

**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
ENDODONTICS PROSPECTUS**

PURPOSE

Postdoctoral Endodontics offers two distinct programs for advanced education in this field. The primary objective of both programs is to produce a scientifically oriented and clinically proficient individual.

TYPES OF PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Postgraduate (Certificate) Program

This program is designed specifically to train clinicians for specialty practice and extends over a period of 24 months. Upon satisfactorily completing this program, the student is awarded an appropriately inscribed certificate in Endodontics. Special courses such as Microbiology, Oral Pathology, Pharmacology, Biostatistics, etc. are offered each quarter. This clinically oriented program places major emphasis on diagnosis, radiographic techniques and therapeutic procedures. The student is expected to diagnose and treat a variety of endodontic problems diversified in complexity. If available there are extramural rotations at the Veterans Administration Medical Center Dental Clinic for those qualified students. Weekly seminars, case evaluations, and literature reviews are included to augment the individuals' clinical exposure. Students are expected to attend all endodontic lectures and technique courses. Participants are assigned limited clinical and laboratory teaching responsibilities to further their learning experience.

Graduate (Master Degree) Program

Applicants who have a strong interest in teaching and /or research are advised to pursue this program. Candidates must fulfill the requirements of the Graduate School of the University and those of the School of Dentistry. The program includes a formal curriculum of advanced education, a more robust research project and formal thesis defense. The enrollee is expected to develop the same level of clinical proficiency in diagnosis and treatment of pulpal and periapical pathology as the student in the postgraduate (certificate) program. Students will participate in the technical and clinical teaching programs as part of their educational experience. The student may or may not require additional time to complete this program which leads to a Master's (M.S.) Degree in addition to a certificate in Endodontics.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS

A. Qualifications for Admission

Candidates for admission must have a dental degree from a school accredited by the American Dental Association or Canadian Dental Association, among other requirements. Selection is based upon performance in dental school and other qualifications such as motivation, character, aptitude, past experience in endodontic or general practice. A letter from the chairman in the endodontic department at the applicants' school discussing these qualifications is recommended. Personal interviews will be requested and arranged at the discretion of the program director.

Candidates for the M. S. Degree must also fulfill the requirements of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Graduate School.

B. Available Positions

The total number of students in both programs is usually maintained at 8. Each year new candidates are accepted to replace students who have completed their training in their program. Annually, the applicants far exceed the number of available positions. Applicants must agree to abide by the decision made in the acceptance process as final.

C. Length of Program

The certificate program requires a minimum of 24 months. Generally, students require 24-36 months to complete Masters (M.S.) Degree/Certificate Program.

D. Financial Support

When available, and if qualified, there is a paid rotation for second year residents at the Veterans Administration medical Center and at other area hospitals. There is no stipend for first year residents. Limited financial support may be available for second year residents in the form of teaching assistantships. Financial aid is available through the university.

Residents generally cannot receive compensation from the affiliated V.A. hospital or receive teaching assistantships unless they are citizens of the United States, graduates of an accredited dental school, and possessors of dental licensure in Alabama.

It is suggested that students in the advanced education programs refrain from engaging in activities of a dental practice or laboratory nature outside their educational program.

E. Fees and Other Costs

The tuition/fees for postgraduate programs is approximately \$19, 270.00 for two academic years. For those pursuing the Masters Degree, there are also additional fees of the graduate school. Students are expected to support themselves in total, including room, board, books and instruments. The minimum cost of endodontic instruments approximates \$3,000.00. Health and Hospital insurance are required and can be obtained through the Student health Service. In addition, graduate students must acquire and maintain appropriate professional liability insurance. This insurance is available through the UAB Medical Malpractice Liability trust Fund. A certification of vaccination for (or proof of immunity to) Hepatitis B is required. Many expendable supplies will be provided.

F. Dates of Interest to Applicants

All applications must completed by August 15th of the year preceding matriculation. Applications are then reviewed and the qualifications of each applicant are critically evaluated. Interviews will be requested and arranged by the Program Director. Notification of acceptance is mailed on or before November 1st . A deposit of \$1,000.00 must be remitted with a letter of acceptance. This is not refundable, but is applied against tuition charges. The decision of the Post-Graduate Committee and the Program Director is final.

Enrollees in either program matriculate on July 1st, and must remain in residence for the entire 24 (or more) month training period. Applications for the part-time participation will not be accepted.

G. General Information

General clinic patients provide a ready source for experience in every phase of endodontic therapy.

Special postdoctoral courses are required, including Microbiology, Pharmacology, Oral Pathology, Radiology, etc. Endodontic seminars are held regularly on specific subjects, special cases and general case reviews, as well as in depth reviews of endodontic research reports, etc.

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subjects, special cases and general case reviews, as well as in depth reviews of endodontic research reports, etc.

Students accepted into the program are expected to pass the licensing examination that is recognized by Alabama and obtain an Alabama dental license prior to beginning the program.

The curriculum is designed to fulfill the requirements of the American Board of Endodontics and the Standards for Advance Specialty Education Programs in Endodontics and is therefore subject to change. All student s are encouraged to pursue board certification in Endodontics upon completion of the program.

The student's performance is critically reviewed periodically by the program director and a constructive evaluation is made of his/her progress. This evaluation will be used to determine of is appropriate for the student to continue in the program.

Participation in advanced dental education programs requires concentrated full-time effort on the students part. Consequently, each student should plan his or her other obligations and responsibilities accordingly.

There is ample opportunity for consultations and other forms of inter-relationship with clinic disciplines. The student is often requested to consult with various departments concerning the diagnosis of pulpal problems and combined therapeutic efforts.

(It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all application information reaches the UAB School of Dentistry Postgraduate Office.)

FACILITIES

Postdoctoral clinical facilities are located in the Endodontic Clinic. Each student is assigned a completely equipped clinical area. Undergraduate students utilize other units in the clinic. Surgical procedures are performed by the endodontic graduate students in consultation with program director. Special research space will be made available when necessary. The Veterans Administration Hospital Dental Service is an affiliated program and houses complete clinical, laboratory and teaching facilities.

DISCLAIMER:

The contents of this prospectus represent the most current information available at the time of publication. It is subject to change without prior notice. Thus, the provisions of this prospectus are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract

between the school and the student. To request an application please call the Postdoctoral Admissions Office @205-934-5373, or by email Susie Moorer, smoorer@uab.edu.

Specific Requirements and Expectations of Endodontic Residents at UAB

This document is a condensed version and amplification of requirements found in other documents. It is not intended to cover every aspect of the program, but to offer a condensed version for the incoming resident.

The faculty expects that each resident will recognize the intense competition for each residency position nationally and especially the positions at UABENDO. We enjoy a superior learning environment, both clinically with a large volume of patients and didactically with extensive investigation of the original and contemporary endodontic literature.

The primary means of instruction is literature review of original research articles, with the goal that each residents will learn critical thinking skills as well as important principles of endodontic, dentistry and medicine. No particular technique is taught, as it is considered important that each first year resident will learn to perform the many different techniques in general use by endodontists. The second year resident will strive to perfect a personal techniques in general use by endodontists. The second year resident will strive to perfect a personal technique from an amalgamation of all techniques used and be open to modification as new techniques are introduced to the profession. The department's desire is to make available instruments and equipment to allow each resident to experience all of the major techniques presently available.

Skill in endodontics is not something that can be taught, but rather must be learned by doing. This is a concept we call "Grace at the Apex". It is the philosophy of the faculty that you cannot learn much by watching. Faculty are available to you during all clinic sessions If you want help, clearly state to a faculty member whether you wish a verbal consultation or for the faculty to physically help with your patient's care. Residents are state-licensed to provide endodontic care. Faculty may not be in the clinic at all times, but are present on campus if needed.

A summary of philosophies and techniques follows. It is not possible to exactly define the minor constriction of the apex clinically. Kuttler has determined that in most instances this constriction is ½ mm from the apical foramen and .7 to 3+mm from the radiographic apex. All obturation materials cause chronic inflammation if extended into the periapex. It is ideal to set a goal of 1 mm short of the radiographic apex to end instrumentation and obturation. All instruments were made straight and want to return to this shape. If curved they can maintain the curved shape of a canal unless rotated, whereupon they will describe an arc and make a funnel-shape at the end of the canal. Nickel titanium files are most flexible and

transport least, unless overextended. Steel files do not work well in engine-driven fashion because of their propensity to return to their straight forms. Files can cut in and up-and-down motion and in a rotary motion. Reamers cut only in rotation. Hedstrom files are the sharpest and cut only in a pull stroke. They are also weakest because of the machining process that made them. Balance force technique uses a watch-winding motion to use both sides of the cutting edge which results in rapid debridement; however, if the file begins to break, reversal of direction leads to immediate file fracture. The wise practitioner can feel this impending separation and withdraws the file straight out of the canal; if lucky, the file will not break. The only way to develop this sense is to learn to feel files well, and the only way to achieve this is to practice. The faculty advises students to experiment on plastic blocks and extracted teeth.

The faculty requires that each resident will arrive well prepared each day. This requires a great deal of reading each night. It is strongly recommended that moonlighting not be considered until at least 1 semester has been satisfactorily completed. If the faculty assess that this privilege is eroding clinical or scholastic performance by residents, the opportunity may be revoked without recourse.

Classes usually begin at 8 a.m. sharp and the resident is expected to remain in school until at least 5 p.m. One resident will be on-call at all times, for emergency patients of faculty, residents and undergraduate students. The on-call resident must also be available for other residents and undergraduate students. The on-call resident must also be available for other residents in the UAB system. If the resident must be away for any reason, it is his or her responsibility to find a replacement.

A clean, pressed shirt with tie is the attire required for endodontic residents. Female endodontic residents will dress accordingly.

Charts must be promptly and accurately completed and returned to the school records clerk. It is imperative that ALL patients read, understand and sign the endodontic informed consent. Failure to do the proper record keeping will result in suspension of clinic privileges. Residents on clinic suspension will be required to work as dental assistants.

We require that you respect the instruments provided for you. In the past, each resident was required to provide all of his or her own instruments. Now the department is able to provide them however, **residents must bring their own handpieces**. If instruments are not carefully accounted for, this privilege may be lost. Stealing or borrowing of instruments for use outside the school is strictly forbidden and is grounds for immediate dismissal without recourse. Incorrect billing of patients, such as incomplete billing or billing only for lesser services will also result in immediate dismissal.

We expect resident to promptly care for patients. As with residencies in other disciplines, each resident cannot expect to be provided a full range of opportunities for every patient

condition. The prudent resident will seek to treat as many patients as possible in order to prepare themselves for practice. Scheduled patients generally have priority, but exceptions are made for severe pain or infection and for trauma patients who require replantation or other immediate care. Income from patient care is an important source of funds for the school and for the department. A portion of collections is funneled back to the department and is used for providing supplies and new technology for residents. Patient care numbers for each resident will be posted in the residents' room twice per year.

We require grades of A or B in all courses. Any lower grade must be improved by agreement with the course director or the course must be repeated. Poor performance in any course is an embarrassment to yourself and to the department, especially in courses provided by other disciplines.

We require that each resident will complete at least one research project. This includes a manuscript prepared to the EXACT specifications of an appropriate scientific journal. Actual submission of the manuscript is not required. The writing of such a manuscript typically takes several weeks. Through the appreciation of UABENDO alumni, funds are now available to fund your project, as well as to provide up to \$800 for travel, hotel, and related expenses for those who present their research at the annual American Association of Endodontics meeting. The submission date is usually November 1 for the meeting the following spring. First year residents are strongly encouraged to have a short project in their first year to allow them to attend the AAE meeting. This is in addition to the required research project.

FACULTY

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