

Program Guidelines, Goals and Objectives —Advanced Education Program in Periodontics

A. Goals and Educational Policy

The Advanced Education Program in Postgraduate Periodontics is research-oriented. The primary long-term objective of this Program is to train clinician-scientists who desire a career in academic dentistry, research, and/or industry. The Program is designed to train dentists in the art and science of Periodontology who will be able to plan, initiate, and carry out a research program in a field relevant to Periodontics. A mission of the program is also to train periodontists wishing to establish a private practice of Periodontics, who are capable of contributing to, as well as critically analyzing, the clinical and research literature in periodontics and the biomedical sciences. It is expected that program graduates will admirably and ethically serve their patients and society, and that their activities will reflect favorably upon themselves, their training institutions, and their profession.

B. Program Goals: Biomedical Sciences

The research orientation of the Program requires that postgraduate students acquire a foundation in biomedical sciences that is provided by advanced level courses reflective of currently available information. Education in the biomedical sciences provides the scientific basis needed to understand and carry out the diagnostic and therapeutic skills gained during training in clinical periodontics.

The objectives of formal instruction in the Biomedical Sciences are to enable students to:

- a. identify patients at risk for periodontal diseases and employ suitable preventive and/or interceptive treatment;
- b. diagnose and treat patients with periodontal diseases according to scientific principles and knowledge of current concepts of etiology, pathogenesis, and patient management; and
- c. evaluate critically the scientific literature, update their knowledge base, and evaluate pertinent scientific and technological issues as they arise.

These objectives will be accomplished through instruction provided in each of the following areas:

- a. developmental, gross, surgical, microscopic and ultrastructural anatomy and physiology of tissues of the oral cavity and related structures, with special emphasis on the periodontium;

- b. the microbial ecology of the oral flora and the microbiologic aspects of periodontal diseases, caries and other oral diseases;
- c. the role of infectious processes in oral diseases;
- d. the role of immunologic processes in oral health and oral diseases;
- e. the histopathology, pathogenesis and natural history of periodontal diseases;
- f. the epidemiology of periodontal diseases;
- g. the mechanisms of inflammation and wound healing, especially as these areas relate to the biochemistry and molecular biology of epithelium, and hard and soft connective tissue;
- h. the concepts of molecular biology and the molecular basis of genetics;
- i. the etiology and pathogenesis of caries;
- j. principles of nutrition, especially as they relate to patient evaluation, disease processes and wound healing;
- k. principles of biostatistics, research design and research methods;
- l. scientific writing;
- m. critical evaluation of the research literature;
- n. dental implants, including relevant information in biomaterials, bone physiology and histology;
- o. behavioral science, including communication skills with patients and health professionals, and positive modification of behavior, attitudes and habits.

C. Program Goals: Clinical Sciences

Clinical training will be provided to enable postgraduate students to:

- a. collect, organize, analyze and interpret data;
- b. interpret radiographs as they relate to the diagnosis of periodontal diseases and dental implants;
- c. formulate a diagnosis and a prognosis;

- d. develop a comprehensive treatment plan;
- e. understand and discuss a rationale for the indicated therapy;
- f. evaluate critically the results of therapy;
- g. communicate effectively to patients the nature of their periodontal health status and treatment needs;
- h. communicate effectively with dental and other health care professionals, interpret their advice and integrate this information into the treatment of the patient;
- i. integrate the current concepts of other disciplines into periodontics;
- j. organize, develop, implement and evaluate periodontal disease control programs for patients;
- k. organize, develop, implement and evaluate a patient recall program and provide supportive periodontal therapy;
- l. utilize allied dental personnel effectively;
- m. organize, develop and implement an infection control program for a dental practice setting;
- n. demonstrate proper professional and ethical conduct.
- o. utilize principles of Evidence based dentistry in formulating treatment plan relevant to the patient medical and dental history. Evidence based dentistry is an approach to oral care that requires comprehensive assessment of the evidence of the best treatment option that provides long term successful treatment outcomes for patients.
- p. demonstrate skills and knowledge to review the literature using evidence-based practice principles (or “searching publication databases and appraisal of the evidence”)
- q. searching publication database and literature appraisal for best evidence to answer patient-focused clinical questions.
- r. to understand behavioral sciences especially as they affect patient behavior modification and communication skills with patients and health professionals

Case Type and Documentation

The program is designed such that each student completes an adequate number and variety of acceptable fully documented and treated cases to a level that (a) periodontal

health is achieved, (b) initiating and contributory factors in the etiology of periodontal disease are controlled, and (c) a schedule for supportive periodontal therapy is organized for the patients. Such cases will include all case types, but will reflect a majority of case types III and IV, (moderate to advanced disease), as defined by The American Academy of Periodontology. It is the intent of the program that students treat a variety of patients with different periodontal diseases, including chronic periodontitis, aggressive periodontitis, periodontitis associated with systemic disease, necrotizing ulcerative periodontitis and refractory periodontitis. It is anticipated that at least 40 fully documented cases will be completed by each resident. Including patients referred for prescribed surgical procedures, it is expected that approximately 200-300 surgical procedures will be performed.

An ongoing record of the number and variety of such clinical experiences accomplished by each student will be maintained by the Resident and the Program Director. This ongoing record includes periodontal diagnosis, case type, periodontal treatment, as well as the patient's age, sex, and health status. Residents are required to track their clinical accomplishments using an electronic spreadsheet that is continuously available to the Program Director, and discussed formally and in detail with the Director at the end of each semester. All of this information is tracked by the School of Dental Medicine clinical computer system.

Prior faculty approval of *all* patient treatment plans is required prior to *any* treatment. This is a program policy, regardless of whether the patient will be a fully documented comprehensive case, referred for a specific surgical procedure, or if non-surgical methods will be used.

The educational program provides clinical training for the student to the level of proficiency. This includes, but is not limited to, the following treatment methods (this includes an in-depth knowledge of the rationale, advantages and disadvantages of each treatment modality):

- a. scaling and root planing;
- b. the adjunctive use of chemotherapeutic agents to prevent, treat and/or control periodontal diseases including, but not limited to, local, topical and systemic medications and their delivery systems;
- c. gingivectomy/gingivoplasty;
- d. gingival/mucoperiosteal flaps, including gingival flap procedures, apically positioned flaps and coronally positioned flaps;
- e. periodontal osseous resective surgery (osteoplasty and ostectomy);
- f. root resection in the management of periodontal disease;

- g. tooth extraction in the course of periodontal therapy;
- h. periodontal regenerative therapies, including bone or bone substitute grafts and guided tissue regeneration;
- i. occlusal treatment to include occlusal adjustment; selective grinding; stabilization/splinting, including bite-guard therapy;
- j. management of endodontic-periodontal lesions, with treatment performed in conjunction with endodontic consultation; and
- k. functional and esthetic periodontal procedures including gingival augmentation/ridge augmentation, as well as gingival, connective tissue and pedicle grafts.

The educational program also is designed to provide in-depth didactic instruction and clinical training to the level of competency in oral medicine, as defined in each of the following areas:

- a. Didactic instruction, including:
 - 1. Those aspects of medicine and pathology related to the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and management of periodontal diseases and other conditions in the oral cavity;
 - 2. Mechanisms, interactions and effects of drugs used in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of periodontal and other oral diseases;
 - 3. Mechanisms, interactions and effects of therapeutic agents used in the management of systemic diseases that may influence the progression of periodontal diseases or the management of patients with periodontal diseases;
 - 4. Clinical and laboratory assessment of patients with specific instruction in physical diagnosis, laboratory diagnosis of metabolic and infectious diseases, and oral pathology; and
 - 5. Knowledge, prevention and management of periodontal diseases and other interrelated diseases or conditions, such as periodontal-systemic interrelationships.
- b. Clinical training in oral medicine also includes:
 - 1. Periodontal treatment of older adult patients;

2. Periodontal treatment of medically-compromised patients; and
 3. Management of non-plaque related diseases and disorders of the periodontium.
- c. Periodontal residents also will be familiar with treatment, in a hospital setting, of patients with periodontal disease.

The educational program also is designed to provide in-depth didactic instruction and clinical training to the level of competency in dental implants, as defined in each of the following areas:

- a. Didactic instruction in implants:
1. The historical development of dental implants;
 2. The biological basis for dental implants and principles of implant biomaterials and bioengineering;
 3. The indications and contraindications for dental implants of various designs and characteristics;
 4. The prosthetic requirements of dental implants;
 5. The pre-surgical examination and treatment planning for the use of dental implants;
 6. The surgical placement of the implant site;
 7. the surgical placement of dental implants;
 8. The evaluation of peri-implant tissues and the management of implant complications;
 9. The maintenance of dental implants; and
 10. the appropriate sterile or aseptic technique for the placement of dental implants.
- b. Clinical training in dental implants consists of:
1. **a. Implant site development to include hard and soft tissue preservation and reconstruction, including ridge augmentation and sinus floor elevation;**

2. Surgical preparation of the implant site;
3. Surgical placement of implants; and
4. Management of peri-implant tissues.
5. **Provisionalization of dental implants.**
6. **facilitates immediate or early loading protocols.**

The educational program also is designed to provide training in the methods of pain and anxiety control to achieve:

- a. **In-depth knowledge in all areas of minimal, moderate and deep sedation as prescribed by the *ADA Guidelines for Teaching Pain Control and Sedation to Dentists and Dental Students*; and**
- b. **Clinical training to the level of competency in adult minimal enteral and moderate parenteral sedation as prescribed by the *ADA Guidelines for Teaching Pain Control and Sedation to Dentists and Dental Students* .**

The educational program provides instruction in the following interdisciplinary areas:

- a. The treatment in a hospital setting of patients with periodontal disease;
- b. The management of temporomandibular disorders including:
 1. **the management of orofacial pain to a level of understanding;**
 2. radiographic interpretation, differential diagnosis, treatment planning, symptomatic treatment, occlusal appliances, and referral when indicated; and
 3. concepts related to more advanced forms of therapy and coordination of this therapy with other disciplines.
- c. **Orthodontic procedures in conjunction with periodontal therapy to a level of understanding;**
- d. **Surgical exposure of teeth for orthodontic purposes, to a level of understanding; and**
- e. **Management of endodontic-periodontal lesions to a level of understanding; treatment should be provided in consultation with the individuals who will assume the responsibility for the completion of the case or supervision of endodontics therapy.**

A goal of the program also is to provide training for the student to be familiar with the management of a periodontal practice, and to obtain teaching experience, including experience in clinical instruction as well as presenting lectures and conducting seminars for predoctoral students. Teaching in the undergraduate dental student clinics also is

required by the periodontics postgraduate program. **The teaching curriculum must not exceed 10% of the total program time.**

D. Evaluation and Outcomes Assessment

Residents are evaluated on the basis of performance on written and oral examinations of materials presented in didactic courses, as well as on clinical proficiency. Although clinical performance feedback is offered on a daily basis, the Postgraduate Faculty Promotions Committee formally evaluates the clinical competency of each resident, and relates their progress relative to their stage in the program, at least once each semester. The evaluated competencies include:

General

clinical demeanor	radiographic diagnostic skills
utility of clinic time	patient management
general organization	periodontal case reports
clinical diagnosis	clinical photography
application of didactic training to clinic	
ethics and professional conduct	

Nonsurgical therapy

instrumentation	instrument sharpening
pain control	ability to stimulate patient plaque control
occlusal therapy	tissue management
selection of pharmacological agents	

Surgical therapy

tissue management	conceptualization and procedure planning
osseous management	patient management and pain control
suturing technique	postoperative instructions and management

Specific procedures

Evaluations are based upon a standard similar to that expected of an expert in periodontics *per* the American Board of Periodontology Part II guidelines: Residents judged to be proficient/competent/exposed and who possess familiarity to in-depth knowledge in subject areas as defined by the ADA Commission on Accreditation will be considered for graduation/completion of the clinical phase of the program. Those subject areas are delineated in more depth in the syllabus for PER912 (Advanced Periodontics Clinic) and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Treatment planning (diagnosis, patient management, radiography)
- Nonsurgical therapy (oral hygiene instr., root planing/scaling, occlusal therapy)
- Gingivectomy, gingivoplasty, and soft tissue revision
- Flap surgery (repositioned, apically repositioned, coronally repositioned)

PER 603	Seminars in Periodontal Biology (2 credits) (length of program / one cycle of 6 semesters)
PER 914	Postgraduate Treatment Planning (1 credit)
PER 916	Conjoint Clinical Sciences (0.5 credit)
PER 917	Critical Analysis of Literature in Periodontics (1 credit)
CLD 946	Implant Dentistry for Postdoctoral Students (1.5 credits)
CLD 947	Seminars in Implant Dentistry (0.5 credit)
CLD948	Implant Dentistry Tutorial (1.0 credit)
CLD 949	Implant Dentistry Literature Review (1.0 credit)
CLD 950	Interdisciplinary Patient Care Seminars (0.5 credit)

Required Clinical Sciences Didactic Course for all Periodontics Postgraduate Residents (First Year Only):

PER 910	Advanced Periodontics Tutorial (1 credit; 2 semesters)
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Required Clinical Sciences Didactic Courses for all Periodontics Postgraduate Residents (One-time Registration):

PER 907	Hospital Anesthesiology/Conscious Sedation (4 credit hours; 1 semester)
PER 978	Seminar in Dental Pharmacology (0.5 credit)
ORB 545	Dynamics of Bone (2.0 credits)
ODS 514	Anatomy and Physiology of the Masticatory System (3.0 credits)
ODS 962	Oral Diagnosis and Oral Medicine (1.0 credit).
ODS 535	Advanced Oral Pathology (2 credits)
OSC 506	Biomaterials (1 credit)
OSC 518	Biostatistics/Biostatistics Laboratory (4 credits)
PHI/GSC 640	Graduate Professional Ethics (2 credits) <i>or</i> PER916 Ethics seminar series
CLD 555	Head and Neck Anatomy (1 credit)
RDN 936	Periodontal Prosthetics (1 credit)
RDN 905	Restorative Dental Implants (1 credit)

Course options will be determined in conjunction with the Program Director to accommodate the individual needs and research goals of the resident.

Basic Sciences Courses for Periodontics/Ph.D or Periodontics/M.S. Residents

Additional in-depth didactic training in; 1) Immunology, 2) Molecular Biology and Genetics, 3) Microbiology and Microbial Physiology, and 4) Biochemistry and Cellular Biology is a requirement of the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics. This training will be provided through comprehensive, graduate level courses in consultation with each resident's graduate (Ph.D. / M.S.) and thesis committees.

Residents have the freedom to choose among the various courses in each of those subjects that may be offered by the School of Dental Medicine, the School of Medicine

and Biomedical Sciences, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Kaleida Health System/Buffalo General Hospital, and other graduate Departments. Review of course syllabi, where indicated, and approval of the selection of basic science courses will be performed after consideration of each Resident's research program, research interests, and performance. *Approval of each basic science course must be obtained from the Program Director for fulfillment of clinical program basic sciences requirements.*

Examples of basic science courses that may be considered are as follows:

Immunology

ORB 531	Oral Immunology (2 credits)
MIC 512	Fundamentals of Immunology (4 credits)
OS 504	Oral Immunology (2 credits)

Molecular Biology and Genetics

BIO 504	Advanced Molecular Genetics (4 credits)
BIO 500	Bioinformatics and Genomic Analysis (4 credits)
BCH 508	Gene Expression (2 credits)
MIC 643	Molecular Virology (3 credits)
PHC 517	Prin. Human Genome, Pharmacogenomics, and Bioinformatics (2 credits)
BIO 501	Advanced Biological Chemistry (4 credits)
BCH 508	Gene Expression/Genomics/Bioinformatics (2 credits)
ORB 509	Biochemistry and Genetics of Oral Diseases (2 credits)

Microbiology and Microbial Physiology

ORB 517	Oral Microbial Ecology (2 credits)
MIC 502	Medical and Oral Microbiology (3 credits)
MIC 647	Microbial Pathology and Immunobiology (3 credits)
MIC 624	Modern Topics in Bacterial Pathogenesis (2 credits)
MIC 501	Graduate Microbiology (6 credits)

Biochemistry (with Molecular Biology) and Cellular Biology

BMS 501	Cellular Biology I (4 credits)
ORB 500	Bioengineering in Dentistry (2 credits)
PMY 550	Receptor Pharmacology (2 credits)
BCH 503	Biochemical Principles (4 credits)
ORB 510	Saliva and Salivary Glands in Health and Disease (2 credits)
BIO 505	Advanced Cellular and Developmental Biology (4 credits)
BMS 503	Principles of Biochemistry (4 credits)
BCH 512	Developmental Genomics (2 credits)

BCH 507 Protein Structure/Function/Proteomics/Bioinformatics (2 credits)

Research and Laboratory

PER/ORB 651 Research

PER/ORB 651 Thesis Guidance

ORB 519 Critical Analysis of Literature in Oral Biology (for Ph.D. students)

OS 512 Research Design (for M.S. students)

Please note that while matriculating for a graduate degree, the requirements of such programs will have course requirements that are distinct from those noted above; in some cases, there will be overlap.

Additional Program Requirements

1) There are lectures, short courses, and demonstrations given at various times throughout the year that will be announced by memoranda from the office of the Director of Postgraduate Periodontology. Seminar series include:

Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences Seminar Series

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Seminar Series

Department of Oral Biology Seminar Series

Attendance at those functions is required.

2) Clinic time is scheduled throughout the year. Specific instructors, assistants and hygienists are assigned to staff the graduate clinic during these periods. Attendance at all of the clinics is mandatory, regardless of whether patients have canceled or disappointed. If necessary, the School of Dental Medicine will provide appropriate patients at these times. All absences from scheduled clinic time must be approved in advance by the Director of Postgraduate Periodontics.

3) The teaching requirement is satisfied through PER 927 (Supervised Teaching in Periodontics). Periodontal residents are assigned to Vertical Tier Teaching Groups (Junior and Senior dental students). The teaching requirement (3 hours per week for 4 semesters) is arranged in conjunction with the Director of Postgraduate Periodontics and the Chair, Department of Periodontology.

4) Successful completion of the American Academy of Periodontology *In-Service Examination*; a minimum passing score of 70% is required by the Program. The examination *must* be taken in the spring semester of all years the resident is enrolled in the program.

5) Successful completion of the Oral Examination (Case Presentation and Oral Medicine/Oral Pathology Examination) given by the Department of Periodontology at the

conclusion of the fourth clinical year (analogous to components of the previous and current American Board of Periodontology Part 2 Examinations).

6) Successful completion of the research component of the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics (determined by conferral of the M.S. or Ph.D. degree, or prearranged postdoctoral research project) as indicated upon program matriculation.

F. Program Length

The program will be judged complete for any individual when clinical proficiency is demonstrated, all program requirements are met, and when a substantial research program suitable for publication and degree conferral is completed, as noted above. A resident in either the combined Ph.D. or M.S. Periodontics programs will be considered to have completed the clinical program when these clinical requirements are met, *and* when the requirements for the Ph.D. or M.S. programs (or pre-approved postdoctoral research project) are satisfied. The combined programs are expected to require a minimum of three years (Periodontics/M.S.), and may extend to four or more years for combined Periodontics/Ph.D. programs, depending on student progress and nature of the research problem.

Students with advanced standing may complete the program in fewer years, based on the demonstration of clinical competence as judged for all students.

Patient care in the Graduate Periodontics Clinic generally occurs on Tuesdays and Thursday (with Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings available for periodontal and/or implant surgical procedures), beginning in early August, and operating through the end of June. An optional summer clinic also operates from the end of June through mid-August. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday mornings generally are used for didactic coursework and research, but senior residents may have the opportunity to provide additional patient care on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays as well, depending on the nature of their research projects. Hospital rotations are usually scheduled on Wednesdays or Fridays. *Residents are required to be present in the clinic regardless of patient cancellations or disappointments*, unless absences are previously approved by the Program Director. Academic calendars will be distributed well in advance of each semester by the University Administration and the School of Dental Medicine, and all residents are required to be present in the Postgraduate Clinics during all times the clinics are in session. In general, unexcused non-emergency clinical absences will be rectified through extension of the clinical program.

G. Program Admissions Criteria

The academic and research orientation of the Program requires that postgraduate residents acquire a foundation in biomedical sciences that is provided by advanced level courses reflective of currently available information. Education in the biomedical

sciences provides the scientific basis needed to understand and carry out the diagnostic and therapeutic skills gained during training in clinical periodontics.

All applicants must:

1. Possess the D.D.S., D.M.D., or equivalent degree.
2. Be accepted by the Postgraduate Admissions Committee, Department of Periodontology. The Admissions Committee members currently are the Director of Postgraduate Periodontics; the Chair of the Department of Periodontology; and one additional periodontics faculty member having postgraduate teaching responsibilities.
3. Concurrently apply to, and be accepted by, the appropriate department or program that will administer the research component (M.S. or Ph.D.) of the program.
4. Foreign applicants must obtain a TOEFL score of 550 or above (written exam), 217 on the electronic (computer) version, or 79 on the Internet version. Note that this is a minimum requirement.

Admission preference will be given to applicants with:

1. A strong record of academic achievement, and who intend to pursue a full-time career in academics or research.
2. A significant record of accomplishments supporting a career goal involving academics or research; *e.g.*, research fellowships obtained during collegiate or undergraduate dental school training; teaching experience; letters of recommendation documenting an interest in research or academics; *etc.*.
3. A Dental Medicine class ranking within the upper 20%.
4. Have significant research experience supported by scientific publications or previous conferral of an M.S. or Ph.D. degree.

Admission with advanced standing

Admission of students with advanced standing will be based on the same standards of achievement required by students regularly enrolled in the program. The intent of Admission with Advanced Standing is for transfer students to receive an appropriate curriculum that results in the same standards of competence required by students regularly enrolled in the program, (e.g., a student enrolled in the Visiting Scholars Program who attends University at Buffalo postgraduate seminar courses may be offered credit for those courses in the event that he or she later applies to and is accepted into the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics). It is anticipated that graduates of foreign

training programs will not routinely receive advanced standing, except under exceptional circumstances.

To ensure that all enrolled students are held to the same achievement criteria, students who wish to apply for advanced standing should notify the Program Director. Following review of the student's record, the graduate periodontics faculty will determine — on an item-by-item basis — which of the program requirements, if any, should be granted advanced standing.

Applicants for admission who currently are faculty of the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine must obtain approval of their program from their Chair, Associate Dean of Graduate Education, and the University Provost. The program also requires outside program review (Department of Periodontics Chair or Program Director not affiliated with the University at Buffalo).

H. Due Process

Adjudication procedures are in compliance with the Graduate Student Handbook, which is consistent with the policies of the University at Buffalo, the Graduate School, and the School of Dental Medicine. It is the intent of those procedures to provide due process to individuals who may be involved in disciplinary procedures such as dismissal for academic or other reasons. Student Rights and Responsibilities in addition to those noted in this document also are provided in detail in the Graduate Student Handbook.

Complaints, concerns or suggestions regarding the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics normally should be directed to the Program Director. If the student believes that this is not appropriate (e.g., the complaint involves the Program Director), the matter can be discussed with any other postgraduate faculty member, the Departmental Chair, the Associate Dean for Advanced Education and Research, or the Dean. Alternatively, any student, staff, patient, or faculty member can contact the Program Ombudsman to register complaints or concerns anonymously to the Program Director. Dr. Robert E. Schifferle is the current Program Ombudsman.

The School of Dental Medicine encourages the timely resolution of all complaints regarding any Advanced Education Program. Residents have the right to directly contact the Commission on Dental Accreditation per American Dental Association Guidelines, “The Commission on Dental Accreditation will review complaints that relate to a program’s compliance with the accreditation standards. The Commission is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dental and dental-related education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for individuals in matters of admissions, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff, or students. A copy of the appropriate accreditation standard and/or the Commission’s policy and procedures for submission may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago IL 60611-2678 or by calling 1-800-621-8099 extension 4653.”

I. Miscellaneous

Since the program requires full-time concentration, outside employment such as dental practice is not permitted. This is an educational policy and is in effect regardless of granting agency policies that may allow such employment.

Students who matriculate in the combined Periodontics/Ph.D. programs must remain in the research program to qualify for financial support from granting agencies. Transfer to an M.S. program or non-degree program may jeopardize continuation of funding.

Completion of the research requirements (i.e., conferral of the Ph.D. or M.S. degrees), or completion of a previously defined postdoctoral program (for residents already possessing a Ph.D. degree) is required for granting the Certificate in Periodontology.

One of the goals of the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics is to prepare graduates for the American Academy of Periodontology Board Examination. We believe that obtaining Diplomate status (Board Certification) will enhance your career, enable you to become a better clinician, scientist, or researcher, facilitate continuing periodontal education, and reflect well upon you and your training program. The Advanced Education Program in Periodontics will encourage your preparation for the Board Examination through appropriate seminar courses (which have Board preparation as a specific goal), taking the American Academy of Periodontology In-Service Examination (analogous to the Part I Board Examination) during all program years, and completion of the Program Exit Examination (analogous to the Part II Board Examination).

Community service is expected from all students during the program, and demonstration of service activities is a program requirement according to the interests of each student. Such activities include, but are not limited to, provision of free dental care via participation in the School of Dental Medicine Give Kids a Smile program; screening of patients for the Northeast Regional Board Examination; volunteering for on-call duties for emergencies during summer sessions; and provision of language translation and interpretation for non-English-speaking patients.

Student membership in the American Academy of Periodontology is a Program requirement. A laptop computer, as well as a clinical camera and associated photographic equipment are also required, as is completion of both the Basic (BLS) and Advanced (ACLS) Cardiac Life Support Courses. BLS is provided by the School of Dental Medicine on a yearly basis; ACLS is offered at hospital locations at hospital locations periodically during the year.

Additional training in Periodontics is available through a Postgraduate Year following completion of the clinical certificate program. This has allowed students to obtain additional experience as well as the freedom to perform procedures that are of particular interest. If you are interested in participating in a Postgraduate Year, you must formally

apply (see the Program Director for the application forms). If there is interest, you should consult with the Director as soon as possible, but no later than the end of your second clinical year, since the number of available positions will depend on current enrollment and the number of incoming students.

Goals and Educational Policies are subject to change, and may be modified as required to meet changes in accreditation, departmental, and University policies and guidelines.

The Advanced Education Program in Periodontics at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine is fully accredited by the Council on Dental Education, American Dental Association.