



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

— EST. 1818 —

CENTER FOR
ADVANCED DENTAL
EDUCATION

*Graduate Program in
Orthodontics*

3320 Rutger Street
Dreiling-Marshall Hall
St. Louis, MO 63104-1122

P 314-977-8363
F 314-977-8617

www.slu.edu

To: Applicants to the Graduate Program in Orthodontics

From: Center for Advanced Dental Education

Subject: Program Requirements

Thank you for your interest in the Graduate Program in Orthodontics. We are very proud of our program, the quality of the educational experience that we have created, and the accomplishments of our graduates in terms of service to the specialty and the care of patients. We invite you to consider applying to our program.

The deadline for application to the Graduate Program
in Orthodontics is September 1, 2026.

As you prepare the application materials, we would like to remind you of the items that need to be submitted electronically in your online application through ADEA Postdoctoral Application Support Service (ADEA PASS) to complete your admissions file:

1. **Three letters of recommendation.** Two Professional Evaluation Forms (PEF) are required, along with one Institution Evaluation Form (submitted by the dean of the dental school). Additional PEFs can be submitted.
2. **National Board of Dental Examiners' test scores, Part I and II.** Foreign applicants are exempt from this requirement.
3. **GRE Scores.**
4. **Transcripts from dental school and previous educational experiences.** If you have attended Saint Louis University, it is your responsibility to request transcripts from the Registrar's Office (314-977-2269). Transcripts in a foreign language must include a certified English translation (WES or ECE).
5. **Personal statement.** The personal statement provides the admissions committee with insight into what precipitated the applicant's interest in this academic degree program. Specifically, what academic, professional and/or personal experiences influenced the decision to apply to Saint Louis University? This statement should also explain what the applicant expects to receive from the program and how that will affect the applicant's plans in the future. This overview should be approximately 500 words.

6. **A current resume' or curriculum vitae.** This should include information concerning academic, professional, and personal activities.
7. **Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program match number.** The Graduate Program in Orthodontics at Saint Louis University participates in the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program. All applicants must obtain a match code number from National Matching Services.
8. **Foreign student applicants.** Highly qualified foreign students may be admitted to advanced dental education programs in the Center for Advanced Dental Education at Saint Louis University. Foreign students must meet most of the same criteria for admission as U.S. citizens, must demonstrate competency in written and spoken English, and must demonstrate financial resources adequate to complete their education at Saint Louis University. Proof of financial support must include: 1) A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding your study at Saint Louis University. Depending on your situation, this could be from you, your parents or a scholarship agency, among other options; and 2) A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for your duration of study at the University. The financial evidence must cover at least the amount needed for the first year. It must be understood that foreign applicants are required to provide most of the items requested in the normal application process and, in addition, a foreign applicant must submit scores from the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) examination and evidence of adequate financial resources. Saint Louis University's TOEFL code is 6629.
9. The program does not require that applicants (U.S. and foreign) take and submit scores from the ADA Advanced Dental Admissions Test (known as ADAT). If, however, an applicant has taken the ADAT and wants to submit their scores, they may do so on a voluntary basis; this might be helpful for applicants who are graduating from dental schools who do not provide class ranks or G.P.A.

Applications may be submitted beginning mid-May. It is important that all materials be submitted as soon as possible, since your application will not be considered complete and subsequently reviewed by the Orthodontic Admissions Committee until all materials have been received. The application deadline is September 1.

Saint Louis University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, handicap, or veteran status in the educational programs and activities it conducts. Again, thank you for your interest in Saint Louis University, The Center for Advanced Dental Education, and the Graduate Program in Orthodontics.

Fees and Expenses

Upon receiving notification of acceptance into the graduate program, a prospective student will be required to forward the sum of \$1000.00 to the Center for Advanced Dental Education to confirm acceptance of the position. This fee will be applied to tuition costs and is not refundable. The student will also submit a formal written acceptance stating his or her desire to enter the graduate program. The student will be required to forward any necessary final transcripts, official board scores and demonstrate possession of a dental degree (i.e., D.D.S., D.M.D., or an equivalent) before matriculation.

Tuition for all students is established by the Board of Trustees of Saint Louis University. Tuition for the 2026 academic year will be approximately \$46,820. Additional information on tuition and other activity and health fees can be found in the graduate catalogue or the University website. Besides tuition, University fees, and living expenses, a student can expect to spend approximately \$15,000 on instruments, equipment, textbooks, a clinical camera, and University-specified laptop.

Center for Advanced Dental Education

General Information

The Center for Advanced Dental Education (CADE) at Saint Louis University (SLU) offers advanced dental education in the areas of Endodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, and Orthodontics that prepares students for specialty practice and satisfies the educational requirements of the respective specialty boards. A Certificate of Proficiency and Master of Science degree are awarded after the completion of all requirements of the respective specialty program.

The Graduate Program in Orthodontics

The Program

The graduate program in orthodontics at CADE begins approximately the third week in June each year and continues for thirty consecutive months with graduation in December. A thirty-six month program can be arranged for students from certain foreign countries that require such a program for licensure. This period of full-time study provides for intensive instruction and training in the biological and clinical sciences related to the specialty of orthodontics. The course of instruction is designed to satisfy all the requirements for eligibility for licensure as a specialist, the specialty board in orthodontics, and the Master of Science degree. The program is fully accredited by the American Dental Association, is well-rounded and provides balanced training in clinical orthodontics, biomedical sciences, and discovery. Our goal is to prepare the graduate to pursue a career of many possibilities: as a clinician with a practice limited to orthodontics, as a researcher, or as a teacher of orthodontics.

Requirements for the Master's degree include the successful completion of all course work, satisfactory treatment of the assigned patients, acceptable performance on all didactic and clinical examinations, and the successful completion and defense of a thesis.

Instruction in Biomedical Sciences

Instruction in the basic sciences at the postgraduate level is designed to provide broad and in-depth knowledge concerning the human form beyond that learned in dental school. Fundamental knowledge regarding all aspects of the human system is taught with particular focus on growth, development, and the biological aspects of tooth movement and alteration of bones. Formal courses are given in the areas of head and neck anatomy, oral biology, bone biology, genetics, and facial growth. Basic instruction also focuses on new technologies; computer science is an integral portion of the curriculum.

Clinical Experience

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. Although residents are first introduced to the Tweed edgewise philosophy form of treatment, they are also exposed to Tip-Edge mechanics (the sequel to Begg therapy), functional and other removable appliances, and to various straight wire appliances. The supervising faculty present their philosophies and techniques by means of lectures, seminars, laboratory exercises, and demonstrations.

In the clinic, students are exposed to a wide array of patient types. Children, adolescents, and adults are treated; consequently, students are exposed to treatment in the deciduous, mixed, and adult dentitions. 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 healthcare professionals. Throughout the clinical experience, each student receives a great deal of faculty attention. The development of diagnostic and treatment skills is emphasized as a major responsibility to our students.

Additional courses and seminars augment the clinical experience covering the topics of diagnosis and treatment planning, cephalometrics, theoretical and practical biomechanics, oral pathology, oral medicine, multidisciplinary treatment, speech disorders, craniofacial defects with particular emphasis on cleft lip/palate rehabilitation, adolescent and adult psychology, implants, dentofacial orthopedics, surgical orthodontics, TMJ disorders, and practice management.

Research and the Thesis

As part of our responsibility to the specialty and the patients it serves, the faculty is committed to the production of new knowledge. Following instruction in research design and statistics, the residents receive experience in the process of discovery by conducting 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.

Each graduate student works closely with faculty advisors to develop an original clinical or basic science research project. The topics for research are limitless and usually develop from areas of special interest “discovered” by the student during the first year of instruction. A reasonable project is worked out with the help of faculty mentors, and this initial step is followed by a period of in-depth literary investigation to determine what is, and is not, already known about the particular subject. Then, the necessary equipment and materials are obtained and related techniques learned. Required laboratory equipment and expertise is available across campus, from computers to electron microscopes. The work begins and eventually results are produced, analyzed and interpreted. A written thesis of acceptable literary and scientific merit is then prepared along with a manuscript suitable for publication so that this new knowledge may become available to the profession. This experience of discovery is an integral part of the

Graduate Program and we expect that the student will produce a meaningful contribution to the field of orthodontics.

Saint Louis University is genuinely proud of the students' achievements in research. Numerous theses completed by the students have received recognition in various research competitions and have been presented at national orthodontic and dental research meetings.

Facilities

The orthodontic program is conducted in Dreiling-Marshall Hall. This building was constructed in 1998 and is entirely dedicated to advanced dental education. The vast majority of the space in the building is used by the orthodontic program. Space is dedicated to patient care (waiting room, examination, consultation, imaging, clinics), education and research (classrooms, library, laboratories), and the students, staff, and faculty (offices, lounges). All in all, the orthodontic program is fortunate to have one of the finest educational facilities in the world.

Teaching Staff

Over the years, the faculty has consisted of some of the most talented and dedicated leaders in the specialty of orthodontics. The orthodontic faculty is presently composed of approximately 50 full-time and part-time members, most of whom are practicing orthodontists. This broadly-based group of individuals (with advanced degrees from many different universities) is relatively large (6.00 full-time equivalents) and has many talents and strengths. Many are certified as diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics, many are active in dental and orthodontic associations, and collectively they have over 1,000 years of experience in clinical orthodontics. Many members are internationally known for their research, teaching, and clinical ability and contribute regularly to the literature. In addition to strong academic and clinical orthodontic faculty, other faculty with expertise in craniofacial anatomy, communication disorders, oral surgery, endodontics, pain, periodontics, law, bioengineering, management, and psychology contribute to the curriculum. A large number of visiting lecturers also participate in the education of the students. Because of the continued study and diligence of this dedicated faculty, our program stands today as a leader in the training of orthodontists.