Introduction

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is The Voice of Dental Education. Its members include all 76 U.S. and Canadian dental schools, over 800 allied and advanced dental education programs, 66 corporations and more than 20,000 individuals. The mission of ADEA is to lead institutions and individuals in the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research and the delivery of oral health care for the overall health and safety of the public.

ADEA is committed to conducting research into contemporary and emerging issues that are likely to impact decisions in the dental education and policy-making communities. Each year, ADEA collects data on topics of particular interest to dental school deans, program directors, faculty, students, residents and fellows. The resulting ADEA Snapshot of Dental Education presents findings on discrete subject areas to help the ADEA membership and related stakeholders better understand the academic dental profession and its role in health and health care.

The information in this report is taken from data compiled by ADEA, the American Dental Association and other sources. The associated online resources are updated regularly and are available for download at: adea.org/snapshot.

ORDERS

Additional copies are available from:
American Dental Education Association
655 K Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
202-289-7201
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Carnegie Classification™ of U.S. Dental Schools' Parent Institutions

- **Highest Research Activity**
  - 33
  - Includes institutions that awarded at least 20 research doctoral degrees during the academic year

- **Higher Research Activity**
  - 8
  - Generally includes institutions that awarded at least 50 master's degrees and fewer than 20 research doctoral degrees during the academic year

- **Special Focus Four-Year Institutions**
  - 29% 19
  - Institutions awarding the baccalaureate or higher-level degree where a high concentration of degrees (above 75%) is in a single field or set of related fields

- **Master's Colleges & Universities**
  - 8% 5
  - Generally includes institutions that awarded at least 50 master’s degrees and fewer than 20 research doctoral degrees during the academic year

Note: Carnegie Classification, Basic Classification, 2015
Total Educational Debt, 2016 Graduating Class

Total educational debt is the sum of educational debt incurred before and during dental school.

- **Sample monthly payment $3,976**: More than $300,000
- **Sample monthly payment $3,289**: $200,000 to $300,000
- **Sample monthly payment $2,602**: Less than $200,000
- **All Students, Including Those With NO DEBT**: $219,463
- **Students With Debt**: $262,119

**Assumptions for sample monthly payments:**
- Sample payments based on amounts of $300,000, $250,000 and $200,000 on a Standard 10 year loan (120 level payments)
- $162,000 direct unsubsidized, remainder direct PLUS (Grad PLUS)
- Six-month “window” period (grace period for direct unsubsidized loans, post-enrollment deferment for direct PLUS) after graduation
- No voluntary or aggressive payments, and loans “held to term” (entire repayment period used)
- Appropriate interest rates based on academic year loans disbursed
- Repayment numbers run with AAMC/ADEA Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator

**Note:** The repayment amounts under this basic repayment plan are not based on income, they are straight amortization schedules based solely on amount borrowed, interest rate and repayment term. There are a number of income-driven repayment plans designed to help borrowers who cannot initially afford repayment under this and other plans, and whose repayment amounts are based on income and family size.

**Source:** American Dental Education Association, Survey of Dental School Seniors, 2016 Graduating Class
Where Do They Go From Here?

Intended professional activities and practice options, 2016 dental school graduating class

Intended **Primary Professional Activity** for New Dental School Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Practice Dentist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Graduate Student/Resident/Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniformed Services Dentist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federally Qualified Health Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Position Related to Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Nonprofit Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State or Local Government Employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Federal Service (e.g., VA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Type of Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USPHS Commissioned Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff Member at a Dental School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Position Not Related to Dentistry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Intended Private Practice Type** for New Dental School Graduates

- Employed as an associate dentist in an existing private practice with a sole proprietor | 42%
- Employed in a group practice that has multiple locations | 16.5%
- *Employed in a corporate-owned group practice* | 14.5%
- Employed in a group practice that has a single location | 6.6%
- Purchase an existing private practice as a partner | 5.6%
- Purchase an existing private practice as the sole proprietor | 5.0%
- Employed as an independent contractor in a private practice | 4.5%
- Establish a new private practice | 4.5%
- Other | 0.8%

*In 2015, the question structure regarding employment in a corporate-owned group practice changed from “Select All That Apply” to “Select Only One.” As such, results prior to 2015 cannot be compared with results in 2015 and later.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Source: American Dental Education Association, Survey of Dental School Seniors, 2016 Graduating Class
Number of Applications and First-Year Enrollment for Advanced Dental Education Programs

2015-16 academic year. Application figures represent the total number of applications submitted to all programs, and counts applicants more than once if they applied to multiple programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Program</th>
<th>Number of Programs</th>
<th>Number of Applications</th>
<th>First-Year Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All General Dentistry*</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>1,947</td>
<td>17,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodontics</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>10,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Dentistry</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>10,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>10,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endodontics</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>3,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodontics</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>2,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosthodontics</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>2,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Public Health</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All General Dentistry includes General Practice Residency, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Dental Anesthesiology, Oral Medicine, and Orofacial Pain.
Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2015-16 Survey of Advanced Dental Education
Gender Diversity in Dental School Faculty

Full-time and part-time faculty by age and gender, 2014-15 academic year

**Gender Distribution of Current Full-Time Faculty**

- **Men**: 3,150 (63%)
- **Women**: 1,830 (37%)

**Gender Distribution of Retirees From Full-Time Positions**

- **Men**: 67 (75%)
- **Women**: 22 (25%)

**Total all ages - 10,541**

- **99 (67%)** Under 30 yrs
- **49 (33%)** Under 30 yrs
- **885 (52%)** 30-39
- **807 (48%)** 30-39
- **899 (45%)** 40-49
- **1,086 (55%)** 40-49
- **908 (38%)** 50-59
- **1,489 (62%)** 50-59
- **779 (18%)** Over 60

Note: Faculty included are full time or part time unless otherwise indicated; voluntary faculty are not included.
Source: American Dental Education Association, Survey of Dental School Faculty, 2014-15
Full-Time Faculty: Where They Come From and Where They Go

2014-15 academic year

**INTO DENTAL SCHOOLS**

- From Private Practice: 32%
- From Another Dental School: 32%
- Graduating From an Advanced Education Program: 19%
- Entering Immediately After Graduation: 5%
- From Another Hospital: 3%
- From the Uniformed Services: 1%
- Other: 9%

**LEAVING DENTAL SCHOOLS**

- Finished Fixed-Term Appointment: 8%
- To a Hospital or Advanced Education Program: 4%
- To Private Practice: 19%
- To Another Dental School: 24%
- Retired: 29%
- Other: 14%
- Deceased: 4%

Note: Percentages may add up to more than 100% due to rounding.
Source: American Dental Education Association, Survey of Dental School Faculty, 2014-15
Graduates of Accredited Dental and Allied Dental Education Programs

2005 to 2015 graduate years

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Surveys of Dental Hygiene Education Programs, Surveys of Dental Assisting Education Programs, and Surveys of Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs, and Surveys of Dental Education.
First-Year Enrollment in Accredited Allied Dental Education Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dental Assisting</th>
<th>Dental Hygiene</th>
<th>Dental Laboratory Technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990-1991</td>
<td>5,891</td>
<td>5,419</td>
<td>908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>6,150</td>
<td>6,486</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,007</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,279</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Surveys of Dental Hygiene Education Programs, Surveys of Dental Assisting Education Programs, and Surveys of Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs.
Dental School Enrollees by Race and Ethnicity
2010 and 2015 entering classes

Note: ADEA adheres to the revised federal guidelines for collecting and reporting race and ethnicity. Nonresident alien data was not collected prior to 2011.

Percentages may add up to more than 100% due to rounding.

Source: American Dental Education Association, U.S. Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, 2010 and 2015 Entering Classes
Distribution of Dental Schools in North America

Source: American Dental Education Association, 2016
The Pathways to Licensure Are Widening: Increasing Portability

Similar to the climate change issue, after years if not decades of discussion but little change, we are at a point where the reality of the need to address the issue of portability of initial licensure and licensure by credentials has hit.

Source: ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure.
Dentists in our society are becoming more mobile, for both professional and personal reasons, increasing the urgency of the issue of portability of licensure.

Consider this: between 2011 and 2016, about 1 in 18 dentists moved to a different state; and about 1 in 8 dentists aged 40 and younger moved across state lines.

In recognition of these trends, more states are accepting more clinical exams and other pathways to licensure that protect the safety of the public while enabling professional mobility for dentists.

ADEA strongly supports continued efforts to increase the portability of licensure and to promote the adoption of alternative pathways to licensure that eliminate the patient-based component of the traditional high-stakes licensure exam.

- 55% of the 53 different licensing agencies* accept either all clinical exams without restrictions or in conjunction with additional specified components.
- 17% accept at least one alternative licensure pathway (PGY-1, OSCE, or Hybrid Portfolio).

*Includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.