



AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL

REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	University of Western Australia
Program/qualification name	Doctor of Dental Medicine
Program/qualification abbreviation	DMD
Program/qualification code	
Head office address, including State	School of Dentistry, 17 Monash Avenue, Nedlands WA 6009
Campus	Crawley
Program length	4 Years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	9
Accreditation standards version	Version 1, June 2010
Date of site evaluation	29 July 2015
Date of ADC decision	29 October 2015
Type of accreditation	Monitoring
Accreditation start date	1 January 2013
Accreditation end date	31 December 2018

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Background

In 2009 at the time of the accreditation review of the University of Western Australia's five year Bachelor of Dental Science (BDS) program by the ADC, the University indicated its intention to replace the BDS with a four year graduate entry Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program from 2013 as part of a university-wide educational reform to streamline undergraduate education.

The Doctor of Dental Medicine was reviewed by the ADC in two stages during 2010 and 2012, with a full accreditation visit being undertaken in May 2012. The program was subsequently accredited from 1 January 2013 until 31 December 2018, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) *submission of annual reports to the ADC demonstrating satisfactory implementation of the program and satisfactory progress with responses to the relevant recommendations and suggestions in the 2012 Accreditation Report; and*
- 2) *a visit to the program to occur in the second half of 2015 to assess the transition from the foundation phase to the broadening phase and the suitability of the program for ongoing accreditation.*

This report addresses the second condition of accreditation. Given that the second condition relates to the roll-out of the program the School of Dentistry was asked to focus its monitoring visit submission on a limited number of Accreditation Standards that were most relevant to the condition. The School made a submission against the following Standards:

- Standard 4 – School Administration and Budget
- Standard 5 – Physical Facilities and Resources
- Standard 6 – Staff and Staff Development
- Standard 7 – Admissions Policies and Procedures
- Standard 8 – The Curriculum
- Standard 10 – Preparation for Practice
- Standard 11 – Student Assessment and Examination
- Standard 12 – Student Support and Representation
- Standard 17 – Evaluation Procedures and Outcome

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At the time of the monitoring visit, there were students in years 1, 2 and 3 of the program.

Overview of the Evaluation

The SET received UWA's 44-page submission against the requested Accreditation Standards and subsequent information requested from the university following the SET teleconference of 15 June 2015. The SET undertook a monitoring site visit to UWA on 29 July 2015.

During the visit, meetings were held with:

- The Acting Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
- The Head, School of Dentistry
- The DMD Program Convenor
- The School Manager
- Year 1, 3 and 4 Co-ordinators (there was no Year 2 co-ordinator at the time of the visit)
- The UDSS President
- Year 1-3 class representatives

The SET also toured the School facilities and laboratories and met with a range of clinical demonstrators and clinical staff. Given this was a monitoring visit, compliance with the full set of Accreditation Standards was not reviewed. This report addresses only the following Standards:

- Standard 4 – School Administration and Budget
- Standard 5 – Physical Facilities and Resources
- Standard 6 – Staff and Staff Development
- Standard 7 – Admissions Policies and Procedures
- Standard 8 – The Curriculum
- Standard 10 – Preparation for Practice
- Standard 11 – Student Assessment and Examination
- Standard 12 – Student Support and Representation

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- Standard 17 – Evaluation Procedures and Outcomes

Key Findings

The School has been through a period of instability in recent years with a new Head of School only appointed in early 2015 following a lengthy hiatus. The new Head is in the process of implementing a number of positive changes including the introduction of formal staff performance reviews, more regular meetings with students and targeted recruitment of further academic and professional staff. The preceding period of instability has resulted in slow adoption of the Recommendations made in the previous SET report.

A curriculum for the fourth year of the program has not yet been developed so it was impossible for the SET to determine whether it will allow the students to develop the full range of skills required to practice safely and competently on graduation. A condition is proposed to require this to be submitted to the ADC prior to the end of the current academic year and a further condition is proposed that a monitoring visit to be undertaken in 2016 to review the rollout of the final year of the program. The SET were also concerned that the vertical and horizontal integration of the program is sub-optimal and have proposed a condition that the School undertake a re-evaluation of the program, including assessments, to strengthen this aspect.

The SET are also concerned that decisions taken by the Faculty level Board of Examiners are not consistent with university policy and course rules. It is also not clear that School of Dentistry staff have appropriate involvement in student appeals against examination results. A condition is proposed to address these issues.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Western Australia's Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program remains accredited until **31 December 2018**, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) In order to fully meet Standard 6 – Staff and Staff Development the School of Dentistry must appoint a staff member to lead the Prosthodontic aspects of the program. Confirmation of this appointment must be provided to the ADC by **30 November 2015**.

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- 2) In order to fully meet Standard 7 – Admissions Policies and Procedures and Standard 12 – Student Support and Representation the School of Dentistry must put in place satisfactory support material and resources for students entering the DMD with non-health sciences undergraduate qualifications. Details of the materials and resources that will be put in place must be provided to the ADC by **31 December 2015**.
- 3) In order to fully meet Standard 8 – The Curriculum, Standard 10 – Preparation for Practice and Standard 11 – Student Assessment and Examination the School of Dentistry must:
 - a. provide a detailed curriculum for Year 4 of the program. The curriculum document to be provided to the ADC by **30 November 2015**.
 - b. re-evaluate the vertical and horizontal delivery of all years of the program to ensure full integration of the curriculum and with maximal clinical exposure. The re-evaluation should also include a review of all assessments to ensure that valid, reliable and timely assessments are undertaken. In undertaking the re-evaluation all relevant disciplines within the School should be consulted in what is required for appropriate clinical education. A report on the re-evaluation process, its outcome and changes that will be made to the program to be provided to the ADC by **30 April 2016**.
- 4) In order to fully meet Standard 11 – Student Assessment and Examination – the School of Dentistry must provide a satisfactory report detailing:
 - a. Steps that will be taken by the School of Dentistry and the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science to ensure decisions taken by the Faculty Board of Examiners are consistent with university policy and DMD course rules
 - b. Steps that will be taken to ensure an appropriate level of involvement from School of Dentistry staff in student appeals against DMD examination results

The report to be provided to the ADC by **30 April 2016**.
- 5) That a monitoring visit be undertaken no later than **30 September 2016** to review the rollout of year 4 of the program and whether it is preparing students for practice upon graduation.