# Preventive and Community Dentistry

## Interim Head
- John J. Warren

**Graduate degree:** MS in dental public health  
**Faculty:** [https://dentistry.uiowa.edu/directory](https://dentistry.uiowa.edu/directory)  
**Website:** [https://dentistry.uiowa.edu/pcd](https://dentistry.uiowa.edu/pcd)

The Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry educates future and practicing dental and oral health professionals, preparing them to understand and recognize:

- conditions that compromise patients;  
- social, cultural, community, and political influences on dental practice;  
- principles of preventive dentistry for individuals, groups, and communities;  
- considerations for preventing and treating oral disease in geriatric and special needs patients.

In addition to offering educational programs, the department provides patient care at the College of Dentistry and in a variety of off-campus settings. It also is home to research that advances dental public health. The department offers an MS in dental public health and the Certificate in Geriatric and Special Needs Dentistry.

## DDS Student Training

Predoctoral training in preventive, community, and geriatric dentistry is designed to increase Doctor of Dental Surgery students' awareness of preventive dental practices, aspects of dental practices affected by community factors, and care of compromised adult patients.

Community dentistry programs give students opportunities to interact with health care teams and the public in Iowa and around the world. The department conducts off-site community programs statewide, nationwide, and worldwide. It also operates the Geriatric and Special Needs Clinic, which is housed in the Dental Science Building.

Using the community dentistry programs as the classroom, DDS students observe and participate in a variety of activities that nurture their awareness of the societal obligations they must assume in order to become effective practitioners.

## Programs

### Graduate Program of Study

#### Major
- Master of Science in Dental Public Health

#### Courses
- Preventive and Community Dentistry Courses [p. 1]
- Dental Public Health Courses [p. 2]

### Preventive and Community Dentistry Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCD:8115</td>
<td>Clinical Practice and Professionalism I</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCD:8116</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Preventive Dentistry</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCD:8117</td>
<td>Cariology and Preventive Therapies</td>
<td>2 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCD:8118</td>
<td>Preventive Dentistry Assessment and Patient Care</td>
<td>4 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCD:8119</td>
<td>Clinical Practice and Professionalism II</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCD:8120</td>
<td>Introduction to Evidence-Based Dentistry I</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCD:8121</td>
<td>Introduction to Evidence-Based Dentistry II</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCD:8218</td>
<td>Critical Thinking and Evidence-Based Dentistry in Treatment Planning</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCD:8219</td>
<td>Clinical Practice and Professionalism III</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCD:8245</td>
<td>Clinical Preventive Dentistry</td>
<td>0.2 s.h.</td>
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</tbody>
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Experience providing complete prophylaxis and preventive services for college patients; application of nutrition principles and communication skills in a clinic setting. Prerequisites: PCD:8118.
PCD:8319 Clinical Practice and Professionalism IV 1 s.h.
Continuation of PCD:8219; standardized patient exercises with
chairside feedback and evaluation of communication skills;
reflection regarding application of communication skills and
behavioral science principles in patient encounters.

PCD:8355 Introduction to Geriatric Dentistry 2 s.h.
Biological, psychological, and social aspects of aging;
normal aging and disease processes associated with aging;
pathological changes that affect oral health treatment of
dental diseases and patient management. Requirements: DDS
enrollment or completion of dental hygiene program.

PCD:8360 The Practice of Dentistry in the Community I
1-2 s.h.
Issues related to role of dental professional at local and state
levels; students build skills and knowledge in development of
a community outreach dental program.

PCD:8361 The Practice of Dentistry in the Community II
1-2 s.h.
Factors that affect the practice of dentistry and the dental
profession including health care systems in the U.S. and
abroad, Medicaid/Medicare, health/dental insurance, health
care delivery systems, malpractice, role of the Iowa Dental
Board, dental workforce, and quality of care.

PCD:8489 Geriatrics and Special Needs Program  arr.
Experience in the Delta Dental of Iowa Geriatric and Special
Needs Clinic and the Geriatric Mobile Dental Unit providing
comprehensive care for medically, physically, intellectually,
and/or cognitively compromised adults, functionally
dependent elderly nursing home residents with portable
dental equipment, and other underserved populations.

PCD:8494 Extramural Rotation in Oral Health 5 s.h.
Dental care for underserved populations; community
experiences in a variety of settings including hospital-based
clinics, federally qualified health centers, community health
centers, and private practices.

PCD:8500 Dental Student Research Honors Program
Experience in conducting research. Requirements: DDS
enrollment and approval of mentor and program director.

Dental Public Health Courses

DPH:5000 Introduction to Dental Public Health 0.2 s.h.
Science, philosophy, practice of dental public health.

DPH:5001 Literature Review Methods: Dental Public
Health 0.2 s.h.
Concepts and process of literature review, particularly in area
of student's interest.

DPH:5005 Administration of Public Dental
Programs 0.2 s.h.
Application of general management concepts; practical
aspects of planning, financing, staffing, implementing,
operating, evaluating dental public health programs at
federal, state, local levels.

DPH:5006 Preventive Programs in Dental Public
Health 0.2 s.h.
Prevention and control methods for major dental
conditions, primarily dental caries and periodontal diseases;
clinical efficacy and cost-effectiveness; development of
comprehensive preventive oral health plan for a community.

DPH:5008 Field Experience in Dental Public Health  arr.
Arranged with public and voluntary health agencies according
to students' and agencies' needs.

DPH:5009 Advanced Field Experience in Dental Public
Health 1-3 s.h.
Opportunity to research, develop, and implement
programmatic objectives with local, state, national, and/or
federal agencies and organizations on an issue that is both
relevant to the student and the agency; may require off-site
visits to agencies or organizations. Prerequisites: DPH:5008.

DPH:5014 Dental Care Policy and Financing 0.2 s.h.
Dental financing and policy issues: payment mechanisms
for health care service providers, third-party prepayment
plans, salaried and public-financed programs, Medicaid and
Medicare programs, dental insurance systems, and care of the
underserved.

DPH:5016 Introduction to Statistical Computing  arr.
Use of statistical packages on a personal computer for data
management and analysis. Offered summer session.

DPH:5031 Geriatric Care 0.2 s.h.
Aging demographics; effects of aging on the human body with
emphasis on the masticatory system; diseases commonly
found among the elderly; and dental care for the elderly in
different settings.

DPH:6002 Research Protocol Seminar 0.2 s.h.
Development of a master's thesis protocol; identification of
thesis topic, review of relevant literature, development of
research methods, writing.

DPH:6003 Independent Study: Dental Public
Health 1-3 s.h.

DPH:6004 Principles of Oral Epidemiology 0-3 s.h.
Interpretation of scientific literature, with respect to the
distribution and determinants of oral diseases and conditions,
including caries, periodontal diseases, tooth loss, oral cancer,
and more.

Protocol preparation; data collection, analysis, organization;
writing, defense of research.

DPH:6017 Teaching Methods and Evaluation  arr.
Philosophies of dental education, teaching methodologies,
evaluation; focus on learning to write educational objectives,
writing and analyzing exam items.

DPH:6018 Clinical Teaching Practicum: Preventive
Dentistry 0-3 s.h.
Teaching experience in preventive dentistry clinic setting with
first-year dental students; outcomes focused on methods in
clinical teaching, evaluation, and remediation.