



Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of The University of Western Australia Doctor of Dental Medicine

November 2021

Updated May 2022

Executive summary

Program provider	The University of Western Australia
Program/qualification name	Doctor of Dental Medicine
Program/qualification abbreviation	DMD
Program/qualification code	90860
Head office address, including State	17 Monash Avenue, Nedlands WA 6009
Campus	Oral Health Centre of WA
Program length	4 Years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	N/A
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework level	9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation standards for dental practitioner programs (Approved August 2020)
Date of site evaluation	November 2021 (Paper-based review)
Date of ADC decision	4 March 2022
Type of accreditation	Material Change
Accreditation start date	1 January 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2025

Background

The University of Western Australia's (UWA's) Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program was last reviewed at a site visit in May 2018. The program was accredited without conditions until 31 December 2025.

In August 2021 the Australian Dental Council (ADC) was informed of a curriculum rewrite of the Medical Sciences major in the Bachelor of Medical Sciences, which provides a pathway for students who have successfully completed the Medical Sciences major to proceed straight into Year 2 of the DMD program. The current curriculum was due to expire in late 2021. Students progressing along this pathway will receive one year's credit towards the Doctor of Medicine program.

The University of Western Australia has advised that the new curriculum will be implemented from January 2022. At its meeting on 10 August 2021 the Accreditation Committee resolved that the revised curriculum was a material change and that a limited paper-based review of the change be undertaken against Standards 3, 4 and 5.

Overview of evaluation

An ADC Accreditation Team (AT) conducted a virtual limited paper-based review against Standards 3, 4 and 5. Two teleconferences were held on 25 October 2021 and 24 November 2021 to consider the documentation provided by UWA. The AT reviewed UWA's submission against the Standards, attached appendices and additional information requested following the AT's first teleconference. The review was undertaken against the revised Accreditation Standards that came into effect on 1 January 2021.

Key findings

The evidence considered by the AT indicates that UWA's Doctor of Dental Medicine program produces graduates competent to practice as entry level general dentists.

In reviewing the documentation provided for this material change, the AT did have some concerns and lack of clarity about certain areas.

The AT is unclear about whether any orientation is provided to supervisors/tutors in external clinics, which raises concerns about whether external clinical staff are aware of the required learning outcomes and assessment protocols. It was further unclear to the AT whether there are formal agreements in place between the University and external clinical placement providers, which would ensure that there are adequate resources available for a sustainable clinical experience that enables students to achieve the required professional competencies.

The AT also notes there is minimal inter-disciplinary collaboration between students and non-dental health professionals whilst on clinical placement.

The provider's submission lacked detail pertaining to the processes and criteria in place for student admission into the DMD program from the Dental Sciences major-Integrated Dental Sciences (MJD-IDS) program. Limited evidence was also included to demonstrate the level of academic support available to students who may be experiencing academic difficulties. The AT is also unclear how the UWA Dental School ensures that students are part of decision-making processes for the program.

The AT acknowledges that the University is recruiting for a suitably experienced and qualified staff member in public health and health promotion and recognises that securing someone with this expertise may be difficult.

The AT has also identified a small number of areas for ongoing improvement, which are outlined at the end of this report.

ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that The University of Western Australia's Doctor of Dental Medicine program maintain accreditation until **31 December 2025** subject to the following conditions:

1. To meet Standard 3 – Program of study, the UWA Dental School is requested to provide details of the following by **14 April 2022**:
 - a) the orientation given to supervisors/tutors in external placement clinics;
 - b) agreements in place between the University and external clinical placement providers, which demonstrates that adequate resources are in place to ensure and sustain the quality of clinical experience to enable students to achieve the required professional competencies; and

The ADC has determined part b (only) of this condition has now been met.

- c) a formalised and systematic approach to interdisciplinary collaboration with other non-dental health professionals.
2. To meet Standard 4 – The student experience, the University is requested to provide evidence by **14 April 2022** detailing:
 - a) the process and criteria in place for student admission from the MJD-IDS into the DMD program;

The ADC has determined part a (only) of this condition has now been met.

- b) academic support programs that are available to students who may be experiencing academic difficulties; and
 - c) how the UWA Dental School ensures involvement and participation of DMD students in decision-making processes for the program.

The ADC has determined part c (only) of this condition has now been met.

The following monitoring requirement is imposed:

An update is requested by **30 March 2022** on the recruitment mentioned by the provider of a public health and health promotion teaching staff member.