

## **What are the best things about attending the Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health (MOSDOH)?**

The clinic. MOSDOH has teamed up with Affinia to create a state of the art Dental Clinic in St. Louis. It's a three story (although the third floor is unfinished) building with everything you'll need to work on patients. Affinia takes care of filling your chair with patients, so you can focus on the procedures. If you show up and do your job, you can finish most, if not all, of your clinical requirements fairly quickly. Many students finish shortly after the beginning of their fourth year. That leaves the rest of the year to focus on specific aspects of dentistry that intrigue you. The sim clinic in Kirksville is top notch as well. It's brand new and has clean, functional equipment.

The school does a great job at making each class diverse. This has been great in getting different view points from different backgrounds. Also, it helps to get to understand a wide variety of cultures, to help you relate to various patients that you'll see in the future.

The first two years are in Kirksville, MO. The last two years are in St. Louis. The medical school (KCOM) is in Kirksville. The non-dental specific classes are taught by the medical school professors (though not with the medical school students). AT Still is all about whole body healthcare, and that everything in the body is "connected". The lectures do a great job of incorporating how the head and neck affect, and are affected by, the body.

During your fourth year, you are asked to go on "rotations". This is where you spend 2-4 weeks in a CHC or rural dental office, under the supervision of a dentist, practicing on patients. This is a very unique experience. In the school's clinic, you're still in the "student bubble". On the rotations, you actually get the feel of what being a dentist looks like. These rotations absolutely prepare you to practice dentistry after school.

Kirksville is small (like, really small). However, the school does a great job to provide activities in the little free time that you have outside of school and studying. Intramurals with the medical school students are a huge organization throughout the year. Additionally, boating trips, golf trips, hikes, exercise groups; the school provides tons of things to do when you want a break from studying.

No specialties. MOSDOH doesn't have any specialist programs, so when you're in the clinic, you are able to practice on all sorts of cases. It's nice to not have to worry about being forced to refer cases to the specialist programs, and missing out on valuable learning opportunities.

## **What are the worst things about attending the Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health (MOSDOH)?**

Split campus. Kirksville can be a good thing or a bad thing, depending on the person. Besides the school activities, there isn't much to do. Which can be great if you get distracted easily (so you can focus on studying), but when you get into the sim clinic you

have a little bit more free time. If you're not an "Active" person, Kirksville will run out of things to do for fun. Then there is the problem of moving to St. Louis. You get two weeks over the summer to move, and it's just a pain to have to do halfway through your dental school experience.

The professors are extremely knowledgeable. They are also quite diverse. This is great for various viewpoints on topics. However, some of them have thick accents, which can make it difficult to understand during lectures. Most lectures are on slides, and all of them are recorded so you can listen to them after class. This somewhat lessens the problem of lack of understanding. However, it is still frustrating.

Starting in 2023, MOSDOH will be implementing a new curriculum program to plan for students to take the integrated boards. Most dental schools have already implemented their new curriculums. So students will be working out the kinks of a new program (but most students across the country will, however MOSDOH will be one year behind them). This can be a good or bad thing. Depending on the person. You get to help shape a new program, but you also have to go through the growing pains that come with it.

**What do students need to know/what do you wish you knew before attending the Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health (MOSDOH)?**

MOSDOH does a great job at preparing you to become a well rounded General Dentist. You will see so many different cases and be trained in various areas of oral health. This comes with an emphasis, that the school puts on their students, to become a General Dentist. Some students go on to specialize, however most go the general dentist route.