



Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of Univeristy of Adelaide's Bachelor of Oral Health program

February 2018

Summary report

Program provider	University of Adelaide
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Oral Health
Program/qualification abbreviation	BOH
Program/qualification code	314701
Head office address, including State	Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences Building, North Terrace, West End Precinct, Adelaide SA 5005
Campus	North Terrace Campus
Program length	3 Years
Registration division	Dental Hygienist, Dental Therapist, Oral Health Therapist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	Bachelor Degree
Australian Qualifications Framework level	7
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	27 - 28 February 2018
Date of ADC decision	11 May 2018
Type of accreditation	Re-accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 November 2018
Accreditation end date	31 December 2023

Background

The University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) program was last reviewed in 2014 at which stage the program was accredited until 31 October 2018. The BOH program was accredited for a shortened period of time as student placements within the South Australian Dental Service (SADS) were only guaranteed until the end of 2018.

Since the previous visit, the University of Adelaide has signed a 30 year agreement with the SADS for access to clinical facilities and the School of Dentistry has relocated into the newly constructed Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences (AHMS) building.

Overview of evaluation

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) conducted a site visit on 27 and 28 February 2018 to the University of Adelaide Dental School. The SET reviewed the School's 42 page self-review against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested following the SET's teleconference of 12 January 2018.

During this visit the SET interviewed a range of individuals, including:

- Dean and Head, Adelaide Dental School
- BOH program coordinator
- Business Manager
- Placements and Interns Officer
- Student and Learning Services Manager
- Year level coordinators
- Permanent academic staff
- Casual academic staff
- Clinical supervisors
- Current students from all years of the program
- A recent graduate
- SADS staff responsible for coordinating clinics in which students undertake clinical training
- Representatives of the Dental Hygienists Association of Australia and Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists Association
- Members of the Learning and Teaching Committee

The SET toured the simulation facilities at the University's North Terrace Campus and observed BOH students in clinic at the SADS clinics in Oaklands Park and Noarlunga.

During the visit the SET was provided with additional information including student evaluation books and examples of student assessments.

Key findings

Overall, the BOH program provides adequate opportunities for students to develop the professional competencies expected of a graduate oral health therapist. The BOH program may be further enhanced if opportunities for students to provide integrated oral health therapy care are established. Currently, clinics are either dental hygiene or dental therapy and exploring opportunities for integrated oral health therapy may further enhance students' readiness for practise.

The School has a well formed committee structure that provides oversight and management to the program, but external input from the wider profession is not currently incorporated within this structure. The School must seek input from external bodies into the design and management of the program for this standard to be met.

The School must also address issues identified in the Student Experience of Learning and Teaching (SELT) survey as detailed in response to standards 2 and 4 of this report. The issues identified are impacting on the student experience and must be addressed.

While clinical marking rubrics are detailed and comprehensive, the link to how these are then used to evaluate a student's competence for practise is unclear. Students are required to self-assess performance within the pre-clinical and clinical environments, but the SET was unable to determine how this is then used to determine the clinical competence of a student as they progress through the program.

ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Oral Health program is accredited until **31 December 2023** subject to the following conditions:

- to ensure Standard 2 - Governance and quality assurance is met the School must provide a report to the ADC by **30 June 2018** advising of the steps to be taken and associated timelines to incorporate external input into the design and management of the program.
- to ensure Standard 4 - The student experience is met, the School is to report to the ADC by **30 June 2018** the steps taken to address the negative feedback provided by students in the SELT surveys and the timeframe over which the issues identified are to be addressed.
- to ensure Standard 5 - Assessment is met, the School is to advise the ADC by **31 December 2018** on the changes to the clinical assessment process to ensure a transparent, objective and robust marking process is in place for 2019.