Orthodontics

+ Center for Advanced Dental Education

Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW / / /

The Master of Science in dentistry degree and certificate in orthodontics program at Saint Louis University's Center for Advanced Dental Education (CADE) provides intensive instruction and training in the biological and clinical sciences related to the specialty of orthodontics.

Orthodontics was created as a specialty of dentistry to address complex problems involving the growth and development of the facial structures and dentition. In this specialty, special emphasis is given to conditions that require tooth movement and alterations of the bones of the facial complex.

Our program, which is one of the oldest orthodontic programs in the U.S., began training orthodontists in 1948. Since then, more than 700 students have studied and earned their degrees at Saint Louis University; the SLU orthodontic program has produced more orthodontists than any program in the world. Our alumni have compiled an excellent record of accomplishment by providing high-quality service to their patients, teaching, conducting research and providing service to the profession of dentistry and the specialty of orthodontics.

The graduate program in orthodontics at CADE begins approximately the third week in June each year and continues for 30 consecutive months with graduation in December, with a 36-month option available for international students from specific countries. This well-rounded, balanced program trains students in clinical orthodontics, biomedical sciences and research discovery. Graduates are prepared to pursue careers as a clinician with a practice limited to orthodontics, a researcher or a teacher of orthodontics.

Requirements for the master's degree include the successful completion of all coursework, satisfactory treatment of the assigned patients, acceptable performance on all didactic and clinical examinations, and the successful completion and defense of a thesis. The curriculum is designed to satisfy the requirements for licensure as a specialist and the specialty board in orthodontics as well as the Master of Science degree.

Program Structure:

Students in the program begin with basic science instruction designed to provide fundamental knowledge of all aspects of the human system with a particular focus on growth, development and the biological aspects of tooth movement and alteration of bones. Following preliminary laboratory and classroom instruction, each resident initiates treatment on a large number of patients who present a broad array of dental malocclusions and skeletal deformities. Faculty introduce students to a variety of treatment philosophies, mechanics and appliances through lectures, seminars, laboratory exercises and demonstrations.

In the clinic, students are exposed to a wide array of patient types, including children, adolescents and adults. Students are also exposed to cases with compromised oral health that require consideration of periodontal, restorative and temporomandibular joint treatment. As a result, many patients are treated by an interdisciplinary approach with other health care professionals. Throughout the clinical experience, each student receives a great deal of faculty attention.

Students also receive training in research design and statistics and must conduct an original research project. This effort leads to the preparation and defense of a thesis and, subsequently, the production of a manuscript suitable for publication in a journal relating to the specialty of orthodontics. The experience of discovery provided by such research is an integral part of the graduate program, and we expect that the student will produce a meaningful contribution to the field of orthodontics.

For a more in-depth description of the orthodontic program, its requirements and its mission, visit slu.edu/cade/dental-education.
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FACULTY ///

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• This program is one of the oldest and largest orthodontic programs in the world.
• SLU has outstanding facilities and technologies.
• Our alumni are recognized for their clinical and professional accomplishments.

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