

# DUAL DEGREE D.D.S./PH.D. PROGRAM

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The combined D.D.S./Ph.D. (<https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/dental/programs/phd-in-dentistry>) (Doctor of Dental Surgery and Doctor of Philosophy) training program available through the School of Dentistry is a component of the Craniofacial Oral-Biology Student Training in Academic Research (COSTAR) T32 Training Program that is funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. Only 17 universities in the country have COSTAR programs. This national program focuses on creating the next generation of clinician scientists to ensure the future of the nation's oral health.

Students will become a clinician-scientist who can perform sponsored research in dental and craniofacial-related areas. Another goal of the program is to have trainees become dental school faculty.

## Admissions Requirements

A student who wishes to obtain both a D.D.S. and a Ph.D. must obtain the entrance prerequisites of both the School of Dentistry (<http://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/dental>) and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (<http://gsbs.uthscsa.edu>). Students submit applications for admission to the Dual Degree Program through the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (<http://www.tmdsas.com>) and to the Health Science Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (<https://app.decisiondesk.com/clients/uthscsa/account/create>) during the fall prior to attendance. Approval for admission is made by the D.D.S./Ph.D. Admissions Review Panel (through the School of Dentistry Dean and Associate Dean for Student Affairs) and by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

## Degree Requirements

Students will spend the first three years focusing on the Ph.D. component. They will enter the customized dental school training component only after completing the Ph.D. qualifying exam and making significant progress with their dissertation research.

The remaining requirements of the Ph.D. program (dissertation research and preparation) will be conducted concurrently with requirements of the D.D.S. curriculum. The combined program will take at least seven years to complete.

Accepted applicants must meet the full requirements defined for both the professional and the graduate degree. The total time for the dual degree program curriculum is designed to be at least seven years. However, utilization of summer sessions and elective periods is mandatory for this total time span.

The detailed logistics of pursuing a dual degree program will depend on the specific graduate program undertaken and, in every instance, should be worked out among the student, the appropriate Committee on Graduate Studies, the faculty mentor, the Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and the Associate Deans for Academic Affairs and Research of the School of Dentistry.