

**Post-Professional Certificates in Endodontics, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry,
Periodontics, and Prosthodontics**

Academic Program Closures

The School of Dentistry functionally replaced its five post-professional certificates in advanced dentistry specializations with five Master of Science in Dentistry (M.S.D.) degrees during the 2014-2015 academic year. The specific post-professional certificates and replacement M.S.D.s were the following:

- Post-Professional Certificate in Endodontics replaced by the M.S.D. in Endodontics
- Post-Professional Certificate in Orthodontics replaced by the M.S.D. in Orthodontics
- Post-Professional Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry replaced by the M.S.D. in Pediatric Dentistry
- Post-Professional Certificate in Periodontics replaced by the M.S.D. in Periodontics
- Post-Professional Certificate in Prosthodontics replaced by the M.S.D. in Prosthodontics

The M.S.D. degrees were established in response to changes with gainful employment reporting requirements by the U.S. Department of Education in 2013. Upon establishment of the M.S.D. degrees, the post-professional certificates were treated as embedded certificates within the M.S.D. This is how the post-professional certificates were reported to SACSCOC during the 2017 reaffirmation and the 2023 fifth-year interim report.

However, UofL also transitioned to include transcript descriptions on degrees during 2014-2015. The inclusion of transcript descriptions on degrees obviated the need for a separate certificate to be issued to show a student's specific specialization (e.g., endodontics, etc.). While the curriculum had not substantially changed, the functional need to issue two separate credentials was no longer necessary once the M.S.D. showed the student's specific specialization (e.g., Endodontics, Periodontics, etc.). As a result, the post-professional certificates have not been used since the establishment of the M.S.D. programs in 2014-2015. Accordingly, the post-professional certificates have had no enrollment since 2014-2015, and they have conferred no credentials during that time as well.

During an Office of Academic Planning and Accountability's (OAPA) routine audit of academic plan codes, these programs were flagged for closure due to having no enrollment for three or more academic years. Such administrative closures usually only close a track, concentration, or specialization, not an entire academic program, which it would in this instance. Based upon this rationale and with the approval of the Interim Dean for the School of Dentistry, the UofL Office of Academic Planning and Accountability (OAPA) is formally closing the post-professional certificates and notifying SACSCOC of such closure out of an abundance of caution to ensure compliance with the SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy.

I. Enrollment and Degree Conferrals

| Academic Year | Enrollment ¹ | Degree Conferrals |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 2019-2020 | 0 | 0 |
| 2020-2021 | 0 | 0 |
| 2021-2022 | 0 | 0 |
| 2022-2023 | 0 | 0 |
| 2023-2024 | 0 | 0 |
| 2024-2025 | 0 | 0 |

II. Students

The programs have had no enrollment since 2014-2015, so closing the post-professional certificates has no impact upon students. This is an administrative clerical matter.

III. Notification of Faculty & Staff

The programs have had no enrollment since 2014-2015, so closing the post-professional certificates has no impact upon faculty/staff. This is an administrative clerical matter. However, OAPA has been in communication with the Office of the Dean in the School of Dentistry, and upon submission of the SACSCOC Substantive Change, OAPA will formally notify the School of Dentistry that the post-professional certificates have been officially closed. Furthermore, the Vice Provost/SACSCOC Liaison will issue an academic alert through email to all impacted parties at UofL (e.g., Graduate School, Registrar, etc.) to notify them that the post-professional certificates have been officially closed.

IV. Student Communication Plan

The programs have had no enrollment since 2014-2015, so closing the post-professional certificates has no impact upon students. This is an administrative clerical matter, and as such, no communication will be issued to students, which may only inadvertently confuse them.

V. Effective Date

The last term students will be admitted to the post-professional certificates is Fall 2024. The post-professional certificates will be officially closed to admission for the Spring 2025 semester, which begins in the School of Dentistry on January 2, 2025. Please note again, though, that these programs have not been treated as functionally distinct programs from the M.S.D. since 2014-2015, so no students have applied, nor are any students specifically enrolled in the post-professional certificates.

FS P&BC Report to FS APC (10/11/2024)

Closure of 5 Post Professional Certificate Programs in Dentistry Specialties in SOD

Overview (taken from Proposal Teach-out Plan SoD in October 2024):

The School of Dentistry functionally replaced its five post-professional certificates in advanced dentistry specializations with five Master of Science in Dentistry (M.S.D.) degrees during the 2014-2015 academic year. The M.S.D. degrees were established in response to changes with gainful employment reporting requirements by the U.S. Department of Education in 2013. Upon establishment of the M.S.D. degrees, the post-professional certificates were treated as embedded certificates within the M.S.D. This is how the post-professional certificates were reported to SACSCOC during the 2017 reaffirmation and the 2023 fifth-year interim report. However, UofL also transitioned to include transcript descriptions on degrees during 2014-2015. The inclusion of transcript descriptions on degrees obviated the need for a separate certificate to be issued to show a student's specific specialization (e.g., endodontics, etc.). While the curriculum had not substantially changed, the functional need to issue two separate credentials was no longer necessary once the M.S.D. showed the student's specific specialization (e.g., Endodontics, Periodontics, etc.). As a result, the post-professional certificates have not been used since the establishment of the M.S.D. programs in 2014-2015. Accordingly, the post-professional certificates have had no enrollment since 2014-2015, and they have conferred no credentials during that time as well.

Assessment:

The proposed closure is based on the data that these 5 post professional certificate programs are no longer needed in the Dentistry profession and have no enrollment or graduates for the last 10 years. There are no financial implications to these closures since these have been inactive programs for the past 10 years.

Conclusion: P&BC does not see any adverse financial aspects for faculty or students and recommends approval of the proposal to close these 5 post professional Certificate programs.

Pat

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