

# PATHWAYS: Moving Forward With A Student-Led Integrative Approach to Learning

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2010 - 2014

Oct 2015

Dec 2015

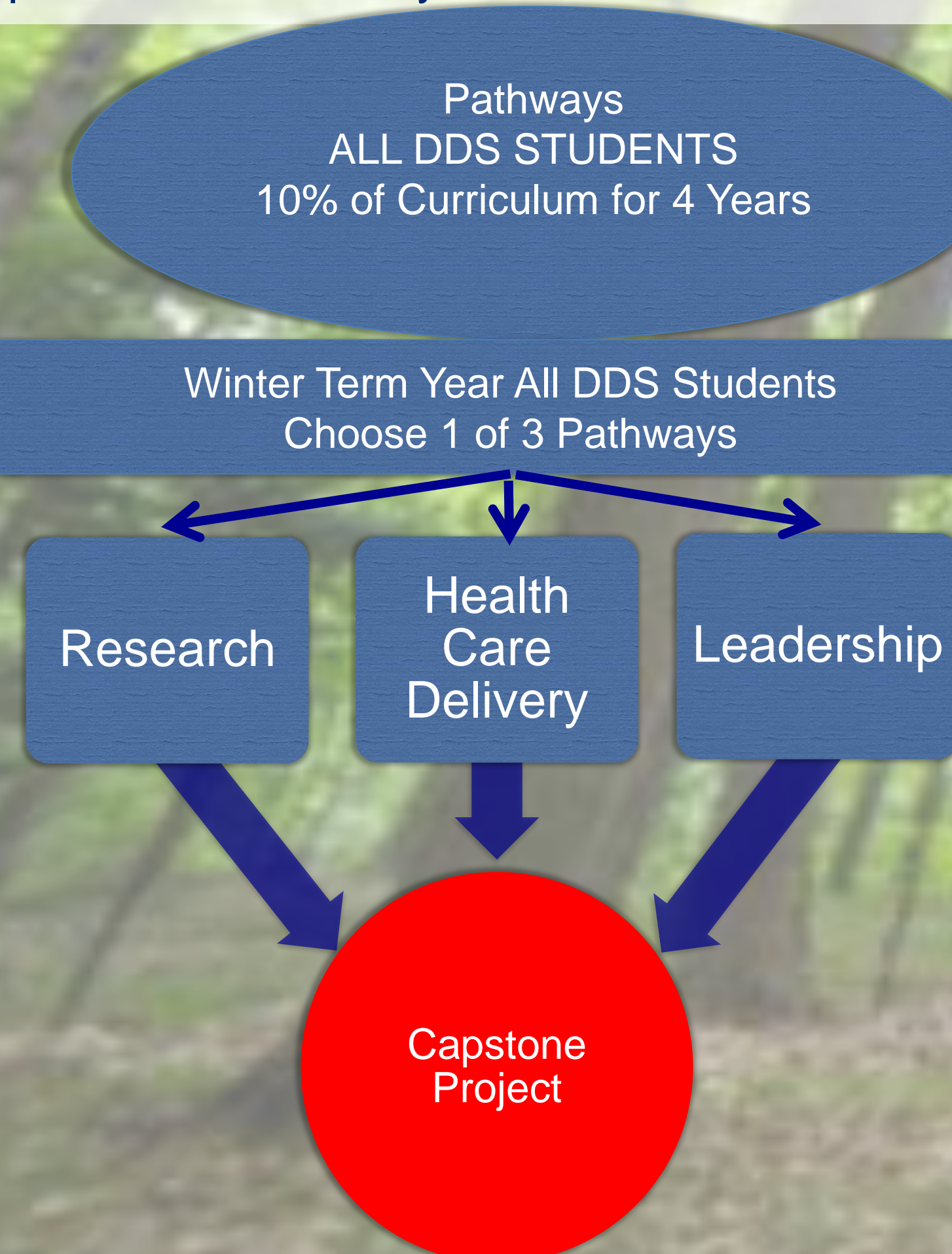
Jan 2016

April 2016

2016 - 2020

## The Start

The **Pathways Program** at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry (UMSoD) is a student-led approach to learning addressing the future of dental education through 4 foundational goals: 1) engaging students in a specific area of their own interest, 2) allowing students to take an active role in determining the content of their curriculum, 3) promoting student-proficiency in articulating learning experiences, and 4) developing students' professional identity.



## New Direction

### • Core Themed Electives

All DDS students participate in the Core Program, offering a selection of themed electives to create a personalized path for professional development.

### • Honors

DDS students can self-select to become an honors student in the Program, where they complete a Capstone Project

### • Immersion

Those students who choose to take an honors path will be offered an immersion program by their faculty mentor in the Summer between D1 and D2 Year.

### • Inclusion

Themed electives can extend enrichment of curriculum for the UMSoD Hygiene Program and the UMSoD Internationally Trained Dentists Program, maximizing use of effort and resources used.

## ASK, LISTEN, DREAM!

The program "**Your Voice on Pathways**" was created to obtain feedback from both students and faculty. This feedback drove planning for program restructure and new direction designed to better accomplish the Pathways Program's 4 foundational goals.

## SUSTAINABLE?

**Analysis** of faculty loads for teaching and mentoring determined a 23% reduction in faculty time and a 45% reduction in capstone project funding after restructure of the program.

**Assessment** of gains will be tracked and student achievement of foundational goals will be compared to prior cohorts through documented student reflections.

## The Destination

The **Enhancement of Pathways** involved significant changes including:

- 1) a collaborative themed elective system spanning across 4 years of the pre-doctoral program,
- 2) Interprofessional Education electives,
- 3) a self-selected honors program and
- 4) emphasis for personalized professional development beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year.

