Creighton University School of Dentistry
Fact Sheet

Overview:
Since its start in 1905, the Creighton University School of Dentistry has graduated 5,183 students. In 2009-2010, 339 students were enrolled in the school, which has 109 full- and part-time faculty as well as numerous contributed-services faculty.

The first clinical patient treated in the present facility, the Harry N. and Maude Boyne School of Dental Science, was in July 1973 following completion of the building.

The School of Dentistry’s tuition places it as one of the most affordable private dental schools in the United States. In 2009-2010, Creighton’s tuition was approximately $7,500 per year lower than the national average of about $53,000 for private dental schools.

Many Creighton dentists continue to participate in community service as alumni, sustaining Creighton’s mission to train students to become “men and women for and with others.”

Faculty:
- Wayne W. Barkmeier D.D.S., M.S., serves as dean.
- There are three endowed chairs in the School of Dentistry:
  - The Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Endowed Chair in Operative Dentistry, held by W. Thomas Cavel, D.D.S. ’70.
  - The Dr. Oscar S. Belzer Endowed Chair in Dentistry, held by Gary H. Westerman, D.D.S.
  - The Dr. Edward J. “Eddie” and Neta DeRose Endowed Chair in Dentistry, held by James H. Howard, D.D.S., M.S.
- Student-faculty ratio is 6.1:1.
- At the forefront of their profession, School of Dentistry faculty have a national reputation for excellence and serve on various local, regional and national boards and associations.

Students:
- Creighton’s School of Dentistry received 2,740 applicants in 2010 for 85 available seats. More than 28 percent of the national applicant pool has an interest in attending the dental school.
- The undergraduate grade point average of incoming freshmen is about 3.6 on a 4.0 scale. Incoming freshmen’s average dental testing scores on a two-part dental
aptitude test were approximately 19-20 on a 30 point scale, compared to the national average of 18-19.

- Sixty-four percent of the student body comes from states without dental schools. Nearly 7 percent are from Nebraska.

- Creighton’s School of Dentistry holds state contracts with Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. These agreements provide a guaranteed number of seats or preferential access for students from these states. The school also offers Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) seats for New Mexico, North Dakota and Wyoming.

- The School of Dentistry has a chartered chapter of the American Student Dental Association. This organization promotes participation in the activities of student-directed organizations.

- The school received a $200,000 grant in 2008 to increase the number of Native Americans in dentistry. This 27-month grant, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Dental Pipeline program, targets recruitment of Native American students into the nation’s dental schools. Four freshmen are Native Americans who benefitted from the Robert Wood Johnson grant in 2009-2010.

Alumni:

- Alumni are active in providing care in all dental-care settings from general dentistry to specialties.

- School of Dentistry graduates live and work in 48 of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Curriculum:

- The dental school curriculum is focused on the development of a competent general dentist. Creighton students are prepared to enter residency programs, dental practice or continue with advanced degrees and specialty training.

- While Creighton focuses on training general dentists, 20 percent of the students go on to specialties – a figure that virtually mirrors the national average.

- A student research group provides a forum for predoctoral (students who have yet to receive their dental degrees) to participate in research seminars and projects.

- The clinic-management system in the dental school allows the students to view digital patient records and X-rays directly from monitors. This provides real-world business function experience.
A Master of Science in Oral Biology program has been newly created for the 2010 fall semester. This is an interdisciplinary research thesis program within the School of Dentistry and in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences.

Research:
Research in the School of Dentistry has enjoyed significant expansion over the last decade with growing extra-mural funding support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) and numerous foundations and multinational corporations. The school has active programs in basic biological and material science, health services and translational and clinical trials. General areas of research include:

- Basic molecular studies evaluating the role of small ribonucleic acid (miRNA) and cell cycle control molecules in cell differentiation, proliferation and function. These investigations are targeted primary at systems in the cranio-facial complex.
- Studies evaluating lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) and cytokine regulation of G proteins especially in wound healing. These investigations are learning about these processes and their relationship to periodontal disease and diabetes.
- Basic research into self-healing dental materials using microencapsulation to provide the materials with a controlled release of bioavailable remineralizing agents. These investigations could lead to dental restorative materials of greater longevity and with caries prevention properties.
- Translational and clinical research of new dental materials including investigations in dental adhesives and composite resins, dental cements, fatigue life of new materials and the clinical effectiveness of new dental therapies and devices.
- Health services research evaluating certain clinical indices as prognostic indicators for the new therapies and clinical approaches to periodontal disease.

Points of Pride:
- Creighton dental students continue to perform well on National Boards and licensing exams. Creighton graduates enjoyed an average pass rate of nearly 93 percent over the past year on regional licensing exams.
- Creighton’s dental students and faculty participate in activities that provide dental care to underprivileged adults and children and volunteer hundreds of hours of service. These activities include Omaha’s One World Community Health Center, “Give Kids a Smile” (dental education and dental services outreach for needy children), service in the Dominican Republic and Special Olympics/Special Smiles Program.