

IN FIGURES

Sources: <http://drees.social-sante.gouv.fr> – www.cnsd.fr

- **€10.6 billion** spent on dental care (2014)
- **41,500** dental surgeons practicing in France (2015)
- **99%** of patients are within 10 km of a dentist's practice (2016)
- **4 out of 10** dentistry graduates are foreign born (2015)

ACCESS BY INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATES

Regardless of their level of medical training, all international students must pass the PACES examination given at the end of the first year. Two dental residency exams govern entry into the third phase, one for European Union students, the other for international students. Students must register for this exam by the end of March. Eligibility tests are administered in September in French Embassies (Cultural Section) and Consulates. Admission tests are administered in December.

www.cng.sante.fr/Concours-donnant-acces-au-3eme.html

PRACTICE AREAS AND SPECIALIZATIONS

- Buccal surgery • Buccodental medicine • Dental care • Dental restoration • Dentofacial orthopedics • Endodontics • Oral surgery • Orthodontic care • Orthodontics • Pediatric dentistry • Periodontology • Prosthetics • Public health

USEFUL LINKS

- ◆ **EHESP (school of advanced studies in public health):** www.ehesp.fr
- ◆ **French-speaking digital university of health and sports sciences:** www.unf3s.org
- ◆ **Hospitals of France:** www.hopital.fr
- ◆ **Ministry in charge of Health:** www.sante.gouv.fr
- ◆ **National center for residency examinations—medicine, pharmacy, dentistry:** www.cnci.univ-paris5.fr
- ◆ **National center for management of hospital practitioners:** www.cng.sante.fr
- ◆ **National council of dental surgeons:** www.ordre-chirurgiens-dentistes.fr
- ◆ **National federation of dentists' labor unions:** www.cnsd.fr
- ◆ **National registry of dental surgeons:** www.academiedentaire.fr
- ◆ **National union of dentistry students:** <http://unecd.com>
- ◆ **Network of university and regional hospital centers:** www.reseau-chu.org

DENTISTRY

(FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS)

Devoted to the study and treatment of teeth and dental disorders, dentistry is also referred to as odontology, dental medicine, or dental surgery. Modern French dentistry began with Pierre Fauchard, who wrote *The Surgeon Dentist, or Treatise on the Teeth* (1728), in which he discussed dental implants and using drills to repair teeth. In 2010, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) started using the term "dental medicine" to refer to dentistry.

Dental surgeons treat cavities and dental abscesses and perform root canals and scaling as well as X-rays as part of diagnoses. They take impressions to design complete or partial dental prosthetics (bridges, crowns, pivot tooth). They are also qualified to perform major surgery (repairing a jaw fracture, bone and gum grafting, etc.), straighten teeth, and improve jaw alignment.

In France, dentists are known as «dental surgeons.» They can specialize in orthodontics (dentofacial orthopedics), oral surgery, or oral medicine. These are the three specialty areas recognized by university dental departments and dental surgery units in university hospitals.

The State Diploma of Doctor of Dental Surgery takes 5 years following successful completion of the first-year common curriculum in health (PACES). Four additional years of education are required beyond the State Diploma to become an orthodontist.

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DENTISTRY (FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS)

FIRST CYCLE

Integrated into the European LMB (Bachelors-Masters-Doctorate) system, dentistry education in France is divided into three stages or cycles. Universities deliver dentistry education in cooperation with France's 32 University Hospital Centers (CHU). Students with a French baccalauréat or equivalent high school diploma, preferably in a science track, are eligible to enroll in the first-year common curriculum in health (PACES). Students may also enroll in another institution for supplementary training in order to improve their chances in the end-of-year examination.

Dentistry education is delivered in French only. Students must have B2-level CEFRL in French.

FIRST-YEAR COMMON CURRICULUM IN HEALTH (PACES)

The first year is spent in a university faculty of medicine or dentistry and is the same for all four tracks: medicine (including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and psychomotor therapy), dental surgery, pharmacy, and midwifery. At the end of the year, students take one of four examinations in order to continue.

In the first semester, the core curriculum combines the basic sciences (chemistry, biology, embryology, histology) with functional aspects of the organization of systems and mechanisms. In the second semester, students focus on morphology, dentistry, social sciences, and humanities (health, society, humanity). At the end of the semester, students take the second portion of the examination specific to the dentistry track.

See information sheet on the First-Year Common Curriculum in Health (PACES).

SECOND YEAR – FIRST PHASE OF DENTISTRY EDUCATION (DFGSO2) – L2

In the second year, students are introduced to practical aspects of working with the mouth while receiving theoretical training and working with simulators. This lays the groundwork for later work with patients. The training centers combine 5 disciplines (see description below).

Starting in the second year and continuing into the third, students are allowed to observe patient care (nursing internships, emergency department training, etc.).

THIRD YEAR (DFGSO 3) – L3

In the third year, students continue studying various dentistry-related fields, including general anatomy and physiology, clinical radiology, pharmacology, inflammatory and infectious diseases, dental and periodontal diseases, orofacial physiopathology, and manducatory function.

After successfully completing the third year, students earn the General Diploma of Dentistry Sciences (DFGSO), which is the equivalent of a bachelors degree.

SECOND CYCLE

FOURTH YEAR (DFASO 1) – M1

In the fourth year, students enter the internship phase. During this clinical phase, future dentists and dental surgeons convert their academic knowledge into professional skills while treating their first real patients.

During their fourth and fifth years, students complete several specific internships in dental offices or in other hospital centers (somatology, maxillofacial surgery, etc.).

FIFTH YEAR (DFASO 2) – M2

Students who successfully complete the fifth year earn the Clinical and Therapeutic Synthesis Certificate (CSCT), which entitles them to prescribe medications, stand in for absent dental surgeons, or collaborate with a dental surgeon as a student assistant.

After their fifth year, students earn a masters degree known as Advanced Degree in Dental Sciences (DFASO)

SHORT SPECIALIZED 3rd CYCLE (1 YEAR)

The sixth year falls under the third phase (short) (DFTCC) and is devoted to general patient care and preparing for independent practice.

After completing this phase, students must enroll in a dissertation year, whose defense takes place between October and late June or between September and late October.

After defending their dissertation, students earn the State Diploma of Doctor of Dental Surgery, which entitles them to practice dentistry.

THIRD CYCLE

LONG 3rd CYCLE (DENTISTRY RESIDENCY, 3 OR 4 YEARS)

Admission is determined by a national competitive examination taken at the end of the second semester of the fifth year or at the end of the second semester of the TCE01 (sixth) year. Students are ranked and select their university hospital center and specialty based on their ranking.

www.cng.sante.fr/Concours-d-acces-au-3eme-cycle-des.html

Residency is a specialized (long) third cycle of dentistry education. Requiring 3 or 4 years, students and dentistry residents continue their education while practicing professionally in a hospital setting. They receive a minimum monthly salary of €1,600, which rises later.

The three specialty areas within dentistry are:

- > Dentofacial orthopedics (orthodontics) corrects dentomaxillofacial imbalances and crooked teeth. Theoretical training is dispensed through national seminars, and students complete 6 semesters (3 years) of residency.
- > Oral surgery covers major oral and maxillofacial procedures. Students undergo refresher training in medicine and receive theoretical training, which is dispensed through national seminars. They complete 8 semesters (4 years) of residency.
- > Oral medicine covers the treatment of at-risk patients and patients with one or more major pathologies, diagnosing oral diseases, and managing the impacts of diseases on the orofacial area. Theoretical training is dispensed through national seminars, and students complete 6 semesters (3 years) of clinical residency.

After successfully completing their residency and defending a dissertation, residents earn the State Diploma of Doctor of Dental Surgery, which entitles them to practice dentistry.

OTHER DIPLOMAS

- > Higher Education Diploma (DES) in Oral Surgery
- > Specialized Clinical Studies Certificate (CECS) in Dentistry
- > Higher Education Certificate (CES) in the following areas: materials technology, surgical dentistry, dental restoration, dentofacial orthopedics, periodontology, dental prosthetics
- > University Diploma (DU) in the following areas: periodontology, dental alignment, orthodontics, prosthetics, dental hygiene, epidemiological research in dentistry, legal dentistry, medical law, expertise, and bodily injury in dentistry
- > Inter-University Diploma (DIU) in endodontics, oral medicine and surgery, pediatric dentistry, general anesthesia.