

DENTAL STUDENTS GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION IN RESEARCH

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Predoctoral Dental Student Distinction in Research Program is to recognize individual student investigators who in addition to completing their clinical dental program have acquired research skills and accomplished significant research activity. The long-range goal is to foster scholarship and critical thinking, add to the body of scientific information and facilitate recruitment of students into dental research careers. The intent is to limit this distinction program to top students who have demonstrated unusually significant scientific accomplishments. It must be understood by participants that most of the activities in this program must be accomplished during non-curricular time.

RECOGNITION

Students completing this program will graduate with the designation, "Distinction in Research" on their official transcripts.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The Distinction in Research Program requires that a student in collaboration with a suitable faculty mentor completes a research project and prepares an original extended abstract that is suitable for incorporation into a peer-reviewed publication. The students should have played a significant role in the research project and will typically be listed as first author on an abstract and listed as a co-author on a peer-reviewed manuscript resulting from the research.

The Director for Research and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will monitor the program and bring candidates for consideration to the attention of the Dental School Research Committee. The Research Committee will review all applications and make recommendations to the Dean regarding the designation of the "Distinction" status for the students concerned.

Students participating in the Distinction in Research Program are strongly encouraged to enter various Student Research competitions as part of their training experience. These include but are not limited to the Hinman Research Symposium competition, the American Association of Dental Research (AADR) Warner-Lambert Hatton Award, the AADR Caulk/Dentsply competition, the International Association for Dental Research/Colgate Research in Prevention Travel Award and the Block Travel Award.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM

1. The student will select a faculty mentor.

2. The student will then apply for SELC 7027 “Special Research Elective – *Protocol Development*.” Application is made through the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. In this elective course, the student with the guidance of the mentor will review the literature and will develop a research protocol. Credit for the elective course will be awarded by the mentor contingent on the approval of the protocol by the mentor and the Director for Research. The student must be in good academic standing as determined by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to apply for this elective. Students may become ineligible to complete the elective course if placed on academic probation. Enrollment in this elective may be extended through the following semester, provided that the Director for Research and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs approve the extension and the mentor reports satisfactory progress. A student may withdraw from this elective course at any time without recording of withdrawal on the transcript.

3. Following the approval of the research protocol by the Director for Research, the student may apply for SELC 7028 “Special Research Elective – *Completion of Individually Designed Research*.” The application for this course is made with the Director for Research and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

In this elective course, the student with guidance of the mentor will complete individually designed research following the approved protocol. The student must continue to be in good academic standing to apply for and to complete this elective course. Enrollment in this elective can be extended from semester to semester when the mentor reports satisfactory progress. Student participation in the AADR student research fellowships or the Dental Student Research Programs fulfill the requirements of the elective. Withdrawal from this elective course will result in entry on the transcript as WP or WF as determined by the mentor. Credit for the course is contingent on verification by the mentor that the research has been completed satisfactorily up to abstract submission and acceptance for presentation at a scientific meeting.

4. Following completion of the research, the student may apply for SELC 7029 “Special Research Elective – *Manuscript Preparation of Individually Designed Research*.” Application is made through the Director for Research and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

In this elective course, the student with guidance of the mentor will help prepare an abstract and Extended Abstract not to exceed six pages suitable for incorporation into a peer-reviewed publication. The student must also present their research at a national/international scientific meeting and the Annual Dental School Science Symposium. A copy of a published abstract, the Extended Abstract and paperwork showing completion of all required coursework must be submitted to the Dental School Research Committee by the end of March, the senior year for review. A student must be in good academic standing to participate in this elective course. The mentor will award a grade for the elective course. Withdrawal from the elective course will result in entry on the manuscript as WP or WF as determined by the mentor.

5. Based on the quality and quantity of the student’s research, the Dental School Research Committee may recommend to the Dean that the student be awarded “Distinction in Research.”

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

Students must prepare an Extended Abstract up to but *not exceeding six pages* to provide greater depth and perspective of their research and participation in the project. The Extended Abstract is to be submitted typewritten on 8 ½ by 11-inch paper with one-inch top, bottom and side margins. The Extended Abstract should be organized under the following headings: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results with Figures/Tables, Discussion and References. The type font should be *Times Roman* and the font size is no less than 11 pt. All sections should be double-spaced with the exception of the References that should be single-spaced and listed alphabetically. References and their citations should follow the style of the Journal of Dental Research.