



Schulich School of Dentistry Final Assessment Report

Faculty / Affiliated University College	Schulich School of Dentistry
Degrees Offered	Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)
Modules Reviewed	Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) Internationally Trained Dentists (ITD) Program
External Consultants	Dr. Debora Matthews, Associate Dean Academic Affairs, Dalhousie University Dr. Shahrokh Esfandiari, Associate Dean Academic Affairs, McGill University
Internal Reviewers	Dr. Karen Danylchuk, Professor and Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), Faculty of Health Sciences
Date of Site Visit	March 7, 2018
Evaluation	Good Quality with Report in Three Years
Approval Dates	SUPR-U: May 16, 2018 SCAPA: May 30, 2018 Senate:

Executive Summary

The site visit on March 7, 2018 included separate meetings with Dr. John Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs); Dr. Harvey Goldberg, Assistant Director, Schulich Dentistry; Dr. Michael Strong, Dean, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, and Acting Director, Schulich Dentistry; Dr. Gildo Santos, Assistant Director, Clinics; Dr. Stephen Ferrier, Chair, Internationally Trained Dentists Program; Dr. John Costella, Research and Instructional Librarian; faculty researchers; undergraduate students; full-time and part-time faculty members; and support staff. In addition, the reviewers participated in tours of the clinic, simulation lab, and research facilities.

The external reviewers acknowledged that the mission, values, and strategic priorities of the Schulich School of Dentistry are, for the most part, well aligned with those of the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, and the University. Both the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) and Internationally Trained Dentists (ITD) programs meet accreditation standards for undergraduate dental programs as determined by the Canadian Dental Accreditation Commission (2017). Further, Schulich Dentistry has begun to use the new “Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry (ACFD) Educational Framework for the Development of Competency in Dental Programs” in their curriculum and has mapped the competencies to each course in the DDS curriculum.

To be eligible for a license to practice dentistry in Canada, candidates must pass examinations administered by the National Dental Examining Board (NDEB). The performance of students from Western on these exams is strong and similar to other Canadian dental schools and the overall knowledge of Western dental students meets the required standard. During the IQAP review, DDS students rated the quality of their instruction very positively. The Dentistry Outreach Community Service program (DOCS) is a success and Internationally Trained Dentists (ITD) trainees are happy with their experience at school. Although regular curriculum reviews are conducted through the curriculum committee, there appears to be a lack of formal training for critical appraisal of the literature and the integration of clinical research into daily practice.

The physical resources to support the program are considered adequate. Clinic facilities and simulated lab spaces have been recently renovated and are well utilized, and library resources are satisfactory. A recent influx of financial commitment for infrastructure, including patient management systems, is likely to address, at least in part, issues related to efficient usage of clinical chairs. This concern, raised during recent reviews, is likely to improve student access to clinical experiences as well as revenue from clinical care at the School's clinics. Maintaining an adequate ratio of students to clinical instructors is essential to meet the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan. The possibility of opening the School's clinical facilities on weekends and evenings is being considered in order to provide better access to potential patients who may not be available during the day, as well as more opportunities for student clinical experiences. This idea faces logistical challenges, such as availability of clinical support staff and student supervisors. Dental students gain a range of clinical experience through externships outside the regular dental clinics in the School. However, some students have reported barriers in obtaining excused absences from the program to attend short clinical externships at other institutions.

Several concerns were expressed by all stakeholders regarding organizational structure and communication within the School. The School has undergone three reviews in the past six years: two accreditation reports (2012, 2017), and an external review of the program commissioned by the Dean in 2015. Significant progress has been made in addressing recommendations of the 2015 review and are being addressed through the new 2016-26 Strategic Plan. Revamping of the organizational reporting structure and appointments of new leaders and clarification of roles is underway.

The School is under-resourced with respect to full-time qualified faculty to meet the mandate of teaching, scholarly activity, and administration. The current full-time faculty complement is insufficient to adequately address education and calibration of part-time faculty, clinical supervision of students (including last-minute 'fill-ins' for part-time clinicians), and to contribute to scholarly activity and oversee the administration of the program. Recruitment of full-time faculty with the necessary credentials is a challenge, but this is faced by all dental programs in North America.

Significant Strengths of the Program

- 1 Quality education of students who perform at or above average in their National Dentistry Examination Board exams
- 2 Very good level of student satisfaction with quality of instruction and supervision in classroom and clinics
- 3 Very good clinical and simulated lab facilities
- 4 Passionate and dedicated full and part-time faculty members and support staff who have ideas for improvement and want to be engaged in such process

Suggestions for Improvement & Enhancement

The following recommendations were suggested by the external reviewers for improvement and enhancement of the Schulich Dentistry program. The initial response by Schulich Dentistry is shown in italic font beneath each recommendation.

Recommendation 1. Develop a longitudinal full-time faculty recruitment strategy that not only aligns with the 2016 strategic plan, but is supported financially by the School of Medicine and Dentistry and Western University.

The Dean has had ongoing discussions with the University in this regard and a plan is now in place to initiate recruitment of several new faculty full-time priority hires. Recruitment will take time due to the challenge of recruiting North American Board-certified specialists. Backup plans are in place to ensure the maintenance of minimal resources in certain disciplines in the event that more time is needed to recruit specialists in those disciplines.