

University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry Externship Policy, April 2022

The US Department of Education, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Commission on Dental Accreditation expect students of dental education programs to be in regular attendance in their academic programs. While the College recognizes the value of externships, particularly for those students who are planning to pursue post-doctoral education, students' full participation in the DDS program is of paramount importance. For this reason, the following externship policies are in place.

1. Participation in externships is limited to D4 students ¹
2. Externships longer than one week are strongly discouraged
3. DDS students are limited to 2 externships in their D4 year ²
4. Externships must be of demonstrated educational value
5. Prior to applying for, or accepting an externship, students MUST:
 - a. Send a request to the Associate Dean for Institutional Affairs that they wish to pursue an externship. Documentation of the externship, including the educational value, is required.
 - b. Be in good academic standing, as certified by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Minimum GPA: 3.0; no academic probation; no Incompletes).
 - c. Be making better than average progress in their clinical experiences, as certified by the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. (Clinic points greater than class average).
 - d. Associate Deans may seek faculty input in making a determination of "good standing."
 - e. Following certifications, the student will be notified by the Associate Dean for Institutional Affairs that they may pursue an externship.
6. Participation in an Externship does NOT exclude students from any course requirements, or course work, including examinations. Examinations MUST be taken at their regularly scheduled time, unless the student makes alternative arrangements with the course director.

Notes:

1. D3 students who demonstrate EXCEPTIONAL academic progress and clinical ability MAY be allowed to attend an externship in the spring of their D3 year, subject to approval as described above. All other conditions above apply, and a D3 externship counts as one of the 2 allowed externships.
2. The number of externships allowed may be adjusted for students applying to highly competitive residency programs

Approved by UTHSC College of Dentistry Executive Administrative Council
April 19, 2022. Amended and approved, April 21, 2022