



Australian
Dental
Council

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE
PROGRAM**

July 2016

Amended October 2016

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	Masters Degree
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	28 July 2016
Date of ADC decision	12 September 2016 <i>Amended 10 October 2016</i>
Type of accreditation	Monitoring
Accreditation start date	1 January 2013
Accreditation end date	31 December 2018

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Background

The University of Western Australia's (UWA) Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program commenced in 2013, superseding the previous Bachelor of Dental Science (BDSc) program. Prior to its commencement it was subject to a two stage review, which included a full accreditation visit in May 2012. Accreditation was subsequently granted from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2018 subject to two conditions. The second of those conditions was that an accreditation monitoring visit take place in the second half of 2015 to assess the transition from the foundation phase of the program to the broadening phase and the suitability of the program for ongoing accreditation. The monitoring visit focused on nine of the twenty accreditation standards most relevant to the condition.

At the time of the monitoring visit students were in years 1, 2 and 3 of the program. A curriculum for the fourth year of the program had not been developed so it was impossible for the Site Evaluation Team (SET) to determine whether the students would develop the full range of skills required to practice safely and competently on graduation. The SET also identified a number of other issues with the program and on the basis of their recommendations the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee agreed to retain accreditation of the program until 31 December 2018 subject to five conditions being satisfied:

- 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**.
- 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**.

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- 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.

The School of Dentistry provided a response to Condition 2 which was considered by the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee at its 29 April 2016 meeting. The Committee determined that it was not clear if condition 2 had been met and it asked the SET undertaking the monitoring visit to review compliance with the condition.

Condition 3a of accreditation was determined to be met at the ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee's meeting of 29 January 2016 and condition 1 was amended to require that once appointed UWA confirms the appointment of a lead in prosthodontics. At the time of writing, the University had responded to condition 3b and condition 4 but a decision had not yet been made as to whether these conditions had been met.

This SET report therefore addresses conditions 2 and 5 of accreditation.

Overview of the Evaluation

The SET received UWA's 44-page submission against the Accreditation Standards, appendices and subsequent information requested from the university following the SET teleconference of 15 July 2016. The SET undertook a monitoring site visit to UWA on 28 July 2016. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- The Head, School of Dentistry
- The DMD Program Co-ordinator and Final Year Co-ordinator
- Discipline leads
- Students from all years of the program
- Staff teaching into the final year of the program

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- Staff responsible for providing student support services.

The SET also toured the metropolitan outplacement clinic at Mount Henry and met with students and supervisors. Given this was a monitoring visit, compliance with the full set of Accreditation Standards was not reviewed.

Key Findings

The School and the program have been through a period of considerable recent change and the first cohort of students is entering the final semester of the program. The documented final year curriculum, assessment strategy and rubrics appear appropriate though some aspects have not been fully implemented into the delivery of the program. Multiple stakeholders advised the SET that the final year student cohort is academically strong, however concerns were expressed about the clinical exposure available to students and it was not clear to the SET whether some students would have the full range of Professional Competencies of the Newly Qualified Dentist upon completion of the program. In particular, students appear to have limited access to certain case types, for example in the areas of orthodontics, endodontics, prosthodontics and minor oral surgery (exodontia).

The staffing profile has changed significantly in the previous twelve months and appears appropriate to deliver the program. There has also been investment in the School's research facilities which should strengthen this aspect of the program.

The SET recognises that the School is in the process of changing governance structures which at the time of the visit had not had the opportunity to have full effect. However, it appeared to the SET that there was limited involvement of some disciplines in clinical aspects related to the design of the curriculum, such as vertical integration of clinical exposure and policy decisions affecting attainment of competencies. A number of stakeholders expressed that they had limited or no opportunity to provide formal feedback on the program and to recommend areas for improvement. This aspect of the program was not the focus of the monitoring visit, however the evidence gathered by the SET is included for completeness.

The SET was also made aware of a directive issued in June 2016 that students be required to use CAD/CAM technology in all cases when considering treatment options for restorative cases. The SET was concerned that this does not conform to the ethical and professional principles of patient-centred care. Additionally, the directive appeared to suggest that students need only have treatment steps checked if the student deemed it necessary. The SET was concerned that this could affect the delivery of safe patient care.

The SET also met a number of stakeholders responsible for providing student support and were of the view that while students entering the program from non-science backgrounds are required take the initiative in seeking support to bring themselves up to speed with the basic sciences there was no evidence to suggest that the students are disadvantaged or perform differently to the rest of their cohort.

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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 1 – Public Safety - the School of Dentistry must remove the mandatory requirement for CAD/CAM restorations for all patients requiring restorative treatment by DMD4 students and put in place guidelines for treatment selection in accordance with patient-centred care. The School must confirm that this has been implemented and provide a copy of the guidelines to the ADC by **30 September 2016**.
- 2) In order to fully meet Standard 1 – Public Safety - the School of Dentistry must review its policy(s) on clinical supervision to demonstrate that the level of supervision provided protects public safety. The School must confirm that this has been implemented and provide a copy of the updated policy(s) to the ADC by **30 September 2016**.
- 3) In order to demonstrate that Standard 3 – Program of Study – is fully met the School of Dentistry must incorporate two external examiners appointed by the ADC into a summative assessment of clinical competence at the end of semester 2 for final year students, with the examiners to provide a confidential report to the ADC verifying that students have developed the competencies expected of a newly graduated dentist by the point of graduation. The external examiners' report is to be provided to the ADC by **30 November 2016**.
- 4) In order to demonstrate that Standard 3 – Program of Study – is fully met the School of Dentistry must review the final year of the program, in terms of both horizontal and vertical integration, in relation to providing appropriate clinical cases for all students to become competent graduates. The School must report to the ADC what steps have been put in place by **31 May 2017**.
- 5) In order to fully meet Standard 5 – Assessment – the School of Dentistry must:
 - a. Show that it has aligned student clinical assessment with the documented assessment rubrics for year 4 of the program, in all cases. The School must demonstrate how this has been achieved by **31 October 2016**
 - b. Ensure that all clinical supervisors attend an orientation and induction process to ensure assessment of student clinical competence is consistent with the School assessment strategy and rubrics in all cases. The School must demonstrate that this has been put in place by **31 January 2017**.

The ADC has also determined that Condition 2 of accreditation, as imposed following the July 2015 accreditation monitoring visit, is met.

ADC Secretariat Note:

On 10 October 2016 the ADC determined that condition 3 as imposed on 12 September 2016 be amended as follows:

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In order to demonstrate that Standard 3 – Program of Study – is fully met the School of Dentistry must incorporate two external examiners approved by the ADC into a summative assessment of clinical competence at the end of semester 2 for final year students, with the examiners to provide a report to the ADC verifying that students have developed the competencies expected of a newly graduated dentist by the point of graduation. The external examiners' report is to be provided to the ADC by **30 November 2016**.