

## **What are the best things about attending Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine Glendale Campus?**

Most of the basic science courses are taken during the first year with pharmacology being the only one taken second year. These are all taken together with optometry students. They have been condensed from the medical school classes, cutting out extemporaneous information and teaching only what is relevant to the dental or optometry fields. These classes are all recorded and posted online. The vast majority of students stop attending the basic science classes within the first few weeks and still do just fine with only studying the recordings; however attendance to dental-specific classes is mandatory.

At Midwestern, 70% is a passing grade. The courses are divided into modules however, which means you can fail one of the module exams and still pass the course with a 70% average. Students are awarded letter grades and there is an individual class ranking at the end of each year, but this does not seem to create a competitive environment among the students. Each class creates a collection of study guides to help study for each test, and each preceding class shares their relevant study guides with the next class as well.

Midwestern really prioritizes staying up-to-date on the latest instrumentation and technology both pre-clinically and clinically. The first two years are spent in the classroom and the simulation clinic and are considered pre-clinical, while the third and fourth years are spent working full-time in the live clinic with a few lectures one or two days each week. They have an entire lab set up for CAD/CAM and milling adjacent to the simulation clinic that has about 15 CAD/CAM units. There are also a number of mobile units being added to the lab this year for each individual student work area. Clinical and pre-clinical training also include LASER procedures. The Dexter units in the simulation clinic are all brand new as of last year. All supplies and anything you need for sim are all included in tuition so you don't have to worry about spending any extra money on teeth, burs, instruments, gloves, etc. If anything breaks, you simply take it to the dispensary and they switch it out for you. This applies to the live clinic as well. This allows you to focus more on your work and not have to stress about the little things.

The live clinic here is top of the line. There is an immense patient base which means no student will struggle to meet their requirements unless they don't try at all. The school has a goal to have each student place at least one implant before graduation, but the majority place a number of them. Each third year student is paired with a fourth year student when they start clinic. Each partnership shares patients equally within their operatory. While one is working, the other is assisting. There are also no specialty

residencies at Midwestern. This means if a student has a particularly difficult endodontic case, for example, they follow that patient to the endo department and complete the procedure there. This greatly increases the amount of exposure and experience you are able to get while working in the clinic.

The faculty, for the most part, are absolutely great and very concerned for the success and well-being of the students. The students are treated more as colleagues than subordinates. The faculty and the administration are always willing to spend one-on-one time with the students to help them succeed.

The area around the school is a great place to live. Located just north of Phoenix, there is anything you might need from groceries to restaurants, or great hiking trails to professional sporting events, all within a short drive from campus.

You get your first summer off! The summer between first and second years has historically been used to prepare for and to take boards, but now with the newly implemented INDBE, the first summer is still blocked out as a break for students from the end of May to the end of August with no boards to prepare for.

### **What are the worst things about attending Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine Glendale Campus?**

As far as clinical preparation goes, the first year moves very slowly. The focus is mostly on developing hand skills and precision rather than focusing on knowledge of procedures much at all. First years only spend one day a week in sim clinic, and the majority of the time there is spent working on wax-ups and Class I amalgam preparations. This leaves a lot to be learned during the second year and seems to make the second year very busy and unnecessarily stressful. Having said this, the necessary material still gets covered and the incoming third years seem to be more prepared for clinic.

There is very little communication about what to expect for things such as clinical requirements or even board exams. Administration says not to worry about it, and they make it seem like the school has their system where if you do as they say, you will be fine. It seems to be true, but if you have a hard time following blindly, this can be quite frustrating.

The heat. For eight months out of the year the weather is great. But from about May to August it is ridiculously hot. It's not unbearable for the most part, but it does reach about 120 degrees at its hottest. Just plan on spending most of your time during those months either in an air-conditioned building or an air-conditioned car.

The cost. There is no way around it; this program is one of the most expensive programs.

**What do students need to know/What do you wish you knew before attending  
Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine Glendale Campus?**

This program is definitely geared more toward producing skilled and efficient clinicians. If you are looking to specialize, this school does supply a handful of students to specialty programs each year, but it is something that requires a lot more individual effort. It is not a focus of the school. If you are looking to practice general dentistry, this is a great place to develop the skills necessary to practice successfully and to be a very competitive job candidate directly following graduation. Some justify the cost of tuition by considering the fact that they likely won't need to go through a GPR to gain the experience needed to be competent.

There are plenty of affordable housing options close to the school. On-campus housing is available and is fairly cheap, but you have to get on a waiting list very early to be considered and they aren't as nice as some of the other options. If you are okay with spending a little more money, there are nice apartment complexes within walking distance of campus. The farther away from campus you get, the cheaper housing gets. Just be cautious of the area, especially when looking farther south of campus. If you're looking around June or July, you can also find houses for rent for about the same price as an apartment that are still fairly close to campus.