

Oral Science, PhD

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in oral science requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit, including advanced coursework and original research that culminates in the successful defense of a dissertation. Students must pass a comprehensive examination, prepare and gain approval of a research project, and complete and successfully defend a dissertation that describes the results of their research. Completion of the program usually requires four to six years of full-time study. Students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00 to earn the degree.

Dental Public Health Distinction Track

The PhD in oral science is a research-intensive degree program. Students may elect, with program approval, to follow a special track dedicated to dental public health.

In addition to an in-depth research project leading to a dissertation, students must complete a minimum of 72 s.h. that includes a minimum of 30 s.h. of coursework. Required courses include seminars in dental research, dental science research methodology, statistical methods for dental research, research design in dentistry, and scholarly integrity and responsible conduct in research. The dental public health track will have additional required courses.

Students also have the opportunity to take elective courses that are chosen to supplement their specific area of research. Most courses are completed in the first two years of the program. Students must then pass a comprehensive examination. Thereafter, the focus is on continuing a line of research that leads to peer-reviewed publications and a dissertation. Students must then pass a final exam. The average time to program completion is five years.