

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNITY DENTISTRY [MSc(CommunityDent)]**

These regulations apply to candidates admitted in 2017-2018 and thereafter

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Science in Community Dentistry is a postgraduate degree awarded following the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study and clinical applications related to community dentistry.

Admission requirements

D250 To be eligible for admission to the curriculum for the degree of Master of Science in Community Dentistry, a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) hold the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery from this University, or a degree of other qualification of equivalent standard from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and
- (d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

Qualifying examination

- D251**
- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test a candidate's formal academic ability or his or her ability to complete the prescribed courses of study and practice. It shall consist of one or more written papers, or the equivalent, and may include a practical examination, and oral examinations.
 - (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he or she has satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Award of degree

D252 To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Community Dentistry, a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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Period of study

D253 The curriculum shall comprise an approved programme of study, practice and research related to Community Dentistry as prescribed in the syllabuses. It shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

Completion of curriculum

D254 To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall:

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed under TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) follow instruction in the courses prescribed and complete satisfactorily all coursework requirements;
 - (c) satisfy the examiners in all examinations as may be required; and
 - (d) complete and submit a dissertation, project report or research paper that satisfies the examiners.
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Dissertation or Project Report or Research Paper

D255 The title of a dissertation, project report or research paper shall be submitted for approval not later than April 30 in the final academic year of study, and the written work shall be submitted not later than August 15 in the same year. The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation, project report or research paper represents his or her own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation, project report or research paper.

Assessments

- D256** Any assessment of the candidate's coursework during the course of study, including written assignments, shall be taken into account in determining the candidate's overall result.
- D257** Assessments may be held in each year of study and may take the form of written papers; oral, practical, and clinical examinations; assessments of coursework; or a combination of these methods.
- D258** A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in any part of the assessments may be permitted to present again for assessment at a time to be determined by the Board of Examiners; or he or she may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.
- D259** A candidate who has presented a dissertation, project report or research paper that has failed to satisfy the examiners may be permitted to revise and re-present the written work within a period to be determined by the Board of Examiners; or he or she may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provision of General Regulation G12.
- D260** In accordance with TPG 5(c), a candidate who has exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in Regulation D253 shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies.
- D261** Failure to take any examination as scheduled normally shall result in automatic course failure. A candidate who is unable, through illness, to be present at an examination may apply in writing within 2 weeks of the examination for permission to be examined at some other time to be determined by the Board of Examiners.
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Grading system

- D262** Individual courses shall be graded as "Pass" (P) or "Fail".
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Assessment Results

- D263** Upon successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.
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August 18, 2017

**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNITY DENTISTRY**

The Master of Science in Community Dentistry is a course of study that is designed to enable practising dentists to acquire advanced training in the theory and practice of oral epidemiology, preventive dentistry, related behavioural and social sciences, and provision of oral health care services to defined populations and communities.

The prescribed course of study has a minimum of 69 credits of coursework and includes seminars, tutorials, clinical work, together with project assignments and training in research.

Curriculum structure

This curriculum is composed of courses relevant to the practice of community dentistry. The nature and scope of the courses will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect advances in the field. These courses include

A. Faculty Core Courses (9 credits)

DENT6023 Oral epidemiology and clinical research methodology (3 credits)

DENT6024 Introduction to statistical analysis in dental research (3 credits)

DENT6025 Multivariable statistical analysis in dental research and use of statistical software (3 credits)

DENT7030 Dissertation writing for Master of Dental Surgery and Master of Science – an induction course

B. General Public Health Courses (15 credits)

There is a range of postgraduate taught courses (3 credits each) offered by the School of Public Health, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine which are relevant to the study of dental public health. These are on the topics of public health practice, epidemiology, health economics and policy, and administrative medicine. Each student will be required to take 5 such courses as assigned by the Postgraduate Programme Director. The offering of the courses from year to year will be posted on the website of the School of Public Health, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine and subject to the availability of places.

C. Community Dentistry Courses (24 credits)

This set of courses aims to help students understand the theories and practice of community dentistry. Through active participation in the courses, students will get acquainted with the current literature and evidence base that guides the practice of community dentistry. The following areas and topics are covered in the courses.

- DENT7456 and DENT7457 Preventive dentistry 1 and 2 (3 credits each)
- DENT7452 Epidemiology of oral diseases (3 credits)
- DENT7453 Oral health care services (3 credits)
- DENT7455 Practice of dentistry in Hong Kong (3 credits)
- DENT7450 Behavioural sciences in oral health care and prevention (3 credits)
- DENT7454 Philosophical and sociological aspects of oral health (3 credits)
- DENT7459 Subjective oral health assessments and oral health promotion (3 credits)

D. Community Dentistry Practicum (12 credits)

Students are required to provide clinic-based or community-based dental care services under supervision to different population groups, including participation in outreach dental services. Organization and participation in oral health promotion activities is also part of the programme.

DENT7451 Community Dentistry Practicum (12 credits)

E. Capstone Experience: Research project (9 credits)

Under the guidance of supervisors, students are required to carry out a research project, involving collection of relevant information or original data and data analysis, and to submit a dissertation, research paper or project report in a publication format.

DENT7458 Capstone Experience: Research project on community dentistry (9 credits)

Description of courses

DENT6023 Oral Epidemiology and clinical Research Methodology (3 credits)

This course aims to introduce the students to the various types of epidemiological studies and how to conduct clinical trials. On completion of this course, a student should be able to critically appraise reports from oral epidemiological studies and the level of evidence generated. The student should also be able to choose an appropriate design for a clinical study on a specific topic of interest.

Assessment: One 2-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT6024 Introduction to statistical analysis in Dental Research (3 credits)

This course aims to introduce the students to the basic statistical methods used in dental research; the interpretation of results of statistical analysis and the statistical content of published research papers. On completion of this course, a student should be able to address statistical issues when formulating a research project, and to appraise the basic statistical content of a published dental research paper.

Assessment: One 2-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT6025 Multivariable statistical analysis in dental research and use of statistical software (3 credits)

This course aims to introduce the students to the multivariable statistical methods used in dental research and to provide basic training to the students in using the software SPSS for Windows to analyze dental research data. On completion of this course, a student should be able to appraise the statistical contents of a published dental research paper, and be able to carry out basic analysis of the data collected in a dental research using the software SPSS for Windows.

Assessment: One 2-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT7030 Dissertation Writing for Master of Dental Surgery and Master of Science – An Induction Course (non credit-bearing)

This Induction Course of 7.5 hours aims to raise course participants' awareness of essential aspects of academic writing which contribute to overall communicative success in dissertations. Its ultimate aim is to provide a useful induction experience so that you will be able to approach your writing with more confidence and skill at key stages of your research. Specific objectives are listed as themes in the course schedule.

Assessment: No formal assessment

DENT7456 Preventive dentistry 1 (3 credits)

This course covers the principles of prevention, and the various methods available for the prevention of common oral diseases at the individual and community level. The main teaching format is seminars and student presentations. The students are given assignments to find out the best evidence available to support the use of various preventive measures in dentistry.

Assessment: One combined 3-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT7457 Preventive dentistry 2 (3 credits)

This course is the continuation of the Preventive Dentistry 1 course.

Assessment: One combined 3-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT7452 Epidemiology of oral diseases (3 credits)

This course covers the application of principles of epidemiology to dentistry, the measurement and epidemiology of common oral health conditions and diseases. How to conduct a basic oral health survey according to the WHO recommendations is taught. The main teaching format is seminars and student presentations.

Assessment: One combined 3-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT7453 Oral health care services (3 credits)

This course covers the development of the dental profession, the regulation, organization, manpower provision and financing of oral health care services. Planning and implementation of oral health projects will be discussed. Examples and issues with special interest to Hong Kong are used in the teaching. The main teaching format is seminars and student discussions.

Assessment: One combined 3-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT7455 Practice of dentistry in Hong Kong (3 credits)

This course covers the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of dentistry, in particular the laws and regulations in Hong Kong. Cases and issues with special interest to Hong Kong are used in the teaching. The main teaching format is seminars and student discussions.

Assessment: One combined 3-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT7450 Behavioural sciences in oral health care and prevention (3 credits)

This course covers selected topics in behavioural sciences that are of special interest to the provision of oral health education and care such as personality, communications, motivation, pain and dental fear, perception and learning. The main teaching format is seminars and workshops.

Assessment: One combined 3-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT7454 Philosophical and sociological aspects of oral health (3 credits)

This course covers the concept of 'health' and introduces the models of health care. In part 1, the historical evolution of dental public health will be outlined and critiques of the oral health care models will be discussed. In part 2, Social Inequalities in oral health and oral health care provision in different population groups will be presented and the challenges of address oral health disparities discussed.

The main teaching format is seminars and workshops. Selected publications will be made available for discussion.

Assessment: One combined 3-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT7459 Subjective oral health assessments and oral health promotion (3 credits)

Part 1: Oral health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over their (oral) health and its determinants. Central to oral health promotion is oral health education, oral health prevention and oral health protection. The effectiveness of oral health promotion will be discussed in-depth.

Part 2: Increasingly, it is recognized that subjective (patient) based assessments are important, if not central, to identifying oral health needs, planning oral health care services and evaluating outcomes from oral health activities. This module provides an in-depth review of oral health-related quality of life - the concept, its measurement and the evidence of how oral health and oral health care affects life quality.

Assessment: One combined 3-hour written paper; 100% examination

DENT7451 Community Dentistry Practicum (12 credits)

In this course, students practice community dentistry under teacher supervision. Students are required to organize and participate in oral health promotion activities, including provision of oral health education to different population groups. The students will also provide clinic-based or community-based dental care services under supervision to various population groups, including participation in outreach dental services.

Assessment: Continuous assessment

DENT7458 Capstone Experience: Research project on community dentistry (9 credits)

Under the guidance of supervisors, students are required to carry out a research project on a topic within community dentistry, involving collection of relevant information or original data and data analysis, and to submit a dissertation, research paper or project report in a publication format.

Assessment: 70% dissertation and 30% oral exam

September 20, 2017