



**DDS/PhD
General Instructions**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to train students to become interactive, competitive clinician scientists who can perform sponsored research in dental and craniofacial-related areas as members of a dental school faculty.

PROGRAM CONTENT: The program requires that trainees spend the first three years focusing on the graduate PhD component and to enter the customized dental school training component only after completing the PhD qualifying exam and making significant progress with their dissertation research. The remaining requirements of the PhD program (dissertation research and preparation) will be conducted concurrently with requirements of the DDS curriculum. It is anticipated that the combined program will take at least seven years to complete.

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and must apply to and be accepted separately to both the UTHSCSA Dental School (<http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/Publications/dental2.html>) and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (<http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/Publications/graduat.html>).

FUNDING: Candidates accepted to the UTHSCSA DDS/PhD Program can apply for funding through COSTAR. This funding will include a stipend, tuition, travel and other training-related expenses. In the event that the student's program lasts longer than the duration of the grant, the responsibility for funding additional years will be that of the student's major research advisor.

TIMELINE: This DDS/PhD program requires that trainees spend the first three years focusing on the graduate PhD component. By the time the students enter the customized dental school training program they will have completed the qualifying exam, all PhD-related laboratory research rotations, have selected a thesis topic and major advisor, and made extensive progress with their research. In year four, trainees will begin the dental school curriculum. Limited time for pursuit of thesis research activities will be available throughout the dental school curriculum (exempted courses, summers). The amount and specifics of time available will be determined on an individual trainee basis through consultation with the trainee major advisor, COSTAR Leadership Council and, if appropriate, with the Altered Curriculum Committee of the Dental School. It is anticipated that the DDS/PhD program will take at least seven years to complete.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: When selected for the COSTAR Track I DDS/PhD program, each student will be assigned a member of the Leadership Council as an advisor. This individual will work closely with the student and the assigned Committee on Graduate Studies (COGS) of the department in which the student is pursuing the PhD until such time that the student chooses a major advisor. At this time the COSTAR Leadership Council Advisor will work closely with the major advisor and appropriate departmental COGS.

TRAINEES: Two trainees per year will be funded by COSTAR (to a maximum of 10 trainees). Additional positions (up to two per year) are available in each dental school class for DDS/PhD students. Although these latter positions are not funded by COSTAR, other mechanisms (individual F30 awards) are available on a competitive basis (<http://nidcr.nih.gov/funding/trainingAndCareerDev.asp>).