

What are the best things about attending University of Michigan Dental School?

UM gives students a fair amount of patient exposure early on. You will begin seeing patients for cleanings and simple fillings the beginning of your D2 year. You gradually see more patients and get a small patient pool D2 winter semester. From this point forward, your patient pool will continue to grow. During your D4 year, students are sent on three four-week (12 weeks total) external rotations. You are given a rental car and placed in a hotel. These rotations are at dental clinics throughout Michigan and gives you real-life experience practicing dentistry. At these rotations you will see as many (if not more) patients than your entire dental school experience. I feel I will graduate confident with the basics of dentistry (fillings, extractions, exams). UM also has an established research program and is a great school for those who are seeking to go into academia or research.

What are the worst things about attending University of Michigan Dental School?

As a student at a heavily research driven school, sometimes I've felt like a second priority. Because UM has grad programs in every specialty, students typically graduate with limited exposure to things like endodontics and orthodontics. UM already has a high bar for graduating requirements and it becomes even more challenging to meet those requirements when you aren't given enough patients to begin with and have to refer patients out to the specialty residents. The school is also under renovation until 2024-2025. This will have a massive impact on anyone attending dental school until the renovation is finished.

What do students need to know/what do you wish you knew before attending University of Michigan Dental School?

Some ranking systems have given UM a high ranking over the years. It can be easy to interpret that ranking with an incredible dental school experience. To students thinking about attending UM, I would say take that with a grain of salt. Attending UM will prepare you and expose you to dentistry but it can also be an incredibly frustrating experience being in a system that works towards its own reputation at the expense of its students.