

## **POSTDOCTORAL CERTIFICATE IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

The Advanced Dental Education Specialty Program in Pediatric Dentistry Program was established in July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1969. The program consists of two (2) consecutive full-time years (24 months), of progressive educational experiences, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Advanced Dental Education Specialty Program in Pediatric Dentistry may lead to a master's degree if candidates fulfill additional requirements, which entails one additional year of study, for a minimum of three consecutive years (36 months). It meets the accreditation requirements of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (C.O.D.A.) and the requirements for examination and certification by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

Instruction and clinical practice are conducted at the School of Dental Medicine, the Pediatric and Municipal Hospitals, off-campus community rotations in the towns of Cidra and Santurce and San Gabriel School for the Deaf. Formal courses of instruction are provided in related subjects by means of seminars, lectures, discussions, oral and written reports, examinations, and practical exercises. Admission to the program is open to qualified graduates of dental schools accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and, to graduates of foreign dental schools who intend to return to their countries of origin as teachers and/or researchers. Students enrolled in the program are required to participate full-time and are strongly discouraged from engaging in private practice while in the program.

The program is designed to prepare specialists to cope with the oral health problems of children and adolescents. The educational experiences are aimed at expanding competency in the areas of behavior management, treatment of special health needs children, preventive and interceptive treatment of malocclusion, dental practice in the hospital setting, conscious sedation, general anesthesia, biostatistics, clinically applied basic sciences, dental education, and application of modern concepts of prevention, and comprehensive dental treatment. Required clinical experiences include advanced pediatric dentistry clinic, special pediatric dentistry clinic, physical diagnosis and interceptive orthodontics. Residents spend one month at the pediatric anesthesia, and one month at pediatric emergency wards. While in the program, residents participate in the meeting of the cleft-palate team at the Pediatric University Hospital. Experiences in the operating room and in conscious sedation are also required. Community off-campus extramural experiences include Pediatric Dentistry Clinic, HealthproMed in Santurce and Cossma clinic in the town of Cidra. Both off-campus community clinic runs parallel to the regular program and emphasizes oral health promotion and prevention, as well as restorative treatment.

The Advanced Dental Education Specialty Program in Pediatric Dentistry has created the Center for Maternal and Infant Oral Health (CSOMI). The center provides services within the infrastructure of the program. Unique in the Caribbean, CSOMI provides services to the mother–infant dyad. Services include preventive, restorative, and surgical interventions and frenectomies for those who have ankyloglossia that prevents adequate breastfeeding.

The structure and content of the Advanced Dental Education Specialty Program in Pediatric Dentistry follows the guidelines for advanced education programs established by the Commission on Dental Education and the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. The program is subject to review by these groups so that graduates may receive the corresponding privileges. The Advanced Dental Education Specialty Program in Pediatric Dentistry is guided by three fundamental responsibilities of the University, which are: (a) the expansion of knowledge through research, (b) the dissemination of such knowledge through teaching, and (c) the application of resources to the solution of social problems and needs. Patients are selected to provide students with a variety of clinical experiences in the areas of interceptive orthodontics, growth and development, syndromes, developmental defects and genetic abnormalities, as well as social and behavior management problems.

The outstanding strengths of the program are:

- The availability and variety of a pool of medically compromised children with dental problems in both school and hospital clinics.
- The availability and extensive use of medical consultation during treatment of these children.
- The comprehensive treatment of malocclusion through orthodontic therapy.
- The program faculty is composed of nine (9) Board Certified Pediatric Dentists.

This program consists of two continuous full-time years of academic experience, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, through June 30<sup>th</sup>, leading to a Postdoctoral Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry. The program also offers the opportunity to obtain a Master of Science in Dentistry (M.S.D.) degree, with the completion of additional academic requirements. Instruction and clinical practice are conducted at the School of Dental Medicine (S.D.M.) and the Pediatric University Hospital. Formal courses of instruction are provided in related subjects by means of seminars, lectures, discussions, and practical exercises.

The varied backgrounds of the program's full time, clinical, science and basic science faculty make it possible for the dentist seeking advanced Pediatric Dentistry training to obtain a broad based education.

### **Graduation Requirements**

Resident must pass all required courses satisfactorily and have a minimum grade point average of 3.00, as certified by the Registrar's Office. In addition, students must successfully complete the written examination of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (A.B.P.D.).

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#### **TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 42 TRIMESTER C.H. + 14 SEMESTER C.H.**

BIOR 9005	Advanced Oral Biology Core Course	5 sem
MEDI 7400	Pediatrics	2 sem
PEDO 9400	Advanced Pediatric Dentistry Seminar	2
PEDO 9404	Interceptive Orthodontics Seminar	2
PEDO 9407	Anesthesiology Clerkship	2
PEDO 9408	Advanced Pediatric Dentistry Clinic	3
PEDO 9409	Advanced Pediatric Dentistry Clinic	3
PEDO 9411	Special Pediatric Dentistry Clinic	2
PEDO 9412	Special Pediatric Dentistry Clinic	3
PEDO 9414	Children with Special Health Care Needs	4
PEDO 9416	Dental Education	2
PEDO 9422	Interceptive Orthodontic Clinic I	1
PEDO 9423	Interceptive Orthodontic Clinic II	1
PEDO 9424	Interceptive Orthodontics Clinic	2
PEDO 9428	Evidence Based Pediatric Dentistry	2
PEDO 9439	Pediatric Physical Diagnosis	3 sem
PEDO 9447	Community Oral Health	3
PEDO 9449	Pediatric Medicine Rotation	0
PDOC 9006	Research Methods and Applied Statistics for Dental Residents	5
PDOC 9101	Introduction to Research Planning	2
PDOC 9103	Research Project I	2 sem
PDOC 9104	Research Project II	2 sem
PROG 9107	Conscious Sedation for Dental Patients	3

**Requirements to fulfill master's degree:**

PDOC 9102	Research Planning and Statistical Design	3 sem
PDOC 9000	Thesis	8 sem

**Professional Studies in Dentistry (Pediatric Dentistry)  
Special Six–Month to a Year Program**

Besides the two year Advanced Dental Education Specialty Program in Prosthodontics, the S.D.M. offers a six–month to a year special program, which is not conducive to a degree or diploma. Students receive a certificate of the program. This program is designed for foreign dentists interested in the regular advanced dental education program.

PROG 9515 – (Section 003) – Professional Studies in Dentistry – 0 crs.

**Application**

Application to Professional Studies in Dentistry is conducted through the Office of the Assistant Dean for Graduate Dental Education.

<http://dental.rcm.upr.edu/?s=assistant+dean+for+graduate+dental+education>

An interview with the Director of the Advanced Dental Education Specialty Program of interest is mandatory in order to start the application process.