Academic Regulations – 2025

Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) Program

Penang International Dental College, Malaysia

1. Introduction

These academic regulations govern the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) program at Penang International Dental College (PIDC), Malaysia. The document outlines the rules and procedures related to admissions, academic progression, assessments, professional conduct, graduation requirements, and appeals. All students enrolled in the DDS program must comply with these regulations, which are subject to periodic review and updates by the Academic Board.

2. Governance and Oversight

The DDS program is governed by the Academic Board of PIDC, under the authority of the institution's Academic Board. All changes to the curriculum, assessment policies, and progression rules are reviewed and approved by the Academic Board in alignment with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC), and other relevant statutory bodies.

3. Program Structure and Duration

3.1 The DDS program is a 5-year full-time professional degree, comprising preclinical and clinical phases.

3.2 The structure includes:

- Year 1–2: Preclinical Sciences (Basic Medical & Dental Sciences)
- Year 3–5: Clinical Dentistry (Clinical practice and community-based training)

3.3 The program includes:

- Didactic lectures and tutorials
- Practical and clinical skills training
- Community dentistry outreach
- Research project
- Elective rotations (local/international optional placements)

3.4 The academic year is divided into two semesters, with scheduled breaks in between.

4. Admission Requirements

4.1 Candidates must meet the minimum entry requirements as stipulated by:

- MDC (Guidelines for Dental Undergraduate Education)

4.2 Typical minimum academic qualifications include:

Please refer https://bit.ly/4jd2mHu.

4.3 Selection may also involve:

- An interview
- Medical fitness clearance

5. Academic Progression and Attendance

5.1 Minimum attendance of 80% is required for all academic and clinical sessions.

5.2 Students must pass all prescribed courses in a given year before progressing to the next academic year.

5.3 Students who fail a course are:

- Required to undertake supplementary examination, that is re-sit the examination.
- Referred to remedial instruction
- Required to repeat the academic year (maximum of 1 repeats allowed in the program)

5.4 A student is allowed a maximum of 7 years to complete the DDS program.

6. Assessment and Examinations

6.1 The assessment strategy includes:

- Continuous assessments (50%) & Professional Year End Examination (50%)
- Written examinations (SRA, SBA, SAQ, SEQ, MEQ)

Competency Assessment

- Practical/clinical exams (OSCE/OSPE, CBR)
- Research project evaluation

6.2 Students must pass both the theory and practical components independently.

6.3 Student must pass all the continuous assessments to appear for the Professional Year End Exam. If not has to take remedial instructions and appear for Viva-Voce.

6.4 Re-sit examinations are permitted once per course. If failed again, the student may repeat the year subject to Academic Board approval.

6.5 Unethical behaviour (e.g., cheating, impersonation) in assessments will result in disciplinary action, including possible dismissal.

7. Clinical Competency and Logbook

7.1 Clinical competencies are assessed continuously and summatively.

7.2 Each student must maintain a clinical logbook/portfolio, recording clinical procedures under supervision.

7.3 Students must complete the minimum number of clinical procedures as stipulated in the clinical requirement guidelines.

7.4 Failure to complete clinical requirements may delay progression or graduation.

8. Professionalism and Conduct

8.1 Students must adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct as defined by the Malaysian Dental Council and PIDC's Student Guidebook.

8.2 Any act of unprofessionalism, academic dishonesty, harassment, or misconduct will be investigated by the Disciplinary Committee.

8.3 Penalties include warnings, suspension, or termination from the program.

9. Leave of Absence and Withdrawal

9.1 Leave of absence for medical, personal, or other valid reasons must be approved by the Dean.

9.2 A student may apply for deferment or temporary withdrawal, not exceeding a cumulative total of 1 year.

9.3 Voluntary withdrawal from the program must be in writing and approved by the PIDC Academic Board.

10. Graduation and Award of Degree

10.1 The DDS degree is awarded upon successful completion of:

- All academic and clinical course requirements
- Clinical logbook and final competency assessment
- Research project and professional development modules

10.2 Graduating students must fulfill all financial obligations, return all college property, and complete the exit clearance process.

10.3 The award of the degree is subject to the endorsement of the PIDC MAHSA Joint Faculty Board, Academic Board and MAHSA University Senate.

11. Appeals and Grievances

11.1 Students may appeal against assessment results or disciplinary decisions.

11.2 Appeals must be submitted in writing within 7 working days of the notification of the result.

11.3 The Appeals Committee will review the appeal and deliver a decision within a reasonable time frame.

12. Amendments and Interpretation

12.1 These regulations are subject to revision as deemed necessary by the PIDC Academic Board.

12.2 The interpretation of these regulations' rests with the PIDC Academic Board and, where necessary, the MAHSA University Senate.

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