School of Dentistry

Educational Objectives

In line with the Educational Objectives of Osaka University, the School of Dentistry aims to nurture individuals with the ability to understand systemic conditions from a scientific viewpoint by examining the mouth, jaw and facial areas, and act as next-generation leaders in dental research and dental care, as shown below.

Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire specialized knowledge in life sciences centering on the mouth, jaw and facial areas.

Broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Develop the ability to promote interdisciplinary collaboration with related fields of study.

Develop the ability to communicate with people with varied backgrounds.

International mindset

Develop the ability to collect relevant information in the field of life sciences, centering on the mouth, jaw and facial areas, from an international perspective.

Design prowess

Nurture dentists with the ability to provide holistic dental care to individual patients including psychological and social support.

Develop the ability to conduct original research on life sciences, centering on the mouth, jaw and facial areas.

Professionalism (individual educational objectives)

Foster a strong sense of responsibility and ethics necessary for medical professionals.

Develop the ability to act globally in various sectors, including universities, research institutions, medical institutions, companies, government agencies and public bodies, in view of the fact that the study of dental medicine now covers a wider range of fields than ever, from oral to systemic health.

Completion Approval/Degree Awarding Policies (Diploma Policies)

Under the Diploma Policies of Osaka University, the School of Dentistry confers a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree on individuals who have completed the study of life sciences centering on the mouth, jaw and facial areas, subject to meeting the following objectives.

Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire outstanding academic expertise and cutting-edge specialized knowledge.

Acquire sufficient skills in dental care.

Broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Acquire broad-based knowledge required for medical professionals.

Acquire communication skills required for medical professionals.

International mindset

Develop the ability to collect information from an international perspective.

Design prowess

Develop the ability to provide appropriate and effective dental care to patients respecting their social and individual backgrounds.

Develop the ability to understand the significance of research in dental medicine and discuss the research theoretically and critically.

Professionalism (individual educational objectives)

Foster a strong sense of self-reliance with clear goals in mind and determination to improve oneself.

Foster a sincere attitude and sense of responsibility as a medical professional.

Foster an attitude to improve oneself as a dentist through lifelong study and develop the ability to theoretically discuss dental research from an international perspective and sufficient design prowess to work as a dentist.

Teaching and Learning Policies (Curriculum Policies)

In line with the Curriculum Policies of Osaka University, the School of Dentistry offers educational programs designed to guide students to acquire specialized knowledge, develop the ability to think from comprehensive and multifaceted perspectives, and foster an international mindset, thus helping them open up various career opportunities.

Principles of Curriculum Design

The curriculum of the School of Dentistry combines general education subjects, Academic Major education subjects and other relevant subjects in a consistent, systematic and integrated manner to guide students to achieve the learning objectives in a step-by-step manner upon graduation.

Contents and Methods of Education

General education subjects for the first- and second-year students are taught in the form of lectures and laboratory work, as well as small-group seminars and early clinical exposure sessions.
Academic Major education subjects (basic subjects) are taught in the form of lectures and practical training as well as active-learning sessions such as problem-based-learning (PBL) and laboratory-based sessions.
Academic Major education subjects (clinical subjects) are taught in the form of lectures and practical training as well as problem-based-learning (PBL) sessions.
After passing Common Achievement Tests, students participate in clinical clerkship at Osaka University Dental Hospital as a Student Dentist to treat patients, and attend seminars where both basic and clinical subjects are taught.
A short-term study abroad program is also offered as an elective subject.

Academic Performance Evaluation Method

The School of Dentistry encourages students to reflect on their achievements at each stage of study by using portfolios, and conducts formative assessments repeatedly based on quizzes and observation records. The academic performance of students is evaluated by summative assessment based on written, oral and practical examinations, portfolios and observation records.

General education subjects and Academic Major education subjects taught in the first and second years are designed to guide students to review the basic knowledge necessary for studying at the School of Dentistry and acquire a sense of ethics required for dentists. In later years, students study the following subjects in turn: subjects in a broad range of topics relating to life sciences focusing on the mouth, jaw and facial areas; laboratory-based programs in basic dental medicine; international exchange program; problem-based-learning sessions; and seminars to develop dental and communication skills necessary to provide holistic dental care. The School of Dentistry offers sufficient support to ensure that all students can achieve the educational objectives through its six-year curriculum that guides them in their studies in a comprehensive and step-by-step manner.