



University at Buffalo

School of Dental Medicine

# Elective Course Brochure Class of 2026

## Spring 2026 D4 Elective and Concentration Courses

Please refer to the Elective Chart for registration information

### **ODS 850 Forensic Dentistry – 1.0 credit**

Forensic Dentistry is a specialty of the forensic sciences concerning dentistry and the law. This course will be introductory, providing insight into aspects of victim identification, mass disaster response, bite marks analysis, jurisprudence and dental age assessment. The course will be in-person, lecture-based and will present actual casework and the research at the UBSDM that has significantly impacted the field. Reading assignments will be a part of the curriculum. Students will be introduced to the Laboratory for Forensic Odontological Research at the School of Dental Medicine. Grading is pass/fail and based on attendance and active participation.

### **ODS 862 Special Needs Dentistry – 1.0 credit**

Significant research supports the need for improvement in the oral care for adults with development and intellectual disabilities. This course offers clinical exposure to patients with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) and complex medical histories in the ambulatory and operating room settings at Erie County Medical Center. This exposure will encourage those interested to seek further training after graduation. Students will treat patients for 3 day-long clinic sessions in the ambulatory clinic, and 1 day-long operating room session. Additionally, a brief corresponding informal discussion-based lecture series is given on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 PM for the first half of the semester. Please be mindful of concentrations and electives which may meet during this time. Grading is pass/fail and is attendance and participation based.

***\*Requirement - A brief, 250 word maximum, statement on why you would like to enroll in the course must be emailed to Dr. Kapral at [ekapral@ecmc.edu](mailto:ekapral@ecmc.edu) by December 12<sup>th</sup>.***

### **ORB 510/OS 504 Oral Immunology – 4.0 credits**

This course covers concepts in immunology that are applicable to oral biology. It emphasizes oral aspects of humoral and cell mediated immunity, covering topics such as oral vaccines, mucosal immunity, genetic basis of normal function as well as aberrations in immunological mediators, and host responses in oral diseases. The students are expected to have a basic knowledge of immunology although a review session on basic immunological concepts is provided at the beginning of the course. Emphasis is placed on the aspects of immunology that are directly pertinent to the pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment and prophylaxis of inflammatory condition and diseases associated with the oral cavity and with oral biology. Although lectures based, the course relies heavily on research-based current literature and the students are expected to derive information from that literature and present a review of some of those papers in the last portion of the course. Discussion on medical and research topics is part of the course, and the students are also evaluated on that basis.

**ORB 520      Critical Analysis of Literature in Oral Biology - 1.0 credit**

The goal of this course is to train the graduate students from Oral Biology Graduate Program to read and present research papers in the field of microbiology, immunology, and cell biology. The papers presented by students must be recently published in peer-reviewed journals.

**RDN 859 SPR      Fixed Prosthodontics: The Interdisciplinary Specialty – 1.0 credit**

Emphasis will be placed upon diagnosis and treatment planning, occlusion and the periodontic, endodontic, and implant considerations in Fixed Prosthetic treatment, and an opportunity to integrate all the disciplines into a "Total Clinical Approach." A differentiation will be made in covering philosophy and techniques with **Advanced** "Esthetic", "Crown and Bridge", "Periodontal Prosthesis" and "Implant" cases. Time will be spent on both direct and indirect Veneers, Tooth Preparation based on restorative material selection, and on Temporization techniques and utilization of Temporary Acrylic and Bis-GMA materials for both large and small Provisional Crowns and Bridges. Selected cases will be presented from start to finish and will include functional impact on esthetic design of cases.

***\*This course is required for those pursuing a concentration in prosthodontics***

**RDN 853      Advanced Prosthodontics for the General Dentist – 1.0 Credit**

This course exposes the student to an array of advanced topics in prosthodontics not currently presented to great extent in the core curriculum. Topics include diagnosis and treatment planning for the complex prosthodontics patient, including when to refer to a specialist; dentofacial esthetics and concepts of occlusion as a basis for nonconformative restorative treatment; all-ceramic systems and their indications; laboratory communication and shade selection; digital dentistry; a review of complete denture concepts; overdentures and attachments; and implant treatment in the esthetic zone. The class meets once a month for eight sessions over two semesters. It is a required course for those pursuing a concentration in prosthodontics.

***\*Spring 2026 registration is only open to those who registered for this course in Fall 2025.***

**PER 914      Post Graduate Treatment Planning – 1.0 Credit**

Although this is a Post Graduate course, students pursuing a periodontics concentration may register. PER 914 focuses on multidisciplinary treatment planning and implant dentistry through seminars involving case presentations, literature reviews, and evidence-based discussions. This course meets on select Tuesdays from 4:30PM – 6:30PM.