

Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)
Programme-level Learning Outcomes

Statement of Intent

The intent of the BDS curriculum at the Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong, is to educate and train students to join the dental profession in its mission of providing oral health care for the individual and the community in the Hong Kong context.

A dental practitioner should be able to deliver oral health care in an appropriate, competent, ethical, and humane manner. This delivery should be based on an understanding and appropriate application of knowledge of basic sciences, medical, dental and behavioural sciences and dental clinical skills. Dentists are expected to contribute to the achievement of the general health of patients by implementing and promoting appropriate oral health management strategies. On graduation, a dentist must have acquired this ability to do so through the achievement of a set of generic competences – abilities essential to enter the dental profession in Hong Kong and to embark upon independent, unsupervised dental practice.

The competences, at graduation, are the basic level of professional behaviour, knowledge and skills necessary for a graduating dentist to respond to the full range of circumstances encountered in general professional practice. This level of performance requires some degree of speed and accuracy consistent with patient well-being. It also requires an awareness of what constitutes acceptable performance under changing circumstances.

On graduation, the dental practitioner should be committed to life-long learning in order to maintain a current knowledge base. This commitment should be developed through the process of learning within the undergraduate dental curriculum.

University Educational Aim 1: To enable our students to develop their capabilities in pursuit of academic / professional excellence, critical intellectual inquiry and life-long learning

By the end of the BDS programme, students should be able to:

- Access, critique and synthesise relevant evidence from multiple sources in order to make appropriate clinical decisions for patients' oral health care;
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the complex interrelationship between the biomedical, clinical dental, behavioural and social sciences in oral health care.

University Educational Aim 2: To enable our students to develop their capabilities in tackling novel situations and ill-defined problems

By the end of the BDS programme, students should be able to:

- Identify key issues related to a newly encountered clinical dental situation, activate prior knowledge and integrate new information in order to manage the situation;
- Handle unfamiliar problems in a confident and professional manner.

University Educational Aim 3: To enable our students to develop their capabilities in critical self-reflection, greater understanding of others, and upholding personal and professional ethics

By the end of the BDS programme, students should be able to:

- Evaluate their own and their team's strengths and weaknesses in their professional situation as oral

- health care providers;
- Respond to patients in an empathetic manner, recognizing their individual characteristics, perceptions and emotions.

University Educational Aim 4: To enable our students to develop their capabilities in intercultural communication, and global citizenship

By the end of the BDS programme, students should be able to:

- Identify and respond to the socio-cultural factors that influence oral health in local and international community contexts;
- Demonstrate positive attitudes towards people with diverse cultural and social backgrounds when educating patients and other health care personnel about aetiology, prevention and management of oral diseases and disorders.

University Educational Aim 5: To enable our students to develop their capabilities in communication and collaboration

By the end of the BDS programme, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to communicate ethically, sympathetically, and effectively with patients, peers and other health care providers;
- Work independently as well as in teams across academic, professional and clinical contexts.

University Educational Aim 6: To enable our students to develop their capabilities in leadership and advocacy for the improvement of the human condition

By the end of the BDS programme, students should be able to:

- Apply leadership skills in the effective management of oral health care teams;
- Contribute to their profession through supporting the work of professional organisations;
- Recognize and act upon their responsibility to the community and the profession in working towards improved oral health and general wellbeing in the community;
- Advocate for the recognition of oral health as an integral component of general health and wellbeing.