

ABSTRACT: 2019 ELAM Institutional Action Project

Project Title: The MMSc in Dental Education at Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Name and Institution: Sang E. Park, DDS, MMSc, Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Collaborators and Mentors: R. Bruce Donoff, DMD, MD, Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Topic Category: Education

Background, Significance of project: The chronic nationwide shortage of dental faculty continues to create problems for dental schools, and dental students are generally uninformed about academic dentistry as a career option. Mentorship programs can help with the issue; however, there is so much content that must be included in dental curricula that mentorship becomes an afterthought.

In addition to a program intended to interest predoctoral students in careers in dental education, Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) instituted a MMSc in Dental Education program in 2017.

Purpose/Objectives: The two-year program is intended to train leaders in dental education who can drive change and motivate students and faculty, in an area of interest to the candidate, such as public health education or establishment of new dental curricula. The program includes teaching, research, administrative, and elective experiences to create a base from which students can build their careers as dental educators.

Students may enroll in the MMSc in Dental Education concurrently with other Advanced Graduate Education programs at HSDM, and completion of concurrent programs adds at least one additional year.

Methods/Approach/Evaluation Strategy: Students must take the core courses required for all Advanced Graduate Education programs. In addition, over the course of two years, students must take elective courses in education from other Harvard schools (School of Public Health, Graduate School of Education, etc.); participate in two professional development courses from the Harvard Macy Institute; participate in predoctoral teaching and teaching observation sessions at HSDM; conduct research activities including a scholarly project, poster presentations, and grant submissions; and participate in administrative activities including attendance at administrative committee meetings and interviews with leaders in dental education.

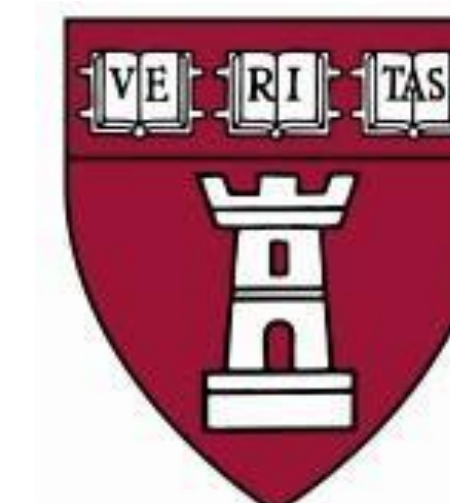
Outcomes/Results: The program is attracting increased interest and higher numbers of applicants each year. We have been admitting one student per year with two students enrolled in the program. In the current admissions cycle, we have accepted three new students to start in July 2019.

In addition, the longitudinal seminar series in dental education has been accepted as an elective course for all Advanced Graduate Education programs at HSDM. A comprehensive program guide and a curriculum roadmap have been developed. Furthermore, we formed a program advisory committee consisting of internal and external members to comprehensively evaluate the program and to formulate strategic directions.

Discussion/Conclusion with Statement of Impact/Potential Impact: We hope to produce graduates who are dedicated to dental education as a career and intend to strengthen the field as innovators who can drive change and motivate students and faculty.



The MMSc in Dental Education at Harvard School of Dental Medicine



Sang E. Park, DDS, MMSc; R. Bruce Donoff, DMD, MD
Harvard School of Dental Medicine

INTRODUCTION:

Presenting dental education as a potential career track to both predoctoral and postdoctoral students is a vital component of the effort to alleviate the problem of nationwide shortage of dental faculty. The academic program for the Harvard MMSc Program in Dental Education is based on related scientific evidence applied to educational quality, educational research, curriculum design and academic leadership.

Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) instituted a two-year MMSc in Dental Education program in 2017. The two-year program is intended to train leaders in dental education who can drive change and motivate students and faculty, in an area of interest to the candidate, such as public health education or establishment of new dental curricula. The program includes teaching, research, administrative, and elective experiences to create a base from which students can build their careers as dental educators.

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REQUIRED TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- Teaching assistant for one 6-month DMD Year 2 course (basic science or preclinical skills)
- Minimum of one lecture or speaking engagement per month, at HSDM or elsewhere, with at least three evaluations by students/audience per semester
- Minimum of two teaching observations per semester, preferably an interdisciplinary session
- Attendance at a minimum of two HMS Academy courses per semester

REQUIRED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Minimum of one grant or award application submitted per program year (award not required)
- Minimum of one poster presentation submitted for each ADEA meeting (presentation not required)

REQUIRED ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES

- Attendance at a minimum of 2 committee meetings per semester (Curriculum, Admissions, Core Clinical Faculty, Educational Quality Improvement, etc.)
- Interviews with a minimum of three leaders in dental education, at HSDM or elsewhere, in program year 2

Outcomes:

- The program is attracting increased interest and higher numbers of applicants each year. We have been admitting one student per year with two students enrolled in the program. In the current admissions cycle, we have accepted three new students to start in July 2019.
- In addition, the new longitudinal seminar series in dental education has been accepted as an elective course for all Advanced Graduate Education programs at HSDM.
- A comprehensive program guide and a curriculum roadmap have been developed.
- Furthermore, we formed a program advisory committee consisting of internal and external members to comprehensively evaluate the program and to formulate strategic directions.

Conclusion with Statement of Impact:

The faculty and curriculum of the MMSc in Dental Education program are committed to develop educational leaders to shape the future of dental education. We hope to produce graduates who are dedicated to dental education as a career and intend to strengthen the field as innovators who can drive change and motivate students and faculty.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS – 24 CREDITS INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

Electives in Education – 4 credits minimum
Biostatistics – 3 credits minimum (Year 1)
Foundations for the Advanced Dental Practitioner – 3 credits (Year 1)
Introduction to Research – 1 credit (Year 1)
AGE Research Seminar Series (must be taken each year)
Longitudinal Seminar Series in Dental Education (must be taken each year)
HSDM Research Day – Attendance and Review of Presentation (must be done each year)
Harvard Macy Courses – 2 courses, 4 credits each
Scholarly Project – 5 credits
Teaching/Mentorship, Academic Committee Participation, and Administrative Roles as determined by Program Director