



Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree (D.D.S.)

Why consider a career in dentistry?

Dental careers provide plenty of rewards and challenges.

- The U.S. News & World Report 100 Best Jobs listed professions in dentistry among its top jobs in 2023.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts employment growth of 7.6 percent, equating to 10,400 new dentist jobs through the year 2028.

People choose to become dentists because they can:

- Restore the oral health and transform the lives of their patients.
- Be independent in their careers.
- Earn a good salary.
- Maintain a flexible lifestyle.
- Exercise creativity in their daily work.
- Work as part of a team.

- Give back to their communities.
- Shape the future of oral health care.

Source: American Dental Education Association

What do you learn in dental school?

At the UNMC College of Dentistry, our students undergo a comprehensive educational journey that equips them with the knowledge, skills and values they need to provide general dental care to patients of all ages.

Students thrive in our close-knit, supportive environment. They enjoy a variety of hands-on learning experiences while gaining:

- knowledge of foundational biomedical, behavioral and clinical sciences;
- cognitive and psychomotor skills; and
- professional and ethical values.



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 amount of opportunities and resources we have to practice our hand skills is unbelievable. The technology we have here is impressive, and we 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

Why the UNMC Dental Program?



Small class sizes and personalized mentoring

With small class sizes and outstanding faculty, our unique learning environment is designed to foster student success.

Our faculty members ensure that every student receives the personalized guidance they need to succeed. Our faculty are leading oral health experts; they provide patient care using the latest techniques, are involved in oral health research, and lead national dental organizations.

Hands-on learning experiences

Our students are immersed in a variety of hands-on, cutting-edge learning experiences in patient care, research, digital dentistry and much more. *See back.*

Class of 2027 Profile

- Average GPA: 3.74
- Average DAT: 20
- 52 enrolled
- 28 female, 24 male
- 32 NE residents, 20 non-residents
- 22 average age (19 - 29 age range)



Hands-On Learning Experiences

Work in teams to provide patient care

Our highly effective clinical model 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 teamwork and helps students build relationships with their patients.

Use virtual reality to build clinical skills

In our innovative Clinical and Virtual Simulation Laboratory, students build their clinical skills through clinical simulations and virtual reality dental trainers which use the most advanced simulation technology.

Build digital dentistry skills

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 3D printers and milling machines.



Lead oral health research projects

Students lead research projects with guidance from faculty and have opportunities to present their research at national meetings where many receive top honors.

Explore dental specialties

Students work alongside residents to provide care to patients with advanced needs in our postgraduate clinics: endodontics, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, general practice residency, and advanced education in general dentistry.



Participate in community outreach programs

Our many community outreach programs allow students to volunteer their time and talents to provide patient care and education to underserved populations.

Learn how to run a private practice

Students receive hands-on experience in running a private practice at one of over 30 extramural rotation sites.

Lead a student organization

Our many student organizations offer students a variety of local, regional and national leadership and professional development opportunities.

Use this QR code to visit our website - meet our students & faculty, see program costs & more!



Pre-Dental Requirements

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. Pre-dental work may be completed at any accredited university, college or community college in the US or Canada.

Required Courses

English Composition - 2 semesters (6 hours)
Inorganic Chemistry with lab - 2 semesters (8 hours)
Organic Chemistry with lab - 2 semesters (8 hours)
Biology with lab - 2 semesters (8 hours)
Physics with lab - 2 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.

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. 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.

Application Checklist

- 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 early.
- May: Take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) so that results are available prior to the early application deadline of October 1.
- June - October: Complete the ADEA AADSAS online application.

UNMC Dental Program

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