

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Eligibility

1. Who is eligible to apply for the ADEA Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence Program?

And applicant must:

- Hold a full-time faculty appointment in a predoctoral, allied or advanced dental education program at an ADEA Member Institution.
- Be an ADEA Individual Member.
- Obtain approval from their dean or program director to participate fully in the program if selected.
- Have authored or co-authored at least one article in a peer-reviewed journal within the past five years.
- Have a proposed research project that has received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or been deemed IRB exempt.

2. What is the purpose of the ADEA Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence Program?

The ADEA Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence Program supports oral health educators in conducting a year-long research project while engaging in leadership development and professional networking. The program provides scholars with opportunities to explore issues shaping dental education and contribute to conversations about the future of oral health education and the health professions.

3. What types of faculty are eligible to apply?

Faculty with a primary teaching appointment in a predoctoral, allied or advanced dental educational program at an ADEA Member Institution are eligible to apply. **Junior faculty are especially encouraged to apply.**

4. Do I need to be an ADEA member to apply?

Yes. Applicants must be an ADEA Individual Member at the time of application.

5. Can faculty from non-ADEA Member Institutions apply?

No. Applicants must be affiliated with an ADEA Member Institution in order to be eligible for the program.

Application Process

6. When is the application deadline?

The application deadline is Sept. 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET. All required materials must be submitted by the deadline in order for the application to be considered.

7. What materials are required as part of the application?

Applicants must submit the following materials through the online application system:

- One nomination letter from the applicant's dean or program director,
- One letter of reference from a mentor,
- A research summary (one page, maximum),
- A personal statement (two pages, maximum),
- A current curriculum vitae highlighting scholarly work and publications and
- IRB verification, including an approval or exemption letter.

8. What should be included in the research summary?

The research summary should provide a concise overview of the proposed project, including the project title, purpose, background, significance, problem statement, research question(s) and a brief description of the proposed methodology.

9. Can I submit my application before my nomination or reference letters are uploaded?

Yes. Applicants may submit their application before the nomination or reference letters are uploaded. **However, all required materials must be received by the application deadline for the application to be considered complete.**

10. What happens after I submit my application?

Applications are reviewed by ADEA staff and designated reviewers. Selected applicants may be invited to participate in a virtual interview before the final scholar is selected.

11. What makes a strong application?

Strong applications clearly describe a research project that addresses an important issue in academic dentistry, health professions education or faculty development. Reviewers also consider the feasibility of the proposed project, the

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applicant's commitment to academic leadership and the level of institutional and mentor support.

12. How are applications evaluated?

Applications are evaluated based on the strength and relevance of the proposed research project, the applicant's potential for leadership and scholarly contribution, alignment with the goals of the ADEA Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence Program and the level of support provided by the applicant's institution and mentor.

13. How competitive is the ADEA Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence Program?

The ADEA Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence Program has a multi-stage selection process that includes review by a committee of academic leaders and a final interview with selected finalists. Reviewers consider the strength and relevance of the proposed research project, the applicant's potential for leadership and scholarly contribution and the level of institutional and mentor support.

14. How many scholars are selected each year?

One scholar is selected each year through a competitive review process.

15. When is the scholar announced?

The selected scholar is notified in early December and is formally recognized at the next ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition in March.

Program Experience

16. What does the ADEA Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence receive?

The selected scholar receives a \$15,000 stipend to support their research and participation in program activities. Scholars also gain access to networking opportunities with leaders in oral health, higher education and policy, as well as guidance during the research and writing process.

17. What are the expectations for the scholar during the program year?

Scholars are expected to conduct a year-long research project, engage in networking and leadership development opportunities through ADEA activities and present their research findings at the conclusion of their scholar year during the ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition.

18. How much time does the program require?

The program is designed to be flexible and accommodate the scholar's existing academic responsibilities. Activities occur throughout the year and may include research development, meetings with ADEA leaders and participation in ADEA events.

19. What types of research projects are appropriate?

Projects should address topics relevant to academic dentistry, health professions education, faculty development, leadership, workforce issues or other areas that contribute to advancing oral health education and the health professions.

20. Are interdisciplinary research topics encouraged?

Yes. Interdisciplinary research topics are encouraged. Projects that incorporate perspectives from fields such as public health, education, policy or health systems may offer valuable insights for advancing dental education.

21. Are clinical research projects eligible?

Yes. Clinical research projects may be appropriate if they are framed in a way that connects to broader issues in academic dentistry, health professions education or faculty development. Applicants are encouraged to consider how their research findings may inform teaching, curriculum development, institutional practices or other aspects of oral health education.

22. Is IRB approval required before applying?

Yes. Applicants must have documentation confirming that their proposed research project has received IRB approval or has been deemed IRB exempt by their institution at the time of application. This documentation must be uploaded as part of the application.

23. Can my proposed research already be underway?

Yes. Proposed projects may already be underway, provided the applicant demonstrates how participation in the ADEA Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence Program will support further development of the research and contribute to advancing oral health education, health professions education or faculty development.

24. What types of activities take place during the visit to Washington, DC?

During the scholar's visit to ADEA headquarters, activities may include networking meetings with ADEA leadership and partners, professional development opportunities, research and writing time, advocacy experiences

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and participation in continuing education offerings aligned with the scholar's research interests.

25. Do scholars need to travel to Washington, DC?

Yes. Scholars participate in a visit to ADEA headquarters in Washington, DC, as part of the program experience.

26. What expenses can the stipend support?

The stipend may support expenses related to research activities, travel associated with program participation, professional development opportunities and other project-related costs that support the scholar's work during the program year.

27. Is the research project expected to be completed during the scholar year?

Scholars are expected to make meaningful progress on their research project during the program year and present preliminary findings at the conclusion of their scholar year at the ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition. Final scholarly outputs may continue to develop beyond the scholar year.

Additional Questions

28. Can previous applicants apply again?

Yes. Individuals who previously applied but were not selected are welcome to apply again in future application cycles.

29. Can collaborative research projects be proposed?

Yes. Collaborative research projects are welcome. However, the applicant should clearly demonstrate their leadership role in the project and how the work aligns with the goals of the ADEA Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence Program.