

**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 requires 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 \$5,747.00 per academic year. 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 is 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 expendible supplies will be provided.

F. Dates of Interest to Applicants

All applications must complete 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 \$250.00 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.

Students accepted into the program are expected to pass the licensing examination in Alabama prior to beginning the program.

The curriculum is designed to fulfill the requirements of the American Board of Endodontics and the Standards for Advanced Specialty Education Programs in Endodontics and is therefore subject to change. All students are encouraged to pursue board certification in Endodontics on 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 if it is appropriate for the student to continue in the program.

Participation in advanced dental education programs requires concentrated full-time effort on the student's 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 the 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; 205-934-5357, or by email Susie Moorer, smoorer@uab.edu.

FACULTY

Paul D. Eleazer, D.D.S., M.S., Chair
Department of Endodontics

Robert D. Barfield, D.M.D.
Director of Postdoctoral Endodontics

Madelyn Coar, D.M.D., M.A.
Director of Predoctoral Endodontics

Joe P. Thomas, D.D.S., M.S.D.
Professor of Dentistry

Larry W. Alley, D.M.D.
Associate Professor

