

What are the best things about attending the University of Utah School of Dentistry?

One of the best parts about attending the UUSOD is the small class size. There are 50 students or less in each graduating class, so it is easy to become close friends with everyone. Also, we aren't ranked. So we work as a team sharing outlines and flashcards.

Also, the clinical experience is excellent. We start to see our own patients fall of D2 year having already taken an anesthesia course, many operative courses, a fixed prosthodontics course, radiology courses, many months of assisting upperclassman in the clinic, and several periodontics courses in the first year. Many fourth year students tell us they feel very well prepared for private practice by the time they graduate.

There are also many opportunities for students wanting to specialize. There are honors orthodontics courses, tons of endodontics experiences (some fourth years have done 50+ endodontic treatments before graduation), and supportive faculty with good connections for oral surgery, periodontics, prosthodontics, OMF Radiology, OMF Pathology, pediatrics, etc. We also have a good track record of students successfully matching into competitive specialty programs, so you can feel confident choosing the U with a desire to specialize.

Also, in state tuition is very cheap compared to many other schools. And the location is great for many outdoor sports such as skiing, hiking, golfing, soccer, etc. As students we have been very involved in intramural sports such as soccer, basketball, softball, and volleyball. And as a student, you get a gym pass to their new facilities included with tuition, which is a huge plus.

What are the worst things about attending University of Utah School of Dentistry?

Commuting can be a hassle as well as parking. Although, there is student housing which is within walking distance to the school and very cheap.

Even though we aren't ranked, we still get a GPA which ends up being important for specializing. So it is stressful to get A's in all of your classes, especially the large classes that are 8-13 credits for one letter grade.

Some of the professors aren't straight forward when it comes to writing test questions, so those are the professors that give you the biggest headache with grades because you don't know how to study for their test questions. This obviously occurs at any school, but it isn't as big of a problem/headache at pass fail schools. So the U is known to have some stressed out students compared to other schools because we are all worried about acing our classes and studying our brains out for the professors that don't know how to communicate test expectations.

The program is fairly new as well, so there have been some growing pains with class schedules and content covered in courses. So coming here, you need to be open to change and willing to cut administration slack when the schedule gets moved around a lot.

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

I think it's important to consider the price of the school tuition, the cost of living, the time to commute to school, and the family environment you'll be living in. For me, the U has been amazing in these regards. It's cheap tuition, relatively cheap cost of living, a 5 minute walk to school for me and many other students living in student housing, and the family environment is safe and supportive. Since my commute time is only 5 minutes, I am able to spend time with my family and have a great balance with school and family life. This has been critical to my happiness in dental school. Also, my wife and I are able to drive rather than fly to see both of our families. This cuts down on costs and makes school breaks very enjoyable.

Overall, the U is a great program. If you are from Utah and want to go to the U, just keep in mind that there are also other great schools across the nation and there are scholarship opportunities that cut the price of dental school to the same price or even cheaper than in state tuition for the U. So be open to applying to other schools and giving them your best because you never know when scholarships will be offered. If you are not a Utah resident, one of the biggest draws for my classmates was the outdoor opportunities available such as skiing and hiking. From what I can tell, that has been a big factor in their happiness choosing a school (some even turned down their in state school offers since the U's out of state tuition often rivals in state tuition at other schools).