

Board Meeting
May 21, 2009

REVISED

REDESIGNATE AND REVISE DEGREE PROGRAM, DOCTOR OF DENTAL
SURGERY (DDS) **TO DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE (DMD),**
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY, CHICAGO

Action: Approve Redesignation and Revision of the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Chicago

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the College of Dentistry recommends changing the degree designation of the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) to the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD). The proposed revisions to the degree program will provide for developing new learning objectives, re-sequencing content, and transforming instructional processes and assessments.

The DDS reflects the history of the field as a surgical profession focused on remediation and repair of damage due to oral disease and trauma. This view of dentistry reflected a focus on the symptoms and outcomes of oral disease rather than diagnosis and an understanding of underlying disease processes. Thus it was also primarily treatment focused, and treatments tended to be invasive. Advances in understanding of microbiological, developmental, and behavioral aspects of oral health and disease have led to a greater emphasis on prevention and non-invasive treatment interventions. Simultaneously, advances in oral science have elucidated connections between oral and systemic health previously unrecognized.

In recent years, societal trends such as the aging of the U.S. population and increased incidence of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease in children and adults have led to an increased need for informed consultations with physicians and other health care professionals in the care of dental patients with complex medical problems. All of these changes require that general dentists understand and are able to apply biomedical science knowledge to their practice. The College of Dentistry views the degree name change as symbolic of, and consistent with, ensuring that students graduate with a broad view of oral health care that relates principles of oral health to those of systemic health.

Instructional processes in the program will emphasize active learning through interactive plenary sessions, small group collaborations, clinical supervision, and instructional technology. All learning will be contextualized to show relevance to professional dentistry roles, and the curriculum will be organized around interdisciplinary patient scenarios (cases) integrating clinical, biomedical, community, and behavioral science learning objectives. Finally, community-based learning will be an integral component of the curriculum.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.