

20.0 National School of Dental Therapy

20.0.1 Faculty and Staff

Director

Dwight Krauss

Dentist/Instructors

Dr. K. Anaman

Dr. J. Steel

Dr. C. Nagle (P/T)

Dr. M. Caldwell (P/T)

Dr. A. Kilistoff (P/T)

Dental Therapist/Instructors

N. Balan

J. Noreikat

P. Kowalzik

M. Sanderson

G. Burnouf (Leave of Absence)

D. King (Maternity Leave)

J. Johnson (P/T)

I., Smisko (P/T)

K. Moniuk (P/T)

Technical Engineer/Instructor

L. Neglowich

Staff

M. Ahenakew, Administrative Assistant

A. Gosselin, Executive Assistant

K. Richard, Receptionist

J. Glennon, Student Counselor

H. Walker, Elder

20.0.2 Location

National School of Dental Therapy

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www.firstnationsuniversity.ca/NSDT/Default.htm

20.1 General

20.1.1 History and Mandate

On July 1, 1995, the operating contract for the National School of Dental Therapy (NSDT) was tendered and awarded to the First Nations University of Canada (formerly Saskatchewan Indian Federated College). In affiliation with University of Saskatchewan, the College of Dentistry provides clinical and academic support for the NSDT. The climate of NSDT reflects First Nations and Inuit cultural beliefs through the employment of First Nations staff, counselor, and Elders. The learning culture reflects the University's philosophy of education.

The NSDT trains dental therapists to provide basic dental care services, support services that assist communities in assessing their own health needs, plan dental clinics, operate dental therapy programs, and promote oral health and prevention of disease through oral health promotion. Oral health promotion is provided through community health and public education with preventive programs and comprehensive dental treatment programs to reduce the incidence of tooth decay. The program familiarizes students with Aboriginal culture and values through the First Nations & Inuit Health Issues course and field clinics held in First Nations or Inuit communities. The two-year course leads to a Diploma of Dental Therapy from First Nations University of Canada.

The NSDT accepts approximately 15-20 new students each September. The School seeks highly motivated students who not only wish to enter a health career, but who also wish to make a long-term commitment to living and working in a First Nations or Inuit community. The course is challenging, and students require strong reading, writing, and studying skills. A high degree of comprehension and communication skills in English is essential. Applicants are required to have Grade 12 including Biology and English. Experience and motivation to enter a health career is considered for all applicants.

20.1.2 Admission and Regulations

Interested individuals should contact the First Nations University of Canada, National School of Dental Therapy in Prince Albert for further information or a detailed information package and application. *Application deadline is March 31st.*

Academic policies and procedures are contained in the First Nations University of Canada, National School of Dental Therapy student handbook.

20.2 Academic Program

The main focus of the program is to prepare dental therapists for employment by First Nations and Inuit Communities, and Federal and Territorial Governments. The academic year is September through June and requires students' full-time participation. The curriculum is structured over a two-year period leading to a Diploma of Dental Therapy.

Most academic subjects are completed during the first year of the course. The curriculum is divided between lectures, seminars, and pre-patient clinical practice. The second year is devoted primarily to patient care and clinic administration.

Year 1

Community Dentistry
Diagnostic Dentistry
Operative Dentistry
First Nations & Inuit Health Issues
Program Support Activities

Course notes and operations manuals for all subjects have been written specifically for this program. A tutorial program is available to assist students who require additional help in academic subjects.

Students develop their skills on mannequins and in other laboratory situations during Year 1 of the program. They are prepared to provide basic clinical dental services including recall examinations, fluoride application, provision of sealants, radiographs, local anaesthesia, silver amalgam fillings, composite (white) fillings, and the extraction of primary and permanent teeth.

Year 2

Administration
Equipment Maintenance and Repair
Operative Dentistry
Student Field Clinics

Year 2 students integrate clinical, restorative, and operative procedures in the clinic setting under the direct supervision of the NSDT clinical instructors. To qualify for graduation, a student must be able to consistently provide clinically acceptable services in a professional manner without instructor intervention.

In addition to the National School of Dental Therapy clinic, under the supervision of NSDT dental therapist/dentist instructors, students participate in a field clinic located in First Nations or Inuit communities. The field clinic provides students with the opportunity for valuable hands-on experience by working and living in these communities for an eight-week period. Completion of the field clinic is a graduation requirement.

20.3 Course Descriptions

**The passing grade in each subject area is 70%.

ADMNI

Administration I

This course promotes professionalism, good work habits, thoughtful planning and the careful execution of administrative duties. Students are informed of the organization and operational systems of the school. The course reviews information that will help students better understand their responsibilities so they can function and be evaluated accordingly.

Students are prepared to deliver an effective dental therapy program by organizing their clinics properly and maintaining necessary documents. The course also reviews the dental therapy concepts, policies and guidelines needed to manage clinics within this school and in the field.

ADMINII

Administration II

This course promotes awareness for professionalism and ethics within Dental Therapy, the dental profession as a whole and the larger community that the profession serves.

CPDI

Community Dentistry I

This course focuses on the causes and prevention of dental caries and the harmful effects of smokeless tobacco. The course will introduce the knowledge and skills required to practice preventive dentistry in the clinic, school and community.

CPDII

Community Dentistry II

This course is designed to help the student understand how and why people communicate which will enable them to teach and communicate more effectively at the individual and community level. This course includes COHI (Children's Oral Health Initiative), Classroom Teaching, and Oral Health Assessment.

Prerequisite: CPDI

CASP

Case Presentation

This course prepares students to present an all-encompassing treatment plan, which would enable the patient to make an informed decision on which treatment alternative is best for them.

Prerequisite: PATE; TPLN; OPAT; DMOR; DRAD; MEVA

DMOR

Dental Morphology, Cariology, & Histology

This course is the study of the form and function of teeth, the language of dentistry, and the difference between individual teeth. The tissues of the teeth, tooth development, occlusion, and dental caries are also studied.

DRAD

Dental Radiography

Students gain an understanding of the hazards of dental radiation and implementation of safety measures required to prevent unnecessary exposure to themselves and their patients. The student will be able to correctly expose, develop, mount, and critically assess the radiograph.

Prerequisite: DMOR

EQM I

Equipment Maintenance & Repair I

Dental Therapists often work in isolated communities where repair services are not readily available. This course prepares the therapists to effectively operate and maintain their equipment. Students learn to troubleshoot and make routine repairs.

EQM II

Equipment Maintenance & Repair II

This course focuses on students maintaining and repairing their assigned equipment for the duration of Year II with minimal to no assistance.

Prerequisite: EQMI

HNAN

Head & Neck Anatomy

Oral anatomy (head and neck) structures are taught in relation to Local Anaesthesia considerations and techniques for safe and effective patient treatment.

IIHI

First Nations & Inuit Health Issues

This is an introductory course emphasizing First Nations & Inuit perspectives on such topics as the history of health and health care, organization of health services, personal health issues, and ethical issues.

INFC

Infection Control

This subject teaches the dental therapist to maintain a clinical environment that prevents the transfer of microorganisms which produce disease (i.e. pathogens) from patient to patient and to sterilize or disinfect instruments and equipment. Students are trained to routinely employ procedures that are aimed at eliminating pathogens.

LOCA

Local Anaesthesia

Pain control using local anaesthesia is crucial to all aspects of patient care and management, especially during dental surgery. Pre/Co requisite: HNAN; DMOR

MEVA

Medical Evaluation

This course prepares students to investigate and document the medical history of patients and inform at risk patients of the necessary considerations for dental treatment. The students are prepared for handling medical emergencies and providing basic life support. This course requires students to understand physiology in order to determine the relationship between form and function and their interdependence of body systems. It also requires general knowledge of pathology in order to provide the student with an overview of disease processes and body defense mechanisms.

OPAT

Oral Pathology

Students learn to recognize common abnormal lesions of the mouth. The student should be able to identify and describe these lesions as well as explain their origins and how these lesions will affect the treatment of the oral cavity. Students are taught to identify dental decay and other pathology by identification on radiographs.

Prerequisite: PATE; DMOR; HNAN

OSUR

Oral Surgery

Training in dental surgery prepares graduate dental therapists to perform uncomplicated tooth extractions and manage emergencies including post-extraction complications. Pre/Co requisite: DMOR; HNAN; LOCA

PATE

Patient Examination Basics

This course consists of two units: 1) Introduction to the Oral Cavity, and 2) Patient Examination Basics (different methods and techniques used to complete a thorough clinical examination of extra-oral and intra-oral structures including appropriate chart entries).

PERT

Periodontics

Students learn to identify and clinically treat patients with mild to moderate periodontal disease, remove deposits from tooth surfaces, and recognize and manage emergency periodontal problems. Students learn to refer patients if they are unable to achieve or maintain the patient's periodontal health. Pre/Co requisite: PATE; DMOR; DRAD

PEDY

Pediatric Dentistry

This course is designed to give the student understanding and knowledge of behavior management of children in the dental setting. The course focuses on reasons for abnormal behavior such as personal, family situations, or medical conditions influencing behavior. It also teaches the student various approaches and methods to deal with children affected by these factors.

RDEI

Restorative Dentistry

Restorative dentistry covers the basic concepts and techniques involved in restoring teeth. In addition to the restorative dentistry lecture component of the course, which begins early in the first year, students spend at least 160 clinic hours in pre-patient clinical practice. Year 2 of the program is primarily devoted to patient treatment. Pre/Co requisite: DMOR

RDEII

Restorative Dentistry II

Field & School Clinics: Most students begin working with patients at the beginning of Year 2 (September). This practical experience with patients continues until the end of the two-year program and involves all aspects of patient care, patient education and clinic administration. The time spent on patient treatment is approximately 1600 hours.

Students receive the majority of the patient treatment experience in the clinic at NSDT in Prince Albert. Students also provide treatment while living in a First Nations/Inuit Community for a period of 8 weeks. This is the ideal opportunity to practice their skills in a field situation and in an environment similar to what can be expected after graduating.

TPLN

Treatment Planning and Referral

Emphasis during training is to prepare students to draft a treatment plan by gathering sufficient information, which would address all of the patient's needs. Pre/Co requisite: PATE; DMOR; HNAN