



**Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of
Griffith University
Bachelor of Dental Health Science/Master of Dentistry**

6-7 September 2022

[Updated August 2023]

1. Executive summary

Program provider	Griffith University
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Dental Health Science / Master of Dentistry
Program/qualification abbreviation	BDHS/MDent
Program/qualification code	094385M and 094389G
Head office address, including State	School of Medicine and Dentistry Gold Coast Campus Griffith University QLD 4222
Campus	Gold Coast
Program length	5 Years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	N/A
Qualification type	Master's Degree
Australian Qualifications Framework level	Level 9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation standards for dental practitioner programs (Approved August 2020)
Date of site evaluation	6-7 September 2022
Date of ADC decision	2 December 2022
Type of accreditation	Reaccreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2023
Accreditation end date	31 December 2029

Background

A site visit was last conducted by the ADC in 2015 to review the Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Science /Graduate Diploma of Dentistry program. In 2016, Griffith University notified the ADC that this program was to be replaced by the Bachelor of Dental Health Science/Master of Dentistry (BDHS/MDent) from 2018. The ADC undertook a paper-based review of the proposed new program. The outcome of this was to reaccredit the BDHS/MDent program for five years without conditions until **31 December 2022**. One monitoring requirement was placed on the program, which was subsequently met.

A curriculum restructure of the Dentistry program was undertaken in 2019, which was implemented in 2020. The curriculum content was not changed. The program comprises two combined programs, the Bachelor of Dental Health Science (3 years full-time) and Master of Dentistry (2 years full-time). Only those graduates from the BDHS can enrol in the MDent program.

Completion of the combined five-year program enables graduates to register with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as dentists.

The School of Dentistry and Oral Health amalgamated with the School of Medicine in April 2021 creating the new School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Overview of evaluation

An ADC Accreditation Team (AT) conducted a site visit on 6 and 7 September 2022 to the School of Medicine and Dentistry at Griffith University's Gold Coast Campus. The reaccreditation visit for the Bachelor of Dental Health Science/ Master of Dentistry program was completed in combination with the reaccreditation of the Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics program, which is the subject of a separate report. The review was undertaken against the new Accreditation Standards that came into effect from 1 January 2021. The AT requested additional information and clarification prior to the visit following its teleconferences held on 27 July 2022.

To verify the information evidenced in the provider's submission, the AT interviewed a range of key stakeholders including.

- Dean and Head of School
- Program Director
- Year coordinators of program
- Coordinator of clinical teaching
- Clinical demonstrators
- Permanent and casual academic staff
- Professional and Student Services staff
- School administration and student support staff
- Current students across all year levels
- Recent program graduates
- Outplacement providers
- Learning and Teaching Committee members
- Members of Assessment Working Party

The AT also inspected clinical and learning and teaching facilities within the Griffith Health Centre. The findings in this report are based on the AT's assessment of the material outlined above, interview evidence and a review of the facilities at the time of the site visit.

Key findings

Evaluation of the Bachelor of Dental Health Science/Master of Dentistry program demonstrates that the provider is well placed to deliver the program. The program is well resourced financially with sufficient teaching staff. The clinical facilities used for teaching and provision of patient care are excellent. All students train on site and are supported by a fully equipped and recently renovated dental laboratory, simulation clinic, research laboratories and a state-of-the-art anatomy and pathology facility.

The AT was impressed with the staff's commitment and enthusiasm to the program and students. The staffing profile has not been negatively impacted as a result of the recent restructure, nor were any deficiencies observed in the quantity or range of clinical experiences made available to students.

Evidence gathered throughout the review noted that the impacts of COVID-19 on the program's deliverables have been minimal. The School is operating mostly in the same manner as pre-COVID with face-to-face lectures and practical classes delivered to students on campus.

Whilst the AT is confident that the School is well placed and resourced to further integrate cultural safety throughout the program, interview evidence highlighted the need for additional work in this area. The AT felt quite confident that the School is aware of this and is also actively working towards improving this. It was further noted that whilst students have exposure to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, this was found to be limited. An increase in student placements in regional clinics where there are potentially higher numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients would help in this area.

The program has put in place mechanisms to receive external input into the design and management of the program from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, integration and delivery of this into the program is at its early stages with further continued work around this is still required.

ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that Griffith University's Bachelor of Dental Health Science/Master of Dentistry program is reaccredited for a period of seven (7) years from **1 January 2023** until **31 December 2029** subject to the following condition:

1. In order to fully meet Standard 6 – Cultural Safety, the provider is requested to submit by **30 June 2023**:
 - (a) evidence of the progress of integration and delivery of the cultural safety curriculum integration across all years of the program;
 - (b) progress made around external input into the program by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples; and
 - (c) details of clinical placement opportunities that expose all students to treat Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients in a culturally safe way.

The ADC has determined that this condition has been met.