

## **What are the best things about attending University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine?**

There are many great things about UConn. Honestly, I love the program and am so glad that I came here. First off, UConn is a Pass/Fail school. There are no class ranks, no letter grades, and it is such a beautiful thing. Dental school can be a very competitive place for those students who want to go on to specialize, but I feel like that is completely nonexistent at UConn because of the Pass/Fail grading scheme. Also, the Pass/Fail cutoff is quite low with pretty much every class is having a passing grade set at 65%. While this might seem super easy to attain, it's actually pretty difficult as our exams are written by professors and faculty who write for Step 1 of the Medical School boards.

Medical school classes. The first year and a half, your basic science classes and anatomy are all with the medical students. You take the exact same tests as the medical students and are pretty much a medical student for your first year and a half. It's great because you feel like you actually learn about the entire human body and how everything works, which is extremely important so you can treat the whole patient. Pretty much, we're ready to take Step 1 of medical school boards when we are done with their curriculum, which is great if you want to take the CBSE.

We also have TBL (Team Based Learning). You essentially prepare for class outside on your own and when you come to class, you take a quiz, and then work on different complex problems with 6-7 other students at your table with faculty discussion in-between.

UConn's class size is right around 50, which makes it one of the small schools in the nation. This is great because you get more attention from the faculty and you get really close with your classmates. I feel like the admissions department does a great job at selecting diverse, yet compatible students that all get along great. It seems people are always together doing things outside of school or studying together. This does make it a little bit tougher to get in to the school, however.

After your first year, you are eligible to apply for in-state tuition, which is HUGE. This cuts the tuition in half from usual out-of-state costs and pretty much everyone is able to get approved (you just have to change your license and registration and some other things).

UConn has a great reputation among specialty programs, regardless of what you want to specialize in. Over the last 10 years, they have been near-perfect, if not 100% perfect, in placing students into Oral Surgery residencies. The same can be said for every other specialty program. This is something that they pride themselves on and aren't shy about it. They believe in their school and that they can get you where you want to be.

Living in the greater Hartford area has been awesome. You are 2 hours from Boston, 2.5 hours from NYC, and honestly have everything you need in Hartford. The school is

located in Farmington, which is about 15 minutes south of Hartford and 45 minutes from Storrs, where the undergrad campus is. Cost of living is a bit pricey, but New England has been a very fun place to live.

### **What are the worst things about attending University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine?**

Due to the fact that we are integrated with the medical school for the first year and a half, we aren't as exposed to dental related things as early as other schools. While we do have morphology, oral histology, and operative our first year, it is not as intense as other schools. Once you finish the medical school curriculum, it really picks up and they catch you up. Honestly, if you wanted to go straight into private practice as a general dentist, this might not be the program for you. Most students who end up doing general dentistry tend to do a GPR or AEGD residency, which honestly isn't a bad idea regardless of where you go.

### **What do students need to know/What do you wish you knew before attending University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine?**

The course load is a lot, but it's certainly manageable. You aren't required to be in class a ton your first year and a half, and then after that, you're pretty much there 8-5. Clinic starts the end of your 2<sup>nd</sup> year and then are in clinic all of your 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years with some classes sprinkled in.

Between your first and second year, you have about 3 months off with which you can do whatever you want. Some students worked, some did research, some traveled. It's completely your call and how you want to spend it. The faculty have no expectations.

Dental school is fun. It's honestly a great experience and I know you would love UConn. The school is wonderful and I have no regrets about coming here.