

STUDENT HANDBOOK

POSTGRADUATE DENTAL COLLEGE
UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES



Master of Science in Oral Biology

June 2022

Postgraduate Dental College
2787 Winfield Scott Rd., Suite 220
JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7510

For additional information, see

<https://pdc.usuhs.edu/>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	4
Purpose.....	4
Postgraduate Dental College – Brief History.....	4
Postgraduate Dental College Organizational Diagram	5
Uniformed Services University Mission.....	5
Postgraduate Dental College Mission.....	5
Postgraduate Dental College Vision	5
Postgraduate Dental College Strategic Plan	6
Admissions Process	7
Process and Procedures	7
Access to University Services	7
Master of Science in Oral Biology Program Information	9
Postgraduate Dental College Goals	9
Program Requirements by Major Fields of Study	9
Postgraduate Dental College Policies	16
Policy Background	16
Student Admission	16
Ethics and Integrity.....	17
Grading	18
Research	18
Graduation Requirements	19
Awarding of Degrees	20
Adverse Academic Action and Due Process	20
Grievances	21

Appendix A: Postgraduate Dental College Organizational Diagram23
Appendix B: Research Program25

Introduction

Purpose

The relationship between the military dental community and the Uniformed Services University was initiated at the request of the respective Services. The objective was to permit dental residents to earn Master of Science degrees in conjunction with certificates of training upon successful completion of the prescribed clinical and didactic requirements. Military leaders believed the incorporation of research into established programs would permit graduates to more effectively evaluate the scientific literature, enhance critical thinking skills, and foster the development of premier clinical providers.

Postgraduate Dental College – A Brief History

In 2007, Air Force Major General Gar Graham formally asked USU President Dr. Charles Rice to consider a partnership that would allow residents in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry two-year program (AEGD2) to earn Master of Science degrees from Uniformed Services University. The Navy Dental Corps had been holding similar discussions with USU and requested the six programs taught at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School in Bethesda be included. Shortly thereafter, the TriService Orthodontic Residency Program at Lackland AFB submitted a similar request.

Upon completion of a feasibility study, accrediting organizations were consulted, associated curricula were developed, and a Charter was signed. This led to establishment of the Postgraduate Dental College in June 2010. The newly-minted College was established to support existing military residencies, award Master of Science in Oral Biology degrees to program graduates, and provide faculty development training for University faculty members. In addition, students and faculty members were afforded access to the University's Learning Resource Center, the Sakai Learning Management System, and select research-related statistical software packages.

The Army Comprehensive Dentistry Programs at Fort Bragg, Fort Hood, and Schofield Barracks joined the affiliation in 2011. Consequently, the burgeoning relationship now included Army, Naval, and Air Force Postgraduate Dental Schools. A variety of military dental education programs joined the affiliation in the ensuing years. Hence, by 1 July 2018, the PDC included 21 residency programs located at seven different military installations, providing training in seven dental specialties and one subspecialty.

At the end of academic year 2019-2020, the Air Force close the two affiliated residency programs located at Keesler AFB to eliminate redundancies and consolidate training assets at JBSA Lackland TX. This action brought the PDC to its current size of 19 affiliated dental

residencies within the three Military Services. Approximately 180 students are enrolled and they receive their training from among a staff of more than 450 non-billeted USU faculty.

As of the end of academic year 2021, 622 graduates from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Veterans Administration, US Public Health Service, and Canadian Forces have received USU Master of Science in Oral Biology degrees. The program has an impressive 93% graduation rate.

Postgraduate Dental College Organizational Diagram

See Appendix A

Uniformed Services University Mission

The mission of USU is to support the readiness of America's Warfighter and the health and well-being of the military community by educating and developing uniformed health professionals, scientists and leaders; by conducting cutting-edge, military-relevant research; and by providing operational support to units around the world.

Postgraduate Dental College Mission

The mission of PDC is to support the readiness of America's Warfighter as well as the health and well-being of the military community by partnering with the Military Services to educate dental specialists that are ideally suited for practice in the Military and Public Health Systems in support of the National Security and National Defense Strategies of the United States. The PDC: 1) awards a Master of Science degree by awarding academic credit through oversight of curriculum and research that is aligned with knowledge and capability gaps relevant to readiness and the MHS; 2) prepares graduates as competent problem solvers and critical thinkers; 3) provides accreditation-required faculty development training to military faculty who also hold USU faculty appointments; and 4) facilitates joint curricula and educational opportunities for 6 geographically separated locations within 19 military Graduate Dental Education (GDE) residency programs.

Postgraduate Dental College Vision

By the end of CY 2023, the PDC will be recognized as the pre-eminent national educational institution for training uniformed service dentist leaders who are prepared for careers of service to the nation. The PDC will be a focal point for the uniformed services in postgraduate dental education, research and scholarship, and leadership and leader development, in support of dental health and readiness that directly impacts the survivability and lethality of the US Warfighter and improved health for the DoD community. Each PDC

graduate will be a health professional and leader prepared with an outstanding graduate dental education, inter-professional health training, leadership training, and a deep and abiding commitment to selfless service, the uniformed services ethos, and the security of the United States.

Postgraduate Dental College Strategic Plan

The 2019-2023 Postgraduate Dental College Strategic Plan is aligned with the University's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan and is posted on the website: [Strategic Framework](#). Future Postgraduate Dental College Strategic Plans will be revised to align with the most current University Strategic Plan.

Admissions Process

Process and Procedures

Candidates for the USU Master of Science in Oral Biology degree are selected from active duty military dental officers, Health Professions Scholarship Program students, and occasionally direct accessions. For each applicant, there is first a selection to the military residency by a panel of officers assembled by the respective Service. Residents selected are then further reviewed and recommended for the Master's degree program by a separate Academic Admissions Committee (AAC) comprising of USU dental faculty assembled by the Services' respective postgraduate dental schools. The following credentials are reviewed: each applicants' statement of intent, transcripts, GPA, class standing, letters of recommendation, national board results, and in the case of active duty military dental officers, their service records. The recommendation of the AAC is submitted to the Service's Dean who makes the final decision on admission and notifies the candidates. The Dean of the respective Postgraduate Dental School will forward a list of admitted students to the Executive Dean of the Postgraduate Dental College, who will in turn inform the USU Registrar. Prior to beginning the program, the University Registrar will forward an electronic link to all students. The link contains a request for both required and optional information that is submitted to the Registrar for processing. When received, students complete all required fields and submit directly using the function at the bottom of the form. This is accomplished electronically and can also be accessed via smart phone. It is preferred that this is completed before program orientation but not later than the first week of your program's orientation session.

Access to University Services

After the enrollment form is completed and processed, students will receive an email from Sakaihelp@usuhs.edu. This email could be directed to your .mil email, your personal email, or both. Also, please be sure to check your Spam folder.

Single Sign On Account

A Single Sign On (SSO) account is required to access University electronic resources. After enrollment is completed, Residents will be issued a Single Sign On (SSO) account, enabling login to the Sakai Learning Management System. Please check your military and/or personal email accounts for an email message from Sakaihelp@usuhs.edu. That message will provide you with a SSO password/username. These can be used to log in to your account from a non- CAC enabled computer. Please log in to your SSO account and follow instructions to link your CAC card to the account.

Learning Resource Center (LRC)

Following enrollment and issuance of or assignment of SSO accounts, a list of eligible students will be given to the LRC staff. An e-mail will be sent to each student inviting them to apply for a library account. Each student completes a registration form, identifies his/her residency and location and acknowledges a user agreement and copyright warning. Students are then processed quickly and their account credentials are sent back via e-mail. Please check your military and/or personal email account for correspondence regarding your account. Once you receive your credentials, locate the University homepage at USUHS.edu. Click the word "Library" and you will be taken to the LRC home page. Then click the USU Postgraduate Dental College button and you will be able to log in to your LRC account by using your SSO login credentials or by using your LRC username/password. You can also follow directions at the LRC login button to link your LRC username/password to your CAC.

Software

Masters of Science degree students and select faculty with significant research involvement will be able to access selected software applications that will help in the preparation of research manuscripts. All dental residents enrolled in Master of Science degree programs will have access to EndNote and SPSS statistical software that will be beneficial while conducting research. The access process will involve downloading these software packages on your personal computers. You will receive an email from the University with instructions advising you of availability.

Master of Science in Oral Biology Program Information

Postgraduate Dental College Goals

The program's educational focus concentrates on training students as Master Clinician specialists that are intelligent consumers of the scientific literature, along with instilling critical thinking and problem solving skills that are applicable to any military assignment.

1. Incorporate a formal research program into existing curricula. (Research Program Guide; [Research Guidelines](#))
2. Provide appropriate academic credit for existing coursework so that when combined with the formal research program meet requirements for a Master of Science in Oral Biology degree.
3. Prepare students to obtain board certification.
4. Prepare graduates to serve in leadership roles within their Service as:
 - Clinicians
 - Educators
 - Officers
5. Prepare graduates to embrace ethical/evidence-based care through:
 - Delivery of better care
 - Obtaining and maintaining optimal dental health for their patients
 - Demonstrating good stewardship of available resources
 - Supporting Readiness: in-garrison and when deployed

Program Requirements by Major Fields of Study

Seven Major Fields of Study and one Subspecialty are offered with the PDC MS in Oral Biology Degree Program. Description of these can be found by accessing the USU Academic Catalog at: <http://usuhs.smartcatalogiq.com/2021-2022/Academic-Catalog>

These programs include:

COMPREHENSIVE DENTISTRY MAJOR

The Two-Year Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency prepares military dental officers to provide multidisciplinary dental treatment capabilities ensuring the oral health and

readiness of the Warfighter. The program consists of a 24-month comprehensive curriculum and includes instruction/experiences in all dental disciplines. Formal presentations, instruction, seminars, literature reviews, demonstrations and first-hand clinical experience are provided to the residents. Overall, the program provides training in the clinical, instructional and investigative aspects of the profession to include dental readiness in order to develop military leaders and versatile clinicians who are force multipliers in-garrison or first line deployers to austere environments.

Summary: Comprehensive Dentistry Major

Length: 24 months

Locations: Army Postgraduate Dental School – Fort Bragg NC, Fort Hood TX, Schofield Barracks HI; Naval Postgraduate Dental School – Bethesda MD; Air Force Postgraduate Dental School - Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) Lackland TX.

Upon Completion: Certificate and Master of Science Degree (Oral Biology)

<http://usuhs.smartcatalogiq.com/2021-2022/Academic-Catalog/Postgraduate-Dental-College-PDC/Comprehensive-Dentistry-Masters-of-Science-MS-in-Oral-Biology>

ENDODONTICS MAJOR

Endodontists contribute to the military mission by providing necessary timely assessments and quality treatments for the resolution of oral pain associated with the dental pulp, periradicular pathology, traumatic injuries and orofacial infections; which together account for many of the non-deployable classifications for the Warfighter. This is a 24-month clinical and didactic post-doctoral program which trains residents to become skilled at providing competent evidence-based diagnoses along with surgical and non-surgical therapy to address pulpal and periapical disease. The program is built to fully satisfy the educational requirements to meet the examination and certification by the American Board of Endodontics. Additionally, residents learn to clinically and administratively manage a range of DoD Warfighters and their unique requirements. The program includes didactic basic sciences, pertinent endodontic seminars, literature reviews, patient care and research.

SUMMARY: Endodontics Major

Length: 24 month

Locations: Army Postgraduate Dental School – Fort Gordon GA, Fort Bragg NC; Naval Postgraduate Dental School – Bethesda MD; Air Force Postgraduate Dental School - JBSA-Lackland TX.

Upon Completion: Certificate and Master of Science Degree (Oral Biology)

<http://usuhs.smartcatalogiq.com/2021-2022/Academic-Catalog/Postgraduate-Dental-College-PDC/Endodontics-Masters-of-Science-MS-in-Oral-Biology>

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY MAJOR

Advanced training in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology is conducted to provide the next generation of highly trained officers and Oral Pathologists to carry out the primary mission of readiness. During the program, residents receive instruction in basic sciences applicable to anatomic and clinical pathology, laboratory management, statistics, data quality and systems oriented healthcare. Residents also perform clinical patient care, including diagnosis and management of oral diseases, oral pre-cancer and cancer, oncologic management, and interpretation of advanced imaging. These skills support warfighter readiness through early identification and mitigation of effects of oral and systemic disease. Residents also receive instruction in forensic sciences, including forensic odontology, postmortem evaluation, medicolegal matters and engagement with the medical examiner, facilitating identification and dignified recovery of mortally wounded warfighters and supporting tri-service, NATO and other global partnerships. Graduates are expected to obtain board certification through the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. Board certification is considered essential for the practice of this specialty, and is preferred as a requirement in order to obtain sign-out privileges in a hospital or medical center, the setting in which most Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologists practice, and to teach in our accredited tri-service educational platforms.

Summary: Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Major

Length: 36 months

Location: Naval Postgraduate Dental School – Bethesda MD

Upon Completion: Certificate and Master of Science Degree (Oral Biology)

<http://usuhs.smartcatalogiq.com/2021-2022/Academic-Catalog/Postgraduate-Dental-College-PDC/Oral-and-Maxillofacial-Pathology-Masters-of-Science-MS-in-Oral-Biology>

OROFACIAL PAIN MAJOR

Advanced training in Orofacial Pain is conducted to provide highly trained officers to carry out the primary mission of readiness and supporting Warfighters and Wounded Warriors. Orofacial pain treatment is a key component in supporting our Warfighters ability to perform their missions in an unrestricted fashion and thereby assuring the readiness and fitness of our force. Orofacial Pain refers to a complex group of disorders that affect hard and soft tissues of the head, face, and neck to include temporomandibular disorders (TMD), musculoskeletal head/neck pain, non-otologic ear pain, non-odontogenic tooth pain, headaches, neuropathic pain disorders, movement disorders, and dental management of sleep breathing disorders. Fellowship or residency training in orofacial pain is available to qualified dental officers on an as needed basis, by Service.

Summary: Orofacial Pain Major (Fellowship)

Prerequisites: Previous 2-year general dentistry or specialty residency

Length: 24 months

Location: Naval Postgraduate Dental School – Bethesda MD

Upon Completion: Certificate and Master of Science Degree (Oral Biology)

Summary: Orofacial Pain Major (Residency)

Length: 36 months

Location: Naval Postgraduate Dental School – Bethesda MD

Upon Completion: Certificate and Master of Science Degree (Oral Biology)

<http://usuhs.smartcatalogiq.com/2021-2022/Academic-Catalog/Postgraduate-Dental-College-PDC/Orofacial-Pain-Masters-of-Science-MS-in-Oral-Biology>

ORTHODONTICS MAJOR

Orthodontists contribute to the readiness mission through warfighter optimization, maintenance of deployment skill sets, and the provision of leadership at all levels of the military health system. Graduates are uniquely adept at surgical orthodontics seeking to alleviate handicapping dentofacial deformities while enhancing surgical outcomes and currencies for oral and maxillofacial surgeons; these are skills often required for multidisciplinary treatment of war-related maxillofacial injuries. Orthodontists are trained in a fully joint environment at the Tri-Service Orthodontic Residency Program (TORP). Staff, residents, and technicians from all services assemble to achieve comprehensive didactic, clinical, and surgical orthodontic education in this setting. Finally, professional military development is integrated into the TORP curriculum to develop not only clinicians but also officers who are prepared to lead and support our nation's defense through a keen awareness of the greater mission.

Summary: Orthodontics Major

Length: 24 months

Location: JBSA-Lackland AFB TX

Upon Completion: Certificate and Master of Science Degree (Oral Biology)

<http://usuhs.smartcatalogiq.com/2021-2022/Academic-Catalog/Postgraduate-Dental-College-PDC/Orthodontics-Masters-of-Science-MS-in-Oral-Biology>

PERIODONTICS MAJOR

The Periodontics Residency program prepares military dental officers to provide dental care ensuring the oral health and readiness of the warfighter. Periodontics residents receive comprehensive training in all aspects of surgical periodontal therapy and extensive anesthesia training in order to meet the demands of today's expeditionary force. Residents undergo training in mass casualty care and forensic identification. This strong readiness foundation positions graduates to provide ideal care in a deployed or clinical setting and serve as military leaders. The curriculum is devoted to the development of a sound biologic and scientific basis for diagnosis and therapy. Lectures and literature seminars pertaining to clinical periodontics also are included. As training progresses, there is an increasing emphasis on clinical periodontics, including dental implants, culminating in management of progressively more complex cases. Formal instruction is provided for all aspects of periodontal care and therapeutic periodontal principles are stressed. Senior residents conduct a supervised comprehensive practice of clinical Periodontics. Each resident also conducts an original research project to include protocol development, investigation and report of results.

Summary: Periodontics Major

Length: 36 months

Locations: Army Postgraduate Dental School – Fort Gordon GA, Naval Postgraduate Dental School – Bethesda MD, Air Force Postgraduate Dental School – JBSA Lackland TX

Upon Completion: Certificate and Master of Science Degree (Oral Biology)

<http://usuhs.smartcatalogiq.com/2021-2022/Academic-Catalog/Postgraduate-Dental-College-PDC/Periodontics-Masters-of-Science-MS-in-Oral-Biology>

PROSTHODONTICS MAJOR

The Prosthodontics Residency program provides highly trained officers and prosthodontists to provide care to ensure dental readiness. Graduates support the Services' warfighting missions by employing a specialized skillset to handle the most complicated restorative needs of the US military population. Curriculum emphasis includes comprehensive training in the diagnosis, treatment planning and prosthetic rehabilitation of patients with complex needs in the areas of fixed, removable, implant and surgical prosthodontics resulting from missing teeth, oral structures and/or severely worn or debilitated dentitions. Graduates learn to utilize the full array of digital and classic planning and restorative techniques to master multidisciplinary management of the most complex oral treatment needs. Completion of this training will fully prepare the graduate to achieve specialty certification from the American Board of Prosthodontics (ABP). Graduates are assigned to installations worldwide in positions involving a combination of clinical, education, mentoring and laboratory activities in the field of prosthodontics.

SUMMARY: Prosthodontics Major

Length: 36 or 42 months

Locations: Army Postgraduate Dental School – Fort Gordon GA, Naval Postgraduate Dental School – Bethesda MD, Air Force Postgraduate Dental School – JBSA Lackland TX

Upon Completion: Certificate and Master of Science Degree (Oral Biology)

<http://usuhs.smartcatalogiq.com/2021-2022/Academic-Catalog/Postgraduate-Dental-College-PDC/Prosthodontics-Masters-of-Science-MS-in-Oral-Biology>

PROSTHODONTICS MAJOR (MAXILLOFACIAL PROSTHETICS CONCENTRATION)

This residency program is combined with the Prosthodontics Major and as such, is a concentration within that discipline. Therefore, the program description for the Prosthodontics Major applies to this program as well. Advanced training in Maxillofacial Prosthetics graduates highly trained officers to carry out the primary mission of ensuring and supporting readiness through the care of Warfighters and Wounded Warriors. The Maxillofacial Prosthetics aspect of this training focuses on prosthetic rehabilitation of patients with intraoral and extraoral defects of the head and neck resulting from wartime injuries, trauma, cancer ablation and congenital abnormalities. Emphasis is placed on close interaction and support of medical/surgical services including but not limited to Otolaryngology, Radiation Oncology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Medical Oncology, Ophthalmology, Plastic Surgery, Orthopedics, Neurosurgery, Speech Pathology, Anesthesiology, and Pulmonary Medicine. In addition to management of the maxillofacial patient in the operating room setting, the curriculum includes comprehensive

training in the diagnosis, treatment planning, prosthetic rehabilitation and laboratory fabrication of prostheses and devices for maxillofacial patients with varied patient needs.

Summary: Maxillofacial Prosthetics Concentration (Prosthodontics Major)

Length: 48 months

Location: Naval Postgraduate Dental School – Bethesda MD

Upon Completion: Certificate and Master of Science Degree (Oral Biology)

Fellowship is not a part of USU PDC affiliation for PRS.

<http://usuhs.smartcatalogiq.com/2021-2022/Academic-Catalog/Postgraduate-Dental-College-PDC/Prosthodontics-Maxillofacial-Prosthetics-Concentration-Masters-of-Science-MS-in-Oral-Biology>

Postgraduate Dental College Policies

Policy Background

The PDC consists of three subordinate, Service-specific Postgraduate Dental Schools; the Army Postgraduate Dental School, the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, and the Air Force Postgraduate Dental School. There are currently 19 advanced Graduate Dental Education (GDE) residencies within these 3 Schools that are affiliated with the PDC and are located on 6 different military installations. Students at these military locations are active duty dentists that are concurrently enrolled as students in military-sponsored GDE residencies and as USU students in the Master of Science (MS) in Oral Biology degree program. Administration and oversight for the MS degree program is conducted by the PDC. Faculty within these residencies primarily are active duty dentists assigned to their respective Military Service and concurrently hold appointments as USU faculty, in accordance with USU Instructions that govern faculty appointment and promotion. Shared governance between the USU/PDC and the Military Services allows these non-billeted components and personnel to operate in an efficient and effective manner, at low cost, while maintaining historical program excellence recognized by the programmatic accrediting body, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and dental education organizations throughout the country.

Student Admission

- 1. MS in Oral Biology Program: Applicants to this program must have been accepted by their Military Service to a CODA-accredited, advanced dental education program that is sponsored by the United States Army, Navy, or Air Force. Application requirements and training opportunity for Military CODA-accredited, advanced dental education programs must be obtained through Service-specific Dental Education Offices. Only students accepted to those advanced dental education programs that are affiliated with the USU PDC are eligible to apply to the MS Degree program. Affiliated advanced dental education program disciplines are considered majors within the MS Degree program. The majority of applicants are dentists in the Army, Navy, or Air Force, however, when training availability exists, dentists from the USPHS, Veterans Administration, or Canadian Forces will be considered, as per those Services' training needs. As dictated by Service requirements, Service-sponsored Health Professions Scholarship Program students in a United States Dental School may also be considered.**
- 2. Applicants must be licensed dentists or in compliance with Service regulations, instructions, or directives, regarding obtaining an active dental license.**
- 3. Following acceptance into a USU PDC-affiliated, Military-sponsored advanced dental education program, students will apply for admission to the USU PDC MS Degree program by application through the PDC's Army, Navy, or Air Force Postgraduate Dental Schools' Academic Admissions Committee (AAC). The AAC for each Service is composed of Military dentists who also are USU appointed faculty in accordance with USU Instruction 1100D.**

4. The following items are reviewed by the Service-specific AAC for each applicant:
 - a. Statement of intent or motivation
 - b. Summary from applicant's interview
 - c. Dental School transcripts
 - d. Letter or statement from dental school dean or registrar stating and explaining grade point average and class standing (as available)
 - e. National Board result(s)
 - f. Letters of recommendation
 - g. Military Service record (for active duty military dental officers)

Ethics and Integrity

1. The Military Services demonstrate their commitment to personal integrity through incorporation of this key principle within the Services' Core Values.
2. Concurrently, the profession of dentistry has long been closely associated with the core principles of ethics and integrity. Dentistry's principal professional organization, the American Dental Association (ADA), was founded in 1859 while espousing dedication to the promotion of high professional standards and scientific research. In 1866, they adopted their first Code of Ethics. The ADA makes the commitment to society that members of the dental profession will adhere to high ethical standards. Many other dental organizations such as the American College of Dentists and the American Dental Education Association are deeply rooted in ethical professionalism in everyday practice as well as dental education.
3. PDC students are both dentists and military officers, and as such, are expected by their Services and by USU, to maintain the high standards and ideals espoused by their dual professional affiliation.
4. The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) has institutionalized the principles of ethics and integrity within the accreditation standards that govern advanced dental education programs. All PDC-affiliated military residencies are also CODA-accredited advanced dental education residencies. Consequently, they meet these required Standards on ethics and professionalism through completion of stand-alone courses or by incorporation of essential principles within one or multiple multidisciplinary courses. PDC students are co-enrolled in these CODA-accredited advanced dental education residencies along with their USU Master of Science in Oral Biology Program and will all complete this training during their course of study.

Grading

1. Advanced GDE residencies affiliated with the PDC have curricula that are unique to their specialty and location.
2. Students within an affiliated GDE residency must complete all courses/seminars/clinical and lab activities listed on the curriculum for their respective residency. There are no elective courses.
3. Affiliated residencies use a grading scale of either A-C and F, or Pass/Fail. The choice resides within the individual residency.
4. For residencies using the letter graded scale, all students must pass every course with at least a C, and hold at least a B average of all course grades at the time of graduation. For residencies using a Pass/Fail scale, all students must pass every course prior to graduation.
5. Faculty assigned as course supervisors will forward grades to the respective Service Dean in compliance with Service policies and guidelines.
6. Service Deans or Program Directors, if so designated by Service Deans, will forward grades to the PDC Executive Dean not later than July 15th that follows the completion of each academic year, which occurs on June 30th.

Responsibilities

1. Students: Satisfactorily complete all courses within the prescribed curriculum, by specialty and by location, as described above.
2. Faculty: Provide grading input to Course Supervisors and/or Program Directors in compliance with locally approved deadlines, as prescribed by the Program Director.
3. Program Directors (Or Designee): Collate grades for all courses listed in the curriculum and annually forward grades to the Office of the Executive Dean, PDC, Administrative Officer (AO). Grades may either be sent directly to the PDC AO or pass through the Service Dean's office, as per Service policy. This process is to be completed not later than July 15th of each year.
4. Service Deans: Ensure course grades are forwarded annually to the PDC AO by the prescribed Deadline as noted above.
5. PDC Executive Dean: Ensure grade reports are forwarded annually to the Office of the University Registrar (OUR) not later than July 15th.

Research

See Research Program Guide; [Research Guidelines](#)

Graduation Requirements

- 1. Military advanced dental education programs, commonly referred to as dental residencies, are specific to the dental discipline of study and are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Graduates of these dental residencies, who meet the CODA accreditation standards, are awarded a Certificate of Training for the specific dental discipline of study from the military organization at the training location.**
- 2. Students enrolled in military dental residencies that are affiliated with the USU/PDC also earn a MS Degree in Oral Biology, accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) upon meeting all graduation requirements.**
- 3. The two components of these residencies, Certificate of Training and MS Degree in Oral Biology, are inextricably linked ... students will complete requirements for and earn both or neither.**
- 4. All required residency courses will be awarded appropriate USU academic credit upon completion. All students must satisfactorily complete all courses listed in their curriculum, by training location and by dental discipline.**
- 5. All students must complete a research project and document the results in either a publishable paper or thesis format.**
- 6. Upon completion and submission of all course grades and research requirements, as described above, students will be awarded Certificate of Training in the appropriate dental discipline and a MS Degree in Oral Biology.**

Responsibilities

- 1. Students: Satisfactorily complete all courses within the prescribed curriculum, by specialty and by location, as described above. Complete a research project and document results in either a publishable paper or thesis format.**
- 2. Faculty: Provide grading input to Course Supervisors and/or Program Directors in compliance with locally approved deadlines, as prescribed by the Program Director.**
- 3. Program Directors (Or Designee): Collate grades for all courses listed in the curriculum and all required research documents. Annually forward grades and research documents for all prospective graduates to the Office of the Executive Dean, PDC, Administrative Officer (AO).**
- 4. Service Deans: Ensure course grades and research documents are forwarded annually to the PDC AO by the prescribed Deadline as noted above.**
- 5. PDC Executive Dean: Ensure grade reports and a report of research completion are forwarded annually to the Office of the University Registrar (OUR) not later than July 15th of the year of graduation.**

Awarding of Degrees

- 1. Not later than March 1st of the Academic Year, Service Deans will forward a list to the PDC Executive Dean, of students enrolled in their PDC-affiliated military residencies that are projected to complete graduation requirements by the June 30th program end date. The list will be submitted on applicable Postgraduate Dental School letterhead and reflect each students name, rank, and title of the research project completed. The letter will reflect that the students' academic records have been reviewed by the training locations' Student Advancement Committee.**
- 2. For each student on the provided list, a scroll suitable for presentation at the residency training locations' graduation ceremony, will be prepared by the PDC Executive Dean's office. The language included in the scroll will extend congratulations to the student and will provide instructions for formal completion of graduation requirements so that a USU Diploma can be awarded. The instructions will stipulate:**
 - a. All course grades and required research documents must be submitted to the PDC Executive Dean's office not later than July 15th**
 - b. Students will be contacted by the University Registrar and asked to provide a forwarding address to which the diploma can be mailed**
 - c. PDC Administrative Officer's contact information for questions, concerns, or problems**
- 3. Following receipt of all required grade reports and research documentation, the PDC Administrative Officer will complete the final Grade Template for each student and forward the signed document to the USU Registrar.**
- 4. Upon receipt and processing, the USU Registrar will have the Master of Science in Oral Biology Diploma printed and mailed to the student at the address provided.**

Adverse Academic Action and Due Process

- 1. Faculty will provide feedback and assessment of student academic performance as required by discipline-specific CODA Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs.**
- 2. Adverse academic actions, including those that could result in dismissal of a student, are conducted using Due Process that is in compliance with Service-specific regulations and policies, and that parallel that of the institution that sponsors the GDE residency.**
- 3. School faculty will address issues of academic concern and will advise the Dean of the School, the Executive Dean of the PDC, and the USU President of any founded concerns where dismissal of a student is anticipated.**

- 4. The School Dean will forward a letter of explanation to the PDC Executive Dean for any student who has voluntarily withdrawn from training, extended in training, or been dismissed from training.**
- 5. The PDC Executive Dean will coordinate the documentation with the USU Registrar in order to update student records.**
- 6. This policy is in compliance with Memoranda of Agreement and Understanding between the Military Services and USU.**

Responsibilities

- 1. Faculty: Inform PDC students concerning academic progress and standing according to residency and Service policy. Raise issues of academic concern during residency staff meetings.**
- 2. Program Directors: Coordinate residency faculty input on student academic progress. Ensure appropriate documentation and student notification has been accomplished. Verify non-adverse actions, commonly known as Academic Notice or Program Level Remediation, have been appropriately considered prior to initiation of adverse action procedures. Elevate adverse actions through established program and Service procedures, while ensuring Service appropriate Due Process Policy is followed.**
- 3. Service Deans: Communicate with appropriate Service Program Directors to ensure compliance with Service policies and to remain informed of cases where delayed graduation, voluntary or involuntary removal of a student from training.**
- 4. PDC Executive Dean: Communicate with Service Deans to ensure appropriate documentation is received for any student encountering delayed graduation or removal from the program. Forwards documentation to the USU Office of the University Registrar to ensure student records are accurately updated.**

Grievances

- 1. Clear guidance and policies provided at the start of an educational program, effective communication, and a collaborative learning environment should minimize the frequency of non-academic problems encountered by most students. However, when problems arise a clear, concise process that protects the student's interests as well as the academic integrity of the educational program must be readily available.**
- 2. The Postgraduate Dental College is a unique organization in that all students and nearly all faculty (99%) are non-billeted to USU, i.e. they are organizationally assigned to the affiliated military training locations and as such, are primarily subject to those organizations for policies that govern discipline, due process, and student grievances, as stipulated in Memoranda of Agreement and Understanding between USU and the Services.**

3. The Military Services are committed to fairness and equal treatment and their advanced dental education residencies are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). CODA specifically requires that all accredited residencies have and use Grievance processes that mirror those of their parent organizations, which in these cases, are the Military Commands at the training locations. These policies are provided to each student by the applicable Program Director at the start of the training program, typically during Orientation. They are consistently based on the principles of resolving problems at the lowest possible level, utilization of the academic and (if applicable) military chain of command, and without fear of reprisal.

4. Academic or programmatic concerns are first elevated to the appropriate faculty member, then to the Program Director, and then to the Service Dean. For issues specifically concerning the PDC, the Service Dean will communicate directly with the PDC Executive Dean. If the student's concern/grievance is with anyone in the aforementioned chain, the student is free to go directly to next higher level. If the issue specifically concerns the PDC and/or the Executive Dean, the student will engage their Service Dean who will then engage University leadership on the student's behalf.

Postgraduate Dental College (PDC)

Dr. Drew Fallis
Executive Dean, Postgraduate Dental College
JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX

Stephen Huntington
Administrative Officer
JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX



PDC
TBD
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
Fort Sam Houston, TX

PDC
Dr. Rodney Phoenix
Associate Dean for Dental Research
Fort Sam Houston, TX

TSCOHS
CAPT Steven Matis, Director
Tri Service Center for Oral Health Studies
Fort Sam Houston, TX

PDC
Luis Lopez
Research Data Analyst II
Fort Sam Houston, TX

ARD
COL Pete Guevara
Dean, Army Postgraduate Dental School
JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX

NVD
CAPT Steven Stokes
Dean, Naval Postgraduate Dental School
Bethesda, MD

AFD
Col James Knowles
Dean, Air Force Postgraduate Dental School
JBSA Lackland, TX

COL Douglas Lancaster
Periodontics Residency Program
Fort Gordon, GA

CDR Jayson Huber
Comprehensive Dentistry Program
Bethesda, MD

Col Amar Kosaraju
Comprehensive Dentistry Program
JBSA Lackland, TX

LTC Walter DiMalanta
Prosthodontics Residency Program
Fort Gordon, GA

LCDR James Hawkins
Orofacial Pain Program
Bethesda, MD

Lt Col Aaron Harding
Prosthodontics Residency Program
JBSA Lackland, TX

LTC Erik Reifentahl
Comprehensive Dentistry Program
Fort Bragg, NC

CAPT Susan Hinman
Endodontics Program
Bethesda, MD

Maj Angela Synatzske
Periodontics Residency Program
JBSA Lackland, TX

MAJ Steven Delgado
Endodontics Program
Fort Bragg, NC

CAPT Bradley Jones
Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology Program
Bethesda, MD

CAPT William Anderson
Tri-Service Residency Program
JBSA Lackland, TX

LTC Joseph Dutner
Endodontics Residency Program
Fort Gordon, CA

CAPT Keith Merchant
Periodontics Program
Bethesda, MD

Lt Col Allen Pratt
Endodontics Residency Program
JBSA Lackland, TX

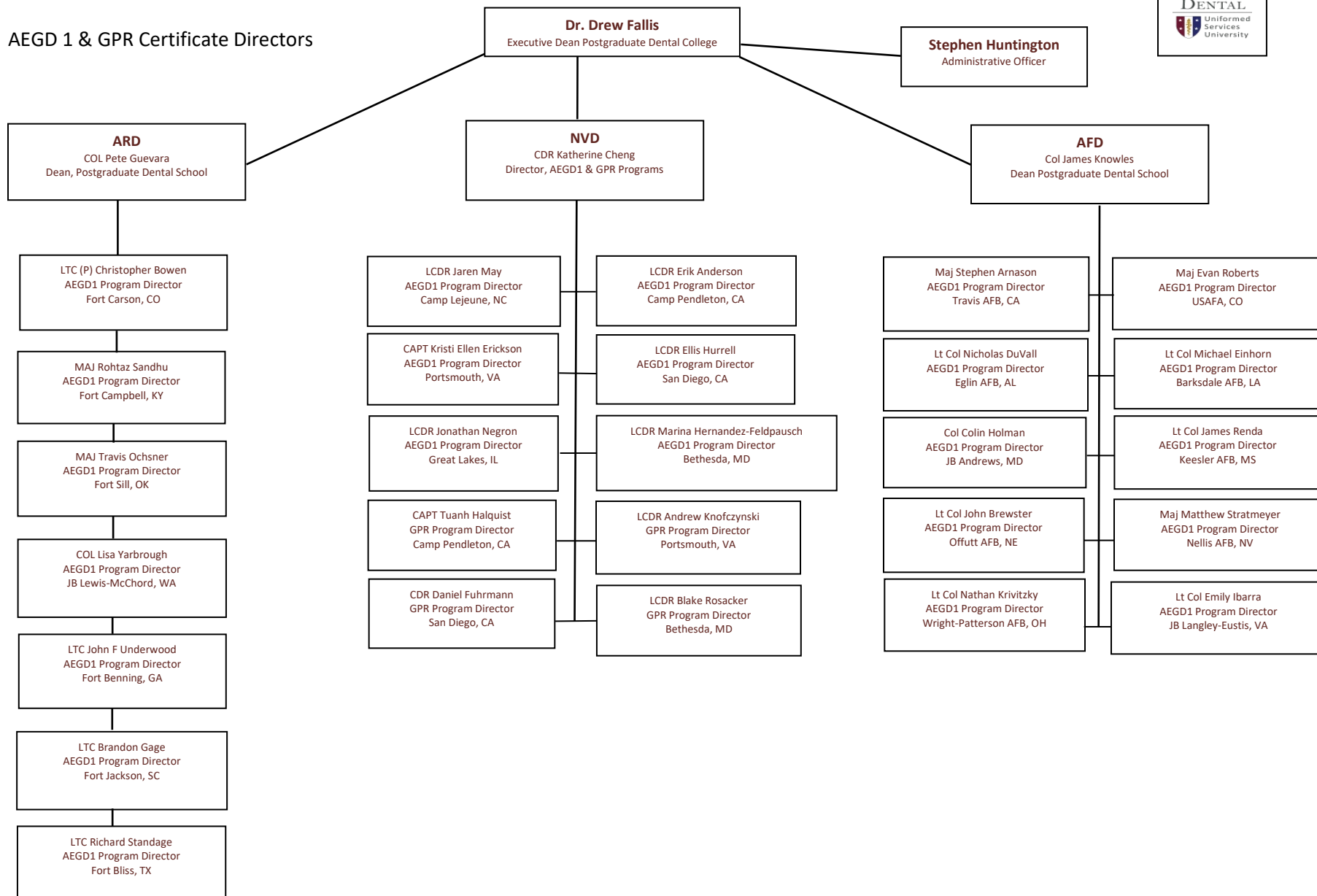
Col Charles Lambert
Comprehensive Dentistry Program
Schofield Barracks, HI

LCDR Stacy Yu
Prosthodontics Program
Bethesda, MD

MAJ Robert Masterson
Comprehensive Dentistry Program
Fort Hood, TX



AEGD 1 & GPR Certificate Directors



Appendix B: Research Program

See Research Program Guide; [Research Guidelines](#)