

## OPTIONAL FIVE YEAR CURRICULUM FOR DMD DEGREE

In September, 1999 the Curriculum Committee of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine approved a proposal to provide individual students the opportunity to fulfill their DMD degree requirements over a period of five, rather than four academic years. The optional additional year would enable such students to include a significant enrichment experience as part of their educational program. The Office of Dental Education has developed the following guidelines for the Optional Five Year DMD.

### ACCEPTABLE ACTIVITIES FOR ENRICHMENT YEAR

Typical activities in which students might participate include research, community service, international health initiatives, and public health or public policy programs.

### PROGRAM TIME AND DURATION

It is expected that the enrichment program will last a minimum of 10 months and a maximum of 12 months, depending on the curriculum year in which the student is enrolled. Specific dates for departure and return will be established at the time the student's request is reviewed and approved. In general, the period between Years II and III is considered most practical for pursuing an optional study program; however, consideration will be given to students in other years on a case-by-case basis.

### HSDM OVERSIGHT

Dr. Nadeem Karimbux, Assistant Dean for Dental Education, is responsible for coordinating the Five Year Curriculum and for overseeing students who are enrolled in this option.

### APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Students must be in good standing to be eligible to apply for the Five Year DMD. All Unsatisfactory or Incomplete work must be made up before the request for a Five Year DMD Curriculum will be considered. A Proposal Form requesting a change to the Five Year Curriculum must be submitted to Dr. Karimbux who will present the request to the Committee on Promotions and Examinations (Promotions Board) for review. The Proposal must include information about the intended activity, sponsorship, location, duration, and supervision. Documentation from the student's sponsor or mentor should accompany the Proposal. Applications will be considered at the April and May meetings of the HSDM Promotions Board for programs beginning during the summer. Students will be notified of the Promotions Board's decision within a few days of the review.

### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

An evaluation by the mentor or sponsor is required for all students pursuing the Five Year Curriculum. In addition, the student must provide documentation of their efforts:

*Research Program:* At minimum, students who have opted to spend the year conducting research must submit a written paper and present their project at the annual Soma Weiss Research Assembly or comparable forum. Students in this track are strongly urged to use this opportunity to fulfill the HSDM research requirement. These students should work closely with the HSDM Office of Predoctoral Research to ensure that the DMD degree requirements, including presentation at HSDM Research Day, are met.

*Other Programs:* Students pursuing enrichment experiences in community service, international health, public health, public policy, etc. must submit a written report about their work and must present the work at an appropriate forum such as Community Service Day.

## HSDM TRANSCRIPT

Transcripts for Five Year Curriculum students will include a heading of Enrichment Year with a brief description of the activity pursued and the evaluation (grade) for the work. Grading will be Honors/Pass/Fail.

## ENROLLMENT STATUS

In most instances, while pursuing the Enrichment Year, students will be considered full-time registered students at HSDM.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

*Payment of Tuition:* Students pursuing the Optional Five Year Curriculum will be charged full tuition for the first four years of HSDM enrollment. A Facilities Fee in the amount of 5.0% of full HSDM tuition will be charged for the final (fifth) year in pursuit of the DMD. Health fees will be charged for each year in which a student maintains a status of "Registered". Clinic Fees will be charged in accordance with the standard DMD curricular year in which the student is enrolled.

*Support for Enrichment Year:* Financial support for enrichment activities may be provided by the student's mentor, the sponsoring agency, or other outside resources. Students who maintain enrollment status at HSDM and whose resources are insufficient to meet their anticipated expenses may apply for financial aid to help offset tuition and living costs for the year. The HSDM Financial Aid Officer is available to assist students with the application process.