Building on your foundation

From your first day as a student at the Marquette University School of Dentistry, you will begin building your future as a dentist.

Day by day and year by year, our D.D.S. program prepares you with the knowledge, skills, compassion and confidence to provide your patients with excellent care, take your career in any direction and serve your community as a leader in dentistry.
Build Your Community

From the time we welcome you as a D1 student, you’ll experience our commitment to your success. It is our highest priority, and it begins with fostering a sense of belonging. With first-year traditions like Milwaukee brewery tours, mentor dinners and the White Coat Ceremony, you’ll forge those critical bonds with your classmates that will help you be there for one another when the going gets tough.

Early clinical exposure

From the very first week, D1 students begin to augment and apply classroom learning in our dental clinics, including our specialty and community-based clinics. As you observe and assist D3, D4 and graduate students, you might help with a pediatric checkup, learn about the treatment plan for a complex adult case or even take patient X-rays. You’ll also participate in dental rounds presentations on your clinical cases and related patient-care issues. By summer, you’ll be handling patient cleanings on your own in our main clinics.

Classmates catch up at the School of Dentistry’s cafe during a break from classes and lab work.

“Life as a D1:
John tackles the week

MONDAY
I’m in the sim lab all day. Most weeks, we have a quiz right away at 8 a.m. — starting the week off strong! After a lecture and instructions, we have the rest of the morning and the afternoon to work on our assigned exercises. The doctors walk around answering questions and grading our work. We spend a lot of time with the people in our sim lab pod, so we get to know each other pretty quickly.

TUESDAY
Classes all day. This semester, I start with gross anatomy, it’s a lecture and a lab. Right now, we’re dissecting the face. It’s definitely a hump to get over, to be able to do that! In the afternoon I’ve got foundations of oral health and then a three-hour pathophysiology lecture.

WEDNESDAY
Today my classes are in the morning — I have oral biology and pathophysiology, and then clinic rotations in the afternoon. My clinic has 20 students from each class and two group leaders. The group leader has let us D1s and D2s know that we are just as much a part of the clinic as the D3s and D4s. He told us, “You guys are welcome up here any time. If you hear that we’re doing something you’re interested in, you’re invited. This is your space.”

THURSDAY
I’m back in the sim lab Thursday mornings and I also have dental anatomy class. Then I have a different rotation each week in the afternoons. It might be a public health rotation, assisting in my clinic, assisting in a graduate clinic like peri or endo, going to the community clinic, or I could have radiology rotation.

FRIDAY
“Perio Fridays” are our hygiene instruction days. Dental hygienists teach us how to do proper cleanings and help patients maintain good oral health.
Sharpen Your Skills

The payoff of your long hours of studying during the D1 year? Greater knowledge, leading to higher confidence in your abilities. As a D2, you’re logging less time in the lecture halls and more time at your bench in Marquette’s state-of-the-art simulation lab, developing and mastering the advanced hand skills you’ll need next year when you step into comprehensive patient care.

Network and lead

Getting involved in affiliate groups and organized dentistry can expand your network and broaden your perspective. Marquette dental students run active chapters of the American Student Dental Association, Student National Dental Association (connecting dental students of color) and more. These groups offer leadership opportunities, promote collaboration with fellow Marquette dental students, and facilitate connections with students, practitioners and dental educators from all over the country.

A dental student works at her own dedicated station in Marquette’s simulation lab, a modern space engineered for hands-on and collaborative learning.

LIFE AS A D2:
Jeffrey finds balance

7 AM
I get up and get ready for school.

7:45–7:50 AM
I get to the sim lab and get set up.

8 AM–5 PM
If I’m not in the sim lab all day, drilling, making casts and all that stuff, I might have one class in the morning and then rotations throughout the day. In D2, we do more “prophys” (dental cleanings). I might have a group assist, or have to go to a specialty clinic, or I might have a professionalism meeting to attend.

5 PM
I come back home, eat some food, and maybe play some basketball (I played for Bowling Green State University before dental school). Or I’ll play Call of Duty online with old friends. My brain has to be so active all day every day, and being on the mic chatting and having fun with them helps me relax. My girlfriend is a D3, so we’ll hang out together as well. And if I have studying to do, I’ll do that.

7 PM
When I can, I like to go see the Bucks play. This year, I’ve been to about six or seven games. Some of my high school teammates play for other NBA teams, so when they come to town, I’ll go see them play, and live that dream through them!

“A cool thing about Marquette is the mentorship program. You fill out a questionnaire and they match you with someone in the area. I have a really cool mentor — she’s a periodontist — and we have a great relationship. We probably talk once a week, at least, and I have been to her practice multiple times. Recently, she took me to a continuing education program to learn about digital dentistry. I’m so grateful for the program, and I appreciate that Marquette connects us with mentors who are so genuinely willing to help and teach.”

D2 STUDENT
Jeffrey Uju, MBA
Hometown: Bolingbrook, Illinois
Treasurer, Marquette Chapter, Student National Dental Association
The rewards of providing service to others will be returned to you tenfold and will open doors that you didn’t know existed.”

DR. CONRAD NENN
Associate Dean, Clinical Affairs, Dent ’78

A Commitment to Service

The School of Dentistry embodies Marquette University’s Jesuit ideals of being “a person for others.” Defining dentistry as a helping profession, we emphasize a compassionate approach to caring for the whole patient and a commitment to caring for the underrepresented and underserved. Service is built into our curriculum, championed and modeled by our faculty, and embraced by our students. As the only dental school in the state, our work makes a profound impact on public and economic health not only in Milwaukee, but throughout Wisconsin.

Championing Community Health

Public and community health outreach is an important aspect of a Marquette dental education. Students go out into the community to provide screenings, cleanings and education at elementary schools; deliver care and education to elderly populations through our community and professional partnerships; and serve all of our dental clinic patients, approximately 43% of whom are eligible for coverage under the state’s Medicaid insurance.

Special Care Dentistry

Marquette’s curriculum incorporates critical training around caring for special needs patients, an area of growing interest in the profession and among our dental students. The D2 year includes a newer course on special patient care and rotations at three area care facilities to observe providers who treat special needs patients, including children. Marquette’s thriving student chapters of the Special Care Dentistry Association and the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry present opportunities for additional learning as well as local and national leadership.

OUR COMMUNITY-BASED DENTAL CLINICS

1 | Health Education Center
Chippewa Valley Technical College, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

2 | Tri-County Dental
Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, Wisconsin (includes a mobile clinic)

3 | Open Arms Free Clinic
Elkhorn, Wisconsin

4 | Community Dental Clinic
Milwaukee’s south side

Mission Statement

The School of Dentistry is committed to excellence in education, scholarship and the provision of high-quality oral health care. Consistent with Marquette University traditions and values, the school recruits and educates a diverse student body, fosters personal and professional excellence, and promotes leadership expressed in service to others.
OUR NEXT CLASS

Each year, we invest in 100 students — 50 in-state and 50 out-of-state — with the spirit, discipline and passion to succeed in our program. In addition to academic achievement, we consider the following characteristics:

- Quality of college/university attended
- Course selection rigor
- Trend of performance (GPA)
- DAT score (Canadian DAT accepted)
- Orientation to the profession
- Motivation and values
- Extracurricular/leadership/service background
- Personal interview

National draw

We attract prospective students from every region of the United States and countries around the world. Though many applicants are Wisconsin residents, each class comprises an intentional balance of in- and out-of-state students. For a profile of this year’s first-year (D1) class, visit marquette.edu/dentistry/admissions/class-profile.php.

You should APPLY FOR ADMISSION 12 to 15 months before the date of your expected enrollment.

You must apply using the ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service. AADSAS APPLICATIONS can be found at aadsas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login.

Applications are processed from June 1 through January 1. Offers of admission begin December 15. For optimal consideration, all completed application materials should be received by September 1.

Pre-dental Requirements

College studies should be completed at a four-year accredited college or university. The minimum entrance requirement is 90 semester credits of liberal arts study, including:

- **ENGLISH**: 6 SEMESTER CREDITS
- **GENERAL CHEMISTRY**: 8 SEMESTER CREDITS
- **ORGANIC CHEMISTRY**: 8 SEMESTER CREDITS
- **BIOLOGY OR ZOOLOGY**: 8 SEMESTER CREDITS
- **PHYSICS**: 8 SEMESTER CREDITS
- **BIOCHEMISTRY**: 3 SEMESTER CREDITS
- **ELECTIVES**: 49 SEMESTER CREDITS

**TOTAL**: 90 SEMESTER CREDITS

All science courses, with the exception of biochemistry, must include laboratory instruction. Suggested pre-dental science electives include anatomy, cell biology, genetics, microbiology and physiology. Math courses are suggested in preparation for physics and advanced chemistry.

*You may apply after completing at least 60 semester hours of the minimum 90 semester hours required of pre-dental college work. Candidates with baccalaureate degrees earned before dental school enrollment may be most competitive.*

Credentials Checklist

**First-year (D1) and transfer students**

- AADSAS application form
- Application fee
- Official college transcripts (all and dental school transcripts (transfer)
- Official DAT score (Canadian DAT accepted)
- Three letters of recommendation (One pre-health committee letter will be accepted in place of three individual letters.)
- Letter from the dean of your transfer school (transfer)

**Foreign advanced standing**

- CAAPID application form
- Application fee
- Course-by-course evaluation of dental school transcripts (ECE preferred)
- Integrated National Boards
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official TOEFL scores (may be requested)

Students seeking a transfer from a U.S. dental school and foreign-trained dentists seeking licensure to practice in the United States may apply for advanced standing. Advanced-standing candidates must complete three years of study at Marquette. Admission depends on space availability in the second-year (D2) class.

JUN

- APPLY

JUL & AUG

- REVIEW AND SCREEN APPLICATIONS
- FIRST INTERVIEW INVITATIONS

SEP

- INTERVIEWS

OCT & NOV

- INITIAL OFFERS EXTENDED

DEC

- ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS AND OFFERS EXTENDED

JAN & FEB

- CLASS FILLS ALTERNATE POOL CREATED

MAR

- CLASSES BEGIN

AUG

- CLASSES BEGIN
Practice Patient Care

Welcome to your new home away from home: the dental clinic. In the D3 year, patient care is your top priority. Marquette’s patient-centered model of educating future dentists gives our students the most robust clinical experience possible, immersing them in comprehensive treatment planning and care for a diverse variety of patients, often with multiple and complex dental needs.

Care for the underserved

Your clinic experience will take you outside the dental school building and into underserved communities to provide emergency and comprehensive patient care. You’ll work at our Community Dental Clinic-South, which serves much of Milwaukee’s Latinx population, and complete multiday rotations to our partner clinics that primarily serve patients from rural Wisconsin. These clinics expand care access by accepting Medicaid insurance and/or providing care for free or on a sliding fee scale.

LIFE AS A D3:
Rachel’s journey in clinic

SUMMER

The transition from D2 to D3 has definitely been the hardest part of dental school so far. There is no reality in which you will feel totally confident and comfortable in moving full time to the live clinical setting, but the D4s are such a huge help, reassuring you that they felt the exact same way a year ago.

FALL

Many of our patients have come to Marquette for years and they can read you very well. They might ask, ‘Is this your first time?’ and that can make you nervous because you don’t want to shake their confidence in you.

WINTER

The more interactions I have with patients, the more I’m building my relationship with my group leaders. I know they will have my back when I come to them with a question or a frustration. They’re always willing to stand up for me.

Eventually, you get used to someone not looking over your shoulder all the time. You learn to trust yourself more and to ask for help when you have questions.

SPRING

I’ve become so close with the people in my clinic. We have inside jokes and do fun things like throw birthday parties for our group leaders.

I’m excited for the current D2s to come up to clinic, and to help ease their transition by passing down the same kind of invaluable guidance I got from the D4s.

A student talks a new patient through her comprehensive treatment plan in the School of Dentistry’s Clinic E. He will handle all aspects of her care until the plan is complete.

A big factor in my decision to come to Marquette was the fact that they require a certain amount of community service. It demonstrates that they care about it. I’ve always wanted to commit some of my future practice to giving back.

Going on rotation to the free clinic with a very different population than we see at school was really emotional. It’s sad to see young patients in their 30s who need so many extractions because they can’t afford a root canal. For me, it’s important to give back to a population that may not necessarily be coming to your private practice, but still deserves access to oral health care.

D3 STUDENT

Rachel Thornton, President, Marquette Chapter, American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry

Hometown: Madison, Wisconsin
Prepare for Success

During your final year, you will continue to handle all aspects of patient care from start to finish, solving a variety of dental challenges for a diverse patient population. The more you practice, the better, faster and more confident you become. Whether your next step is general practice, an advanced education program or a specialized residency, you will graduate prepared to achieve your goals and make a difference as a dentist.

Pay it Forward

New D1s and D2s now look up to you and your classmates. You’ll have opportunities to share your knowledge, such as tutoring groups of students in the sim lab or helping individual students prepare for their practical evaluations.

Clinical and Translational Research

Marquette dental students interested in research will find ample opportunities to work on faculty-directed research projects that help broaden the knowledge base of evidence-based dentistry.

Postgraduate Advancement

Endodontics | Orthodontics | Periodontics | Prosthodontics | Dental Biomaterials (certificate)

Students work in our 4,700-square-foot research space, which boasts three laboratories, an imaging suite, surgical suites for clinical trials and a cell culture room.

D4 STUDENT

Ale Tomasino-Perez
Hometown: Miami
Post-graduation: Periodontics residency, University of Florida

By your D4 year, you are more comfortable in the clinic. You know what you need to do, it’s just a matter of you doing it. It’s all on you to be proactive and schedule your patients, confirm your patients, make sure there’s a chair open, etc. Plus, Marquette has us do all of our own lab work. It’s overwhelming in the beginning, but you get the hang of it. Now that I’m done and looking back, I can appreciate why Marquette makes us do all that. You get an appreciation for every role and, hopefully, for your staff in the future.

LIFE AS A D4:

Ale gets it all done

4:50 AM
I get up to work out. I rowed in under-grad, so I’m used to early mornings.

6:30 AM
I absolutely have to eat breakfast.

7:30 AM
I get to school to do my lab work. I prefer doing it in the mornings, before clinic starts. I want to maximize my clinic time by having a patient in the chair, always.

9:00 AM
I’m in the operatory with my first patient of the day. We usually have one patient in the morning and one in the afternoon. The appointments are long … everything you do has to be checked by a faculty member.

12:00 PM
I clean up my cubicle from the morning appointment and set up my operatory for my afternoon patient. If I have 15 minutes left over, that’s for admin work – scheduling and confirming patients. I don’t take lunch, but I always have a packet of fruit snacks to tide me over.

4:35 PM
After cleaning up from the afternoon patient, I’m out. When I get home, I usually change immediately, and then I need to lie horizontally for about 30 minutes and just decompress. After that, I’ll have dinner. Then if I have more admin work, I’ll do that. If not, I might relax and hang out with my boyfriend or my other two roommates, who are both dental students.

10:00 PM
I’m definitely asleep.
WELCOME TO THE FRESH COAST

It’s easy to fall in love with Milwaukee and all that it has to offer. Marquette’s location puts you in proximity to it all. In addition to Lake Michigan and its shoreline’s beaches, bike paths and other activities, you’ll find world-class performing arts, high-profile professional sports, and innovative restaurants, breweries and nightlife. Visit the iconic Milwaukee Art Museum. Rock out at Summerfest, the world’s largest outdoor music festival. Enjoy beautiful architecture on a walk, bike ride or drive through the city’s unique neighborhoods. You’ll find it easy to get around and explore this gem of a city.

A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS TO DO IN MILWAUKEE:

“Hit up a Bucks game at the Fiserv Forum. D1 student

“Mojito nights with dental school buddies. D3 student

“Going to the Public Market. D2 student

“Walks on the lakefront or RiverWalk. Checking out the Historic Third Ward. D4 student
We invite you to visit.

Call our Admissions Office to schedule a tour and see the School of Dentistry, Marquette and Milwaukee.

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