

## PROH Weighs in on SOD Curriculum

What skills/knowledge should be taught in dental school? Educators always struggle with limited time and a plethora of topics that could be included. New technology and information are being generated at a rapid rate in dentistry. Dental education must continually reassess its curricular content to ensure that the new dentist is provided with the appropriate skills and knowledge to begin practice. As experienced dental practitioners, the PROH network is a valuable resource for providing input about current and future curricular content for restorative dentistry.

In designing this survey, we excluded essential components (e.g., full dentures, PFM crowns, etc.) and we focused on areas that may be a bit more controversial or variable in terms of emphasis from dental school to dental school. The survey asked to have seven components of undergraduate dental education rated using the following scale:

- \*Essential knowledge/skill for current/future dental practice;
- \*Important and appropriate to cover to some extent, but not essential;
- \*Not essential and/or not necessary to include;
- \*Unsure or no strong feeling either way.

We also asked for other topics that should be emphasized in the restorative dentistry curriculum.

An online survey was sent to 124 members of the PROH network. There were a total of 38 responses. Results are on the next page. Of note is the fact that Preventive/Conservative topics were uniformly rated as essential or important. The same can be said of the General topics, with developing critical thinking skills and specific training in ethics and professionalism scoring highest in the survey as being essential to the curriculum. Custom trays, stock trays and triple trays for final impressions were all considered equally high in importance for inclusion in the curriculum, but optical impressions have not reached the point of being an essential topic. Prefabricated metal and fiber posts were considered to be equally high in importance, and were actually considered more essential than cast post and cores.

Many respondents took full advantage of the opportunity to suggest additional topics. Of the 74 suggestions offered, 22 related to the business of dentistry, 21 discussed specific clinical techniques, 6 related to ethics, 4 related to patient communication and management, and 4 discussed clinical diagnoses leaving an array of 16 miscellaneous topics.

The time and input provided by the respondents is appreciated. These findings have been shared with the faculty of the Department of Restorative Dentistry, as well as those with responsibility for curriculum development.

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	Essential	Important	Non-essential/ uncertain
<b>Single Unit Restoration</b>			
All-ceramic inlays/onlays	26%	55%	19%
All ceramic crowns	65%	35%	0%
Composite inlays/onlays	11%	63%	26%
Composite crowns	5%	59%	66%
3/4 to 7/8 crowns	24%	53%	24%
Cast post and cores	29%	50%	21%
Prefabricated metal posts	53%	40%	8%
Prefabricated fiber posts	45%	47%	8%
CAD/CAM restorations	13%	47%	40%
"Prep-less" porcelain veneers	5%	45%	50%

	Essential	Important	Non-essential/ uncertain
<b>Impression Techniques</b>			
Custom trays for final impressions	60%	24%	16%
Stock trays for final impressions	49%	38%	13%
Triple trays	60%	32%	8%
Optical impressions	14%	54%	32%

	Essential	Important	Non-essential/ uncertain
<b>Occlusion</b>			
Full mouth rehabilitation	24%	60%	16%
Treatment of TMD patients	41%	54%	5%
Equilibration of natural dentition	49%	43%	8%

	Essential	Important	Non-essential/ uncertain
<b>Multiple Unit Restorations</b>			
Casting 3-unit FPD for clinical case	41%	35%	24%
Soldering FPD components for clinical case	22%	25%	53%
All-ceramic FPD	35%	43%	22%
Fiber reinforced resin composite FPD	3%	44%	53%

	Essential	Important	Non-essential/ uncertain
<b>Preventive/Conservative</b>			
Minimally invasive dentistry	47%	50%	3%
Remineralization therapies	40%	55%	5%
Use of bioactive materials	35%	57%	8%
Preventive resin restorations	70%	19%	11%
Pulp capping with non-CaOH materials	40%	55%	5%

	Essential	Important	Non-essential/ uncertain
<b>Removable Partial Dentures</b>			
RPDs with attachments to survey crowns	62%	38%	0%
RPDs with attachments to implants	67%	30%	3%
Non-traditional RPD designs	32%	41%	27%
Implant supported dentures	73%	27%	0%

	Essential	Important	Non-essential/ uncertain
<b>General</b>			
Evidence-based dental practice	73%	27%	0%
Reviewing the literature	62%	35%	3%
Developing critical thinking skills	86%	14%	0%
Specific training in ethics and professionalism	81%	19%	0%