



Essential Skills and Abilities for Admission, Promotion and Graduation in the Doctor of Dental Surgery Program.

The University of Toronto (UofT), Faculty of Dentistry assesses each candidate's ability to fulfill safety and technical standards; applicants and students must possess the skills and abilities that will allow them to successfully complete the course of study and receive the full benefit of the education. In the process, the student is required to treat patients of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry. The Faculty of Dentistry is responsible for ensuring the safety of the patients. This includes the completion of treatment safely and within acceptable time limits.

Statements below are intended to reflect essential functions in the U of T, Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) program. The UofT, Faculty of Dentistry is committed to the principle of diversity in all areas. Admission is based upon published criteria and is open to all qualified individuals.

Preamble

As an accredited Canadian dental program, the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto is responsible for providing a program of study that ensures graduates have the necessary qualifications (academic knowledge, clinical skills, and professional behaviors and attitudes) to enter the regulated profession of Dentistry in Canada. Becoming and being a dentist requires a wide range of highly specialized skills and abilities. Some of these are taught in dental school, while others must be brought by the individual as an innate set of essential skills and abilities. The criteria for becoming registered/ licensed as a dentist in Canada requires a level of motor skills and other attributes that are not necessary in other professional occupations. Similarly, the ability to provide reasonable accommodation for special learning needs in dentistry may not be the same as it is for other academic programs. For example, patient safety concerns with restorative and surgical procedures preclude the ability to accommodate additional time to complete, and assess, student clinical procedures. This document describes the skills and abilities required for success in completing the dental program. Students interested in becoming a dentist must review this document.

It is important to note that an offer of admission to the Faculty of Dentistry is not evidence that the dental program has verified that an applicant has the prerequisite skills and abilities for success in the program. However, these skills and abilities are essential if students are to be successful in achieving the competency standards of the profession. Further, in order to be registered/licensed as a dentist in Canada, individuals must successfully complete the Written Examination and Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) administered by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB). As such, the skills and abilities required to



successfully complete the NDEB exams are included as skills required in the program. The Written Examination is comprised of two 150-minute multiple-choice examination sessions held in the morning and afternoon of one day. The OSCE is a station type examination where candidates have 5 minutes to answer the questions asked at each station. The OSCE is also held in the morning and afternoon of one day.

Criteria: Students matriculating in and graduating from the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) program must be able to meet the technical requirements of the academic program and must not pose a threat to the well-being of patients, other students, staff, attending dentists, or themselves. Therefore, the UofT, Faculty of Dentistry has determined that students must be able to perform the essential functions listed below with or without accommodation.

For progression in, and graduation, from the dental program, all students must conduct themselves in a professional manner, and must have the Essential Skills and Abilities (Technical Standards) discussed under the following five broad areas:

- Observation/perception
- Communication
- Motor/tactile function
- Cognition
- Emotional functioning

All applicants to the undergraduate program of the Faculty of Dentistry are expected to review this document to assess their ability to meet these standards; all applicants offered admission will be required to acknowledge such review and assessment. Any candidate for the DDS degree who cannot demonstrate the required skills and abilities throughout their course of study may be requested to withdraw from the program.

Faculty of Dentistry Essential Skills and Abilities

An applicant to the DDS program must reasonably expect that while enrolled in the undergraduate dental program he or she will be able to demonstrate an appropriate degree of professionalism, and will be able to demonstrate the following skills and abilities:

Professionalism

Students are obligated to act with integrity and diligence in carrying out their professional responsibilities, and their behavior and conduct in relation to others must be characterized by consideration, respect and good faith.



Technical Standards

(1) Observation/Perception

A student must be able to participate in learning situations and acquire information through observation and perception by the use of senses and mental abilities. In particular, a student must participate progressively in patient encounters and acquire information through acute visual and tactile sensation.

(2) Communication

A student must be able to speak, hear and write proficiently in the English language, and to observe individuals and groups of individuals in order to effectively and efficiently elicit and clarify information. The student must be able to progressively create rapport and develop therapeutic relationships with patients, and establish effective communication with all members of the dental school community and other healthcare teams. A student must be able to coherently summarize and effectively communicate a patient's condition and management plan verbally, and in written and electronic forms.

(3) Motor/Tactile Function

A student must possess sufficient motor function to develop the skills required to safely perform fine diagnostic, preventive, restorative (e.g. fillings) and surgical procedures on a patient. These procedures must be done independently and competently within a **three-hour** lab/ or clinical shift to minimize the risk to patient safety. A student must possess fine motor function and sensory function in order to be able to use common dental instrumentation including for example, an explorer, syringe, dental handpiece (drill) and surgical scalpel.

(4) Cognition

A student must demonstrate higher-level cognitive abilities necessary to measure, to calculate, and to reason in order to conceptualize, analyze, integrate and synthesize information. The student must be able to comprehend dimensional and visual-spatial relationships. All of these problem-solving activities must be achieved progressively in a timely fashion and must contribute to sound judgment based upon clinical and ethical reasoning.

(5) Emotional Functioning

A student must be able to tolerate the physical, emotional, and mental demands of the program and function effectively under stress. It is necessary to be able to adapt to changing environments, and to function in the face of uncertainties that are inherent in the care of



patients. Decisions and procedures must be completed in a timely manner in order to maximize patient outcomes and minimize risks to patient safety.

University of Toronto Statement on Prohibited Discrimination and Discriminatory Harassment.

The University of Toronto will not engage in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, order of protection status, genetic information, marital status, disability, sexual orientation including gender identity, unfavorable discharge from the military status as a protected veteran and will comply with all federal and state nondiscrimination equal opportunity, and affirmative action laws, order and regulations. This nondiscrimination policy applies to admissions, employment access to a treatment in the University programs and activities. Source: University of Toronto Governing Council Statement on Prohibited Discrimination and Discriminatory Harassment, March 31, 1994.

The UofT, Faculty of Dentistry has determined that students must be able to perform the above listed essential functions with or without accommodation. Requests for accommodation should be initiated with the University of Toronto, Accessibility Services: 455 Spading Avenue, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Toronto, ON, M5S 2G8. 416-978-8060 Email:

accessibility.services@utoronto.ca

Website: <https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/contact-us>

Certification: I certify that I have read the UofT, Essential Skills and Abilities Form and understand that as part of the dental school curriculum I will be required to meet all of the above stated essential skills and abilities with or without accommodation.

Name: (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Student Number: _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return the completed form to Nicholas Mitchell, Undergraduate Programs Officer, Student Services Office, Faculty of Dentistry, 124 Edward Street, Toronto, ON.