



Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of The University of Sydney Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Oral Surgery)

April 2021

Executive summary

Program provider	The University of Sydney
Program/qualification name	Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Oral Surgery)
Program/qualification abbreviation	DClinDent (OS)
Program/qualification code	TCCLDORS1000
Head office address, including State	Sydney School of Dentistry Level 2, Westmead Centre for Oral Health, Westmead Hospital Darcy Road, Westmead NSW 2145
Campuses	Westmead Centre for Oral Health, Sydney Dental Hospital, Nepean Hospital, Royal North Shore Hospital, OBH, DDC
Program length	3 years
Registration division	Dental specialist
Registration speciality	Oral Surgery
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework level	AQF level 9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation standards for dental practitioner programs (Effective 1 January 2021)
Date of site evaluation	22 April 2021
Date of ADC decision	4 March 2022
Type of accreditation	Re-accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2022
Accreditation end date	31 December 2026

Background

The University of Sydney's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Oral Surgery) program was first accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2016, with the program accredited to five years, subject to a monitoring requirement that a visit be undertaken when the first cohort of students entered the final year of the program.

The monitoring review was undertaken by the ADC in 2018, with the accreditation of the program continued until 31 December 2021 with no further monitoring or conditions imposed.

Graduates of the DClinDent (Oral Surgery) program will be eligible to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as specialists in oral surgery.

Overview of evaluation

An Accreditation Team (AT) received the Sydney Dental School's 68-page submission against the Accreditation Standards and various appendices. The AT requested additional information prior to the site visit and also reviewed annual reports submitted for the program as well as COVID-19 monitoring reports submitted by The University of Sydney between March 2020 and February 2021.

The AT undertook a visit to the Nepean Clinical School on 22 April 2021 and toured facilities at the Nepean Centre for Oral Health.

Interviews were held with the following participants:

- Head of School
- Program lead
- Academic and clinical staff teaching into the program
- Current students
- A recent graduate
- Acting Director Oral Health Service Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD)
- Director Oral Health Service NBMLHD

The findings of this report are based on the AT's assessment of the material outlined above and the interview evidence gathered.

Key findings

The evidence gathered by the AT indicates that the DClinDent (Oral Surgery) program is providing students the opportunities needed to develop the competencies expected of a specialist in oral surgery. The program is well structured, with students well supported by a dedicated and well qualified teaching staff.

The School has at the forefront of its program a focus on patient safety and the provision of patient-centred care is prominent in learning outcomes and the preparation of students in providing care. The AT explored the range of case, clinical experiences, and opportunities for students to develop the knowledge and skills needed for specialist practice in the discipline, and as satisfied that this is achieved and well understood by all involved with the program.

The assessment practices are robust and are clearly linked to the learning outcomes. Assessment strategies are appropriate, and there are clear processes in place to ensure consistency of assessment practices across clinical educators.

Students are well support by the program, both professionally and pastorally, and appropriate support services are available to assist students in achieve in the program. The academic governance processes, incorporate both internal and external feedback, professional peer review and consumer input.

The AT were advised of the work being undertaken across the Faculty and School to address the requirements to ensure students are culturally safe in the provision of care, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Cultural safety can be further embedded within the program, with the School is already working to ensure this occurs.

ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that The University of Sydney's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Oral Surgery) program is reaccredited without conditions until **31 December 2026**.