Predoctoral Dental Education Programs: Curriculum Format, Content and Innovations

**DEGREE OF CURRICULAR INTEGRATION**

Curricular integration is common, but has room to expand: 60 out of 65 dental schools reported some degree of curriculum integration for their predoctoral programs, 29 of which described the degree as “minor” and 25 as “major”.

*The curriculum is organized around themes or threads of inter-related topics taught by interdisciplinary teams of faculty (e.g., an organ-based or systems-based structure) rather than being organized around the traditional disciplinary boundaries.

**UTILIZATION OF THE PATIENT COMPREHENSIVE CARE MODEL**

Nearly all dental schools utilize the patient comprehensive care model, most often in the last two years of the program.

**TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS SUPPORTING THE CURRICULUM**

Dental schools employ a variety of technological solutions to support the curriculum, some of which are more commonly used than others.

**UTILIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL METHODOLOGIES**

Use of blended courses and online evaluations is nearly unanimous among dental schools, but asynchronous distance education is somewhat uncommon.

**UTILITY OF THE PATIENT COMPREHENSIVE CARE MODEL**

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**REQUIREMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCES**

With few exceptions, dental schools require community-based patient care experiences as part of their curriculum.