

MS Oral Science **Graduate Handbook**



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO

College of Dentistry

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Program Overview

Oral health is a critical element of personal well-being. Research has demonstrated the definitive association between oral and systemic diseases such as periodontitis, cardiovascular disease, and preterm birth. The Master of Science in Oral Sciences prepares the next generation of dental faculty and clinicians who will serve as leaders in oral health care and within their respective dental specialties. Graduates of the program will be able to use research skills and knowledge in their practices to improve health outcomes for patients.

This program manual is meant to serve as a guide to students of the MS in Oral Sciences program and their mentors. It should be used alongside the policies and procedures that have been established by the Graduate College of the University of Illinois Chicago.



Christina Nicholas,
PhD, DGS

Important Contacts

Director of Graduate Studies

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For issues related to admissions, curriculum, registration, research project and thesis

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Admissions

The application and/or commencement of the MS in Oral Sciences is separate from that completed for the candidate's Advanced Specialty program. Students only participating in the MS in Oral Sciences only need to complete one application. An electronic application must be completed through [UIC's online application system](#).

Deadlines:

- International Candidates: February 15th prior to the program's fall matriculation
- Domestic Candidates: May 15th prior to the program's fall matriculation

The following items must be uploaded by the individual applicant through UIC's application system:

- Personal statement (no longer than 1-2 pages, candidates should discuss their motivation for conducting research and how research supports their career goals)
- Transcripts
- One letter of recommendation from a practicing clinician or research mentor
- [Evidence of English proficiency](#) (international candidates only)

Incomplete applications cannot be considered. Applicants are responsible for checking the status of their application online and ensuring that all required documents have been uploaded.

Curriculum

A complete description of each course may be obtained via the [University's website](#).

The didactic curriculum consists of five core courses and a research seminar. Students must also complete a thesis or capstone project. Students must complete a minimum of 32 credit hours for the MS in Oral Sciences. Of these 32 hours, no more than 12 hours may be devoted to thesis research (OSCI 598) or capstone research (OSCI 597). At least 20 hours of 500-level courses must be completed (excluding any 595, 597, or 598 courses).

Curriculum

Required core courses:

- OSCI 560 – Structure, Organization, and Regulation of Dental Healthcare and Research
- OSCI 561 – Molecular Basis of Oral Disease
- OSCI 562 – Craniofacial Biology
- OSCI 563 – Wound, Healing, and Regenerative Sciences
- OSCI 564 – Interdisciplinary Research Seminar*

*Students must enroll in OSCI 564 in both semesters of their anticipated terminal year in the program

Selectives: 2-4 credits of selectives must be completed to meet the 32-credit hour requirement. Selectives must be at the 500 level and may not include: research seminars (564/595), independent study (596), or research (597/598).

Research: OSCI 598 or Thesis Research – students must complete a research project to be used as the thesis project. Students register for OSCI 598 with the thesis advisor as the instructor. To complete the MS degree, students must complete 12 OSCI 598 credit hours.

OSCI 597 or Capstone Research – a student completing a capstone research project must complete 12 OSCI 597 credit hours with their capstone advisor. Note 1 credit hour = (2) 50-minute periods per week for 15 weeks.



SAMPLE CURRICULUM

MS in Oral Science Curriculum Registration

MSOS-Y1 Fall	MSOS-Y1 Spring	MSOS-Y2 Summer	MSOS-Y2 Fall	MSOS-Y2 Spring
OSCI 560 42634 4 CREDITS	OSCI 562 42229 4 CREDITS	OSCI 598/OSCI 597 *CRN based on advisor* 4 CREDITS	OSCI 564 42709 1 CREDIT	OSCI 564 42228 1 CREDIT
OSCI 561 42635 4 CREDITS	OSCI 563 42230 4 CREDITS	4 Credit Hours Part Time / Range II	500 Level Course CRN Determined by Program 2 CREDITS	500 Level Course CRN Determined by Program 2 CREDITS
OSCI 598/OSCI 597 *CRN based on advisor* 2 CREDITS	OSCI 598/OSCI 597 *CRN based on ad- visor* 2 CREDITS		OSCI 598/OSCI 597 *CRN based on ad- visor* 2 CREDITS	OSCI 598/OSCI 597 *CRN based on ad- visor* 2 CREDITS
10 Credits Tuition Range II	10 Credits Tuition Range II		5 Credits (Tuition Range III)	5 Credits (Tuition Range III)

Laboratory Safety & Training

The University of Illinois Chicago requires that all students who participate in laboratory research complete appropriate training prior to beginning research. Students should work with their mentors to identify appropriate training based on the research project. However, all students must complete the following appropriate courses prior to working in the laboratory.

Laboratory Safety Students are required to complete a classroom session prior to working in a lab. [Click here to register.](#)

Patient or human subjects training can be found on the [UIC Office of Vice Chancellor for Research website.](#)

Protected health information training can be found on the [UIC HIPAA and Research Activities page.](#)

Additional trainings may be required depending on the type of research that the students will conduct. Student participants should consult with their mentors to determine what training is required.



Curriculum/Academic Procedures

Non-credit courses: Students whose research projects involve human subjects and/or animals must complete all appropriate trainings PRIOR to commencing work with their subjects. (If requisite trainings were completed prior to admission to the MS program, verification of training completion must be provided for inclusion in student records.) Credit from these courses does not count towards the MS degree.

Human Subject Research (online modules)

- Investigator 101 (all research involving human subjects)
- HIPPA (for research utilizing protected health information)

Animal Subject Research

- GC 470 Essentials for Animal Research - this course is only offered during the fall term.

Registration: Registration is completed online. Information on how to register is available on the [UIC website](#). All students should visit [this website](#) for full information on registration policies.

Students should use the [myUIC portal](#) to view course schedules by semester and to register for courses. Prior to each term, all eligible continuing students will receive an email from the University with a date when they are allowed to register.

Students may add or drop classes up until the second Friday of each semester. Please note, 500 level courses follow the [UIC Graduate College academic calendar](#) and may not always align with the UIC College of Dentistry academic calendar.

Students may not register for more than 20 credit hours per term without prior approval. When registering for OSCI 598/597 courses students should identify a thesis advisor prior to registration to register with the correct course registration number.

Advisor & Committee Membership

Students must select a faculty member to serve as the capstone/thesis advisor during the MS program. The thesis advisor must be a member of the Graduate Faculty at the University of Illinois Chicago. Students should select a thesis advisor whose research aligns with the student's research interests and intended project. It is recommended that students select thesis advisors as early in the MS program as possible to allow for maximum time to plan and execute their research projects.

In addition to the requirements set forth by the UIC Graduate College, the College of Dentistry's MS in Oral Sciences program requires that 1 thesis committee member be external to the student's department (hereafter referred to as an "outside" committee member). It is expected that this outside committee role will typically be filled by faculty from another department in the College of Dentistry. However, the outside member could also be faculty in another unit at UIC or, an external-to-UIC member. For external-to-UIC committee members, please follow Graduate College protocol. This includes submitting the CV of the external committee member to the Office of Academic Affairs and the Director of Graduate Studies before submitting a committee recommendation form. If deemed necessary, the requirement for an outside committee member may be waived with the approval of the program director or the chair of that student's department; the election to waive this requirement for a specific student should be communicated to the DGS before the committee recommendation form is submitted.

Visit the [UIC Graduate College Faculty Membership roster](#) to learn which College of Dentistry faculty hold tenure and full membership positions within the Graduate College.



Forms & Paperwork

Thesis

The **Committee Recommendation Form** should be completed by the student at least five weeks prior to the thesis defense and as soon as the thesis committee is formed. Students are responsible for obtaining the Director of Graduate Studies' signature on the form. The forms are then submitted to dentacademicaffairs@uic.edu and are routed to the UIC Graduate College by the Office of Academic Affairs.

Please note the following:

- Forms must be typewritten
- Confirm your thesis title is correct when submitting the committee recommendation form. Your title must exactly match your final submitted thesis
- A copy of the CV must be included for any member who is not listed as UIC Graduate Faculty
- Please enter "Oral Science" as your graduate program and "1525MS" as the program code on your form

Change in Title or Committee Form is completed after the Committee Recommendation form and required by the Graduate College only if either the title or committee members must be updated. This form is not required for changes in the expected exam date. This form must be signed by the Director of Graduate Studies prior to submission to dentacademicaffairs@uic.edu.

Capstone

Capstone projects require a defense and written manuscript. After completion of the capstone project, the research committee will review and sign the **Certificate of Approval** for the MS project. The form is submitted to dentacademicaffairs@uic.edu. If the results of the project are satisfactory and meet the standards of scholarly performance expected in the Oral Science field, the student will obtain approval. If the project lacks minimum criteria for approval as determined by their research committee and MS DGS, the student must work with their research committee to correct stated issues before obtaining approval from the Director of Graduate Studies.

Graduation

GPA Requirements

The [UIC Graduate College policy](#) requires MS students to have a 3.0 (B) overall GPA in order to graduate. A (C) grade in an OSCI course must be offset with an (A) grade in a 500-level course with an equal number of credit hours. Unfortunately, no number of (B) grades paired with a (C) grade will create an above 3.0 GPA. A sub 3.0 GPA at the end of your program will result in the inability to graduate with the MS in Oral Sciences degree.

Therefore it is highly recommended that (C) grades in 500-level courses are remediated. If a student chooses not to remediate a (C) grade immediately following a course, it is the student's responsibility to track the MS GPA. If a student does not achieve a 3.0 overall GPA after completing OSCI 560-563, it is the student's responsibility to remediate previous (C) grades. Instructors have the right to update remediation processes and policies each year, so we cannot guarantee the same remediation form if availed at a future time.

Intent to Graduate

The Office of Academic Affairs will file the intent to graduate on behalf of all MS in Oral Sciences students. Students are responsible for notifying the Office of Academic Affairs at dentacademicaffairs@uic.edu when they are in the final term of their program.

Diplomas

Diplomas are conferred by the University of Illinois Chicago and, as such, are mailed to each student according to the procedures detailed on the [Office of Admissions and Records website](#).

Students must provide their correct mailing addresses to the University via the UIC student portal. Please also see the UIC student portal to verify or change the name as it will appear on a diploma.