



Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of The University of Sydney - Master of Dental Public Health

September 2020

Summary report

Program provider	The University of Sydney
Program/qualification name	Master of Dental Public Health
Program/qualification abbreviation	MDentPH
Program/qualification code	MADEPUBH-01
Head office address, including State	The University of Sydney School of Dentistry Faculty of Medicine and Health 2-18 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills, NSW2010 / 1 Mons Road, Westmead, NSW 2145
Campus	The University of Sydney School of Dentistry Nepean Oral Health Centre, Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, Centre for Education and Research for Aging (CERA)
Program length	1-year full time
Registration division	Public Health Dentistry – Specialist Dentist
Registration specialty	Public Health Dentistry (Community Dentistry)
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework level	Level 9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)

Date of site evaluation	Paper-based review September 2020
Date of ADC decision	30 October 2020
Type of accreditation	Initial Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2021
Accreditation end date	31 December 2025

Background

The University of Sydney's Master of Dental Public Health program (MDentPH) is a newly accredited program. As the only Public Health speciality program within Australia, completion of the program by students eligible for general registration as dentists (and who meet all other registration standards) will enable graduates to apply for registration as specialists in Public Health Dentistry (Community Dentistry).

Prospective students must have completed a Master of Public Health (MPH) or equivalent degree.

Overview of evaluation

This assessment was undertaken in accordance with the ADC's *protocol to monitor the impacts on accredited programs of the COVID-19 pandemic*.

An ADC Site Evaluation Team (SET) completed a paper-based review of the Sydney Dental School's 41-page self-assessment against the Standards, associated attachments and appendices in September 2020.

The findings in this report are based on the SET's assessment of the evidence and information submitted throughout the evaluation process. A site visit is scheduled for April 2021.

Key findings

The SET evaluation concluded that the provider is well placed to deliver the program. With access to experts within the dental public health field and experienced academics and clinicians, the program provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop the entry-level competencies expected of a specialist dentist in Public Health Dentistry (Community Dentistry). As the first program of its kind in Australia, the SET recognised that the program would provide a welcome opportunity to address the gaps in provision of oral health care services to minority and disadvantaged groups who are often overlooked in public health policy.

The program presents a valuable opportunity to champion public/community health for vulnerable and minority groups to ensure equitable and fair access to oral health services across Australia. The program was commended for providing a good example of inter-professional and cross-disciplinary education.

The SET noted that there were insufficient details regarding the assessment methodologies to be used. Whilst it is a new program, all the units are existing units already offered in other programs and as such, assessment details and marking/assessment rubrics should be available. A condition is proposed to ensure that the assessment is appropriate to the program.

ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that The University of Sydney's Master of Dental Public Health program is accredited from **1 January 2021** until **31 December 2025** subject to the following condition:

In order to fully meet Standard 5 - Assessment, the provider is required to submit a report to the ADC by **16 July 2021** detailing:

- (i) evidence of the methodology and range of assessments completed during Semester 1 to monitor student progression;
- (ii) examples of marking guides/rubrics, which specify the pre-determined criteria for marking as communicated to students and markers for Semester 1;
- (iii) details of how assessment moderation and feedback provide assurance that the assessments are fair, valid and reliable.