Distribution of Clock Hours of Instruction in Dental Schools by Class Year

The total number of clock hours by class year rise for the first three years of the program, and decrease slightly in the final year.

The vast majority of time in the first two years is spent in didactic instruction and simulation, while the final two years are spent predominantly in patient care.

**Year One Total Clock Hours**
- Patient Care: 11.3%
- Simulation: 31.7%
- Didactic: 44.2%
- Other Areas: 12.8%

Year One Total Clock Hours per Program: 1,135.9
Number of Programs Reporting Clock Hours for Year One: 66

**Year Two Total Clock Hours**
- Patient Care: 84.2%
- Simulation: 13.9%
- Didactic: 30.1%
- Other Areas: 10.5%

Year Two Total Clock Hours per Program: 1,298.9
Number of Programs Reporting Clock Hours for Year Two: 65

**Year Three Total Clock Hours**
- Patient Care: 68.8%
- Simulation: 3.5%
- Didactic: 20.5%
- Other Areas: 7.2%

Year Three Total Clock Hours per Program: 1,569.0
Number of Programs Reporting Clock Hours for Year Three: 65

**Year Four Total Clock Hours**
- Patient Care: 84.2%
- Simulation: 1.2%
- Didactic: 7.4%
- Other Areas: 7.2%

Year Four Total Clock Hours per Program: 1,455.3
Number of Programs Reporting Clock Hours for Year Four: 63

**Total Clock Hours**
- Patient Care: 45.5%
- Simulation: 13.9%
- Didactic: 30.1%
- Other Areas: 10.5%

Total Clock Hours per Program: 5,450.0
Number of Programs Reporting Clock Hours for All Years*: 64

*These totals include data from 64 dental education programs which reported clock hours for a full program. The University of the Pacific has a 3 year program and reported clock hours for all three years of the program; it is included in these totals. Clock hours for all four years were not available for two dental education programs: Touro College of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College and University of Utah School of Dentistry. Both schools are excluded from the totals.

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2016-17 Survey of Dental Education: Report 4 – Curriculum

For more information, contact the Health Policy Institute at hpi@ada.org.