAS.

Located in Lincoln, Nebraska

The University of Nebraska is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). UNMC has been continuously accredited since 1913. The dental education program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation [and has been granted the accreditation status of “approval without reporting requirements”]. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission’s web address is: http://www.ada.org/en/coda.

For more information, please contact:

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