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School of Dental Medicine

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Program Outline

Clinical Preceptorship in Esthetic Dentistry

An Eleven-Month Continuing Education Program

OVERVIEW

This eleven-month, full-time program equips trained dentists with advanced expertise in evidence-based esthetic dentistry, combining hands-on clinical experience with real patients under faculty supervision and comprehensive training in modern esthetic techniques. The curriculum covers a broad spectrum of topics, including tooth whitening, bonding, composite resin restorations, ceramics, smile design, dental photography, and advanced restorative procedures such as veneers, inlays, onlays, and computer-aided design and computer-aided manufactured (CAD/CAM) fixed dental prostheses. Additionally, the program incorporates interdisciplinary elements from periodontics, prosthodontics, orthodontics, endodontics, implant dentistry, and artificial intelligence applications in digital dentistry to enhance esthetic outcomes.

The program refines participants' diagnostic and treatment planning skills through a combination of didactic instruction, hands-on clinical training, and exposure to cutting-edge technologies. Sponsored by the Department of Restorative Dentistry and conducted in collaboration with Postgraduate Prosthodontics, the program ensures comprehensive training in advanced esthetic techniques and interdisciplinary care.

The program emphasizes comprehensive documentation, interdisciplinary treatment planning, and advanced esthetic clinical protocols aligned with contemporary standards in esthetic dentistry.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Excellence in esthetic dentistry requires technical proficiency, a deep understanding of form and function, and an appreciation for individual patient needs. This program integrates evidence-based principles, cutting-edge technology, and artistic vision to deliver outcomes that enhance oral health and self-confidence.

By focusing on smile design, color harmony, and the natural beauty of esthetics, the program fosters lifelong learners who are adept at critical thinking, problem-solving, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Combining rigorous academic training with hands-on experience, the program empowers participants to create transformative results, fostering smiles that reflect health, harmony, and happiness.

PROGRAM DESIGN

This comprehensive eleven-month program integrates didactic instruction, clinical training, and interdisciplinary collaboration to provide advanced knowledge and practical skills in esthetic dentistry. The curriculum emphasizes tooth whitening, bonding, composite resin restorations, ceramic techniques, smile design, and dental photography, while prioritizing patient-centered care, meticulous documentation, and evidence-based esthetic treatment planning.

To achieve this goal, participants must complete all didactic and clinical phases as determined by the Program Director of the Clinical Preceptorship in Esthetic Dentistry program. They will participate in

literature reviews, case conferences, and lectures, as well as engage in clinical training and case discussions while collaborating with the Postgraduate Prosthodontics program.

PROGRAM AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The program trains skilled professionals in esthetic dentistry, emphasizing diagnostic skills, treatment planning, and clinical execution. Participants gain expertise in tooth whitening, bonding, composite placement, ceramic restorations, and smile design, while integrating interdisciplinary collaboration to achieve balanced esthetics and function.

The program emphasizes high-level case documentation, interdisciplinary treatment planning, and evidence-based esthetic protocols. With a focus on lifelong learning, innovation, and advanced patient care, the program prepares participants to excel in esthetic dentistry.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Applicants should be individuals seeking to expand their experience and expertise in the discipline of esthetic dentistry. A demonstrable interest in esthetic and cosmetic dental procedures is highly desirable.

Applicants may be required to take a Bench Test, which will be conducted in person at Rutgers School of Dental Medicine if deemed necessary. They will be considered individually based on their transcripts, curriculum vitae, training, and letters of recommendation.

All candidates must be available for a virtual (Webex or Zoom) or in-person interview, prior to acceptance.

Please refer to the "Admissions Requirements" section for additional details. *(See Page 7)*

COURSE COMPONENTS AND DISCIPLINES

This clinically oriented program provides a balanced integration of clinical practice, didactic learning, skill development, personal development, and research to ensure comprehensive expertise in esthetic dentistry. The structured distribution of time includes:

- Clinics (30%) – Approximately 1.5 days per week
- Preclinical Training (20%) – Delivered in a block format along with PG Pros PGY-1 students
- Lectures, Seminars, and Literature Review (20%) – Approximately 1 day per week
- Research Project (30%) – Approximately 1.5 days per week

The program's curriculum builds proficiency in evidence-based esthetic dentistry by integrating didactic instruction, hands-on clinical training, interdisciplinary collaboration, and case documentation. It comprehensively covers foundational knowledge and advanced clinical expertise in the following subjects:

- Cariology and Caries Management
- Oral Biology
- Dental Materials
- Research Methods
- Color and Shade
- Digital Photography
- Smile Design: Digital and Analog
- Bleaching (Office and Home)
- Adhesion
- Anterior Direct Composite resin restorations
- Posterior Direct Composite resin restorations

- Direct Veneers
- Inlays and Onlays
- Porcelain Laminate Veneers
- Ceramics: Metal-Ceramic Crowns
- Ceramics: All Ceramic Crowns
- Metal-Ceramic and CAD-CAM Fixed Partial Dentures
- Occlusion
- Partial Esthetics and Attachments
- Complete Denture Esthetics
- Facial Esthetics (Color and Illusions)
- Fiber Reinforcement
- Patient Communications
- Practice Management
- Implant-Esthetics
- Endo-Esthetics and Posts
- Perio-Esthetics
- Ortho-Esthetics
- Pediatric Esthetics
- Artificial Intelligence and Esthetics

SCOPE OF CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Participants will gain supervised clinical exposure in direct and indirect esthetic procedures, including composite restorations, veneers, whitening, smile design, digital workflows, and interdisciplinary esthetic treatment planning. Clinical experiences may vary based on patient availability, case complexity, participant competency, and faculty discretion. Specific procedural volumes, case types, or advanced cosmetic cases are not guaranteed.

DUTIES OF THE PARTICIPANT

- Assist in the diagnosis, treatment planning, and record-keeping of assigned comprehensive esthetic cases.
- Schedule appointments, order supplies and equipment, and coordinate with various departments to ensure treatments are completed in a timely manner.
- Attend and actively participate in all prescribed academic programs, seminars, and conferences.
- Perform minor restorative, orthodontic, and periodontal procedures to address the esthetic and interdisciplinary requirements of patients.
- Adhere to all clinical duties, including professional behavior, ethical conduct, and compliance with the policies and protocols set forth by Rutgers School of Dental Medicine’s Clinical Affairs.

This structured curriculum ensures a holistic approach to esthetic dentistry, blending academic rigor, practical application, and the latest advancements in technology and patient care. At the program's conclusion, participants will have the skills, knowledge, and confidence to excel in modern esthetic and cosmetic dentistry.

SUGGESTED WRITTEN RESOURCES

- Albers, Harry F. (2002). Tooth-Colored Restoratives: Principles and Techniques. 9th Edition. BC Decker Inc. ISBN: 978-1550091557
- Aschheim, Kenneth W. (2014). Esthetic Dentistry: A Clinical Approach to Techniques and Materials. 3rd Edition. Elsevier. ISBN: 978-0323091763
- Chiche, Gerard J., & Pinault, Alain. (1994). Esthetics of Anterior Fixed Prosthodontics. 1st Edition. Quintessence Publishing. ISBN: 978-0867152584
- Freedman, George A. (2011). Contemporary Esthetic Dentistry. 1st Edition. Mosby Elsevier. ISBN: 978-0323055598
- Goldstein, Ronald E. (2014). Esthetics in Dentistry. 3rd Edition. Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 978-1118360651

Publications:

- Reality edited by Michael Miller
- Journal of Esthetic and Restorative Dentistry
- CRA Newsletter edited by Gordon Christensen
- Journal of Cosmetic Dentistry
- Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry
- Pub-Med online searches for various esthetic topics

Esthetic Academy Meetings: AACD, ASDA, AAED

SCHEDULE

The Esthetic Dentistry Clinical Preceptorship Program is a single, eleven-month, full-time continuing education course designed to provide comprehensive training in esthetic dentistry. This program integrates didactic learning, preclinical training, clinical experience, digital dentistry, and research to develop well-rounded expertise in the field.

In this 11-month, full-time, Clinical Preceptorship in Esthetic Dentistry program, the **first five months (Weeks 1-21)** focus on foundational learning and preclinical training, while the **next six months (Weeks 22-45)** emphasize clinical application and esthetic case management. Throughout the entire program, preceptors will also engage in lectures, seminars, journal clubs, and research projects to strengthen their understanding of evidence-based esthetic dentistry.

First Five Months (Weeks 1-21) - Preclinical Education Block & Foundational Training

- During the initial phase of the program, preceptors will participate in a dedicated block of preclinical training alongside PGY-1 Prosthodontic residents. This immersive format allows for focused, uninterrupted instruction in prosthetic procedures, esthetic techniques, and case planning fundamentals. The exact schedule and duration of the block are coordinated with the Postgraduate Prosthodontics program.
- Preceptors will also assist Postgraduate Prosthodontic residents on selective days (schedule subject to change annually), gaining hands-on experience in prosthetic procedures, esthetic techniques, and interdisciplinary coordination.
- Preceptors will receive hands-on training in digital prosthetic workflows, including esthetic digital smile design, CAD/CAM applications, and 3D printing technologies to enhance treatment planning and execution.

Next Six Months (Weeks 22-45) - Clinical Application & Esthetic Case Management

- After successfully passing the didactic and practical midterm examinations for the Esthetic Dentistry Preceptorship (minimum passing score: 80%), preceptors will begin treating esthetic cases under faculty supervision in designated dental chair locations within the Departments of Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics.
- Preceptors will continue refining esthetic techniques, digital workflows, and complex case planning through advanced simulations and digital dentistry applications.

Throughout the Entire 11-Month Program

- Preceptors will engage in academic sessions, literature reviews, and case discussions on contemporary esthetic dentistry, interdisciplinary care, and digital innovations.
- Preceptors will conduct esthetic research projects, case documentation, manuscript preparation, and interdisciplinary collaborations contributing to advancements in the field.

Additional Learning Opportunities

- Beyond structured coursework, preceptors are encouraged to engage in:
- Independent esthetic research projects
- Advanced digital dentistry lab work, including CAD/CAM and 3D printing
- Assisting Postgraduate Prosthodontic residents in managing complex esthetic cases

This structured 11-month program ensures preceptors develop a strong theoretical foundation, advanced clinical skills, digital proficiency, and research expertise, preparing them for leadership roles in esthetic and cosmetic dentistry.

Program Duration is Eleven months, from July 1 to May 31 each year. The Weekly Schedule is Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Breaks and Holidays align with the postgraduate program schedule. Participants are allotted **8 personal or sick days** during the program. The school may close during severe weather events, with make-up sessions provided as needed.

Weather Closures: The school may close during severe weather events, with make-up sessions provided as needed.

Participants will receive a comprehensive and immersive learning experience in esthetic dentistry, with consistent engagement in both academic and clinical components, ensuring that they are well-prepared for excellence in esthetic dentistry. Participants who successfully complete the program may be considered for an optional additional year of advanced training based on program availability, participant performance, institutional approval, and faculty discretion. Participation in an additional year is not guaranteed.

EVALUATION OF PARTICIPANT

Participants in the Esthetic Dentistry Program will be evaluated based on their performance in both clinical and academic components to ensure they meet the program's rigorous standards. The evaluation criteria include:

- Demonstration of competency in esthetic procedures such as bonding, composite resin restorations, ceramic restorations, and smile design.
- Ability to implement interdisciplinary approaches, integrating periodontics, prosthodontics, and orthodontics into treatment plans.
- Active participation and performance in lectures, seminars, and journal clubs.

- Completion of pre-clinic exercises and mastery of foundational skills.
- Accurate and thorough documentation of clinical cases consistent with contemporary esthetic dentistry standards.
- Ability to present cases effectively to peers and faculty.
- Scholarly activity such as poster presentation, case presentation, literature review, or research participation.
- Adherence to ethical standards and program guidelines.
- Effective communication with patients and peers.
- Fulfillment of attendance requirements for all scheduled activities, including clinics, lectures, laboratory simulation exercises, and seminars.
- Active engagement and collaboration with faculty and fellow participants.

Participants must achieve satisfactory performance in all areas to receive a certificate of completion. The program emphasizes comprehensive documentation and advanced clinical protocols consistent with contemporary esthetic dentistry standards.

FACILITIES

The Rutgers School of Dental Medicine is located on the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Newark Campus, featuring state-of-the-art dental operatories, pre-clinical laboratories, and lecture rooms. The campus is shared with the medical school, graduate school of biomedical sciences, and University Hospital, offering a collaborative and resource-rich environment with convenient private parking.

FACULTY

Faculty members will include experienced specialists in esthetic and restorative dentistry, periodontics, orthodontics, and endodontics as well as esthetic and cosmetic dentists around the world.

AMEY G. PATIL, BDS, MSD, DABOP, DABAD
Program Director, Esthetic Dentistry
Assistant Professor
Department of Restorative Dentistry

STEVEN M. MORGANO, DMD
Professor and Chair
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FRAYA KARSH, DMD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Restorative Dentistry
Department of Periodontics

CHAO-HO CHIEN, DDS, DScD
Assistant Program Director of PG Pros.
Assistant Professor
Department of Restorative Dentistry

MOHAMMAD ALI SAGHIRI, DEng, MS, PhD
Associate Professor
Director of Biomaterials Research Laboratory
Department of Restorative Dentistry

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the Clinical Preceptorship in Esthetic Dentistry program:

- Hold a DDS/DMD degree or its equivalent (e.g.: BDS degree, etc.) from an accredited dental school.
- Payment of a non-refundable $200 U.S. application fee, payable online via the program website.
- Submit a completed application form, including:

  - Documentation of objectives and goals.
  - Curriculum vitae (with a photo, if available).
  - Verified copies of dental school transcripts and diploma.
- Provide two to three original letters of recommendation from academic or professional references.
- Submit an evaluation report of academic credentials from Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE, preferred) or World Education Services (WES). The report should include a breakdown by courses.
- Achieve a TOEFL score of 80+ or an IELTS score of 6.0+. Submit an original report.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) scores are NOT required but may be submitted to strengthen the application.
- Attend a personal or virtual interview (Webex or Zoom) when possible.
- Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or foreign national with a visa status acceptable to the Continuing Education program.
  - For those who do not currently hold an F-1 student visa, acceptance into the program allows you to contact Rutgers University's International Office to initiate the process of obtaining a student visa. Assistance will be provided to ensure compliance with all visa requirements.

Applicants will be evaluated holistically based on their academic background, professional experience, and commitment to the field of esthetic dentistry. Detailed instructions are available on the program's website.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

- Applicants are advised to check the program's website for the most up-to-date information regarding application deadlines and program status.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Upon notification of preliminary acceptance into the program, the applicant will also be required to:

- Pay a non-refundable deposit, see "Tuition" on next page for details. Formal acceptance package will be sent upon receipt of full deposit.
- Full tuition is due one month prior to the start of the program. We do not offer payment plans.
- Submit Immunization and Health Forms per University policy (see our website).
- Completed forms must be submitted three (3) months prior to the start of the program. Participants will not start their program until they have been cleared by Student Health Services.
- Submit Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification that will be valid for duration of program. Online courses are not accepted. Certification must be completed before your start date.
- Be cleared by a Background Check; an additional fee is required for this.
- Provide proof of Health Insurance from a U.S. based company. Insurance must remain active for full duration of the program.
- Licensed U.S. Dentists must provide proof of Liability Insurance.
- Participants are responsible for arranging the following equipment and materials, according to the recommendations and specifications provided by the Program Director: DSLR Camera, Customized Dental Loupes, Typodonts, High-speed, Slow-speed, and Straight handpieces with their respective motor. These items are essential for successfully completing the hands-on components of the program.

All correspondence will be conducted via email. For inquiries, please contact us at cde@sdm.rutgers.edu.

TUITION (for the current academic year)

- The tuition for the eleven-month Clinical Preceptorship in Esthetic Dentistry program **is $50,000 (USD)**. Additional fees and expenses may apply.
- A non-refundable deposit of $3,500 is required to secure a place in the program. This deposit must be received within 10 business days of the pre-acceptance notification.
- The remaining balance of $46,500 is due one month prior to the program's start date.
- A formal acceptance package will be issued upon receipt of the deposit.
- Please note, no refunds will be provided once the program has started.

CANCELLATION POLICY

To participate in this program, you must be pre-registered with the Office of Continuing Dental Education. No refunds of any tuition paid will be granted once the program has commenced.

CREDIT HOURS

This Esthetic Dentistry Program provides a unique opportunity for both didactic and hands-on clinical experience. As a non-matriculated continuing dental education program, participants who successfully complete the program as designed will earn **a certificate documenting completion of 1,430 continuing education credit hours,** which reflect the total clock hours completed during the academic year, including comprehensive clinical, didactic, laboratory, and research training.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit the completed application by mail or express mail to:

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Continuing Dental Education
110 Bergen Street, B701
Newark, NJ 07103

Website: https://cde.sdm.rutgers.edu/clinicalpreceptorship-programs/
(A link to the application and additional information can be found on this webpage.)

Email: cde@sdm.rutgers.edu