

What are the best things about attending Louisville Dental School?

The Faculty. I think the faculty at ULSD are great, especially if you get to know them on a personal level. Getting to know them on a personal level allows you to ask them for letters of recommendation one day. They really are willing to help and they want you to succeed. They are very nice and most of them will not make you feel stupid when you are struggling with certain concepts. When they are not in their office they are often in the clinic and you can go show your projects to them and get feedback. If you ever get a grade that you disagree with, they are very open at having another faculty member grade your project.

The basic science courses are taught by medical school professors, but they really try to make it applicable to dentistry. This can be a good or bad thing, depending on your point of view. It is a good thing if you are not planning on becoming an oral surgeon because they cut off a lot of the stuff that dentists are not required to know. For example, in anatomy we do not cover anything below the hips. But if you want that knowledge for other graduate tests, that might not be beneficial for you. You might have to do a lot more studying outside of the classes. This does not mean that students here do not go on to specialize; it just means that you might not get the same amount of material one would get if the class was combined with the med school.

Louisville Dental is big on diversity and really likes to attract people from all aspects of life. This is great because it allows you to get different perspectives and learn about other cultures. The patients that are seen at the school are also very diverse, preparing you for the real world.

If you are interested in research, Louisville is a good place to get experience! You can do a double degree (DMD and Masters in Oral Biology, for example) which looks good if you want to specialize. Even if you do not do the dual degree, you can still participate in research. There are opportunities for everything: from bench research (with mice and other animal models) to clinical research and even research on how to improve teaching. Also, Louisville boasts about their radiology department. They were the first ones to start using 3D printing and are pretty advanced so you can do research with them as well.

Going from your 3rd to 4th year you get roughly a month to go do externships. You can do general practice externships or you can do specialty externships.

What are the worst things about attending Louisville Dental School?

The outside of the building looks like a parking lot and the school is in a pretty ghetto area. It is also not in the safest area.

The administration sometimes can be pretty frustrating and hard to work with. A lot of times they do not like to make changes. For example, when the idea of getting more time off to study for boards was brought up they gave us a hard no, saying that they used to do a long break and scores were not much different.

Mandatory attendance. Again, this could be a good thing or bad thing depending on your personality. If you need to be motivated to go to class, this is a good fit because a lot of the classes take attendance or have quizzes. If you like to do your own thing, this can be a nuisance as most of the classes are recorded and can be watched later in the day.

The School of Dentistry is a little behind in the digital dentistry world. Students do not scan teeth for crowns. Our methods are still pretty old-school. They did just get a grant so hopefully this will change in the upcoming years!

What do students need to know/What do you wish you knew before attending Louisville Dental School?

Starting with the class of 2024 they will start a block system, meaning you will not just have completely separate courses teaching you anatomy and physiology. Instead, you will work in blocks; for example, in the cardiology block you will simultaneously learn the anatomy *and* the physiology of the heart.

You do not get much of a break. Some schools give students summer off. Not Louisville. You also **do not** get a couple weeks off to study for boards.