

Odontology



The discipline devoted to the study of teeth, their pathology, and appropriate therapeutics is called dentistry, dental medicine, odontology, or dental surgery. Modern dentistry started with Pierre Fauchard, author of *Le Chirurgien dentiste ou Traité des dents* (1728), which presents the fitting of artificial teeth and the use of drills to trim teeth.

Dental surgeons treat cavities and other dental abscesses, perform root canal treatments and teeth scaling, and conduct X-rays to establish a diagnosis. They make molds for the preparation of complete or partial dental prostheses (bridges, crowns, implants). They are also qualified to perform major surgical interventions (broken jaws, bone or gum grafting, etc.) or to straighten teeth and adjust jaw alignment.

In France, the name for a dental surgeon is "*chirurgien-dentiste*". They are specialized in orthodontics (dentofacial orthopedics), oral surgery or oral medicine. These are the specializations offered in Dentistry Research and Training units (UFR) and dental surgery Colleges.

The Doctor of Dental Surgery State Degree can be done in five years after having passed the first year admission exam at the end of the program "*accès santé*" (PASS) with another subject as option, or after a Licence with the "*accès santé*" option (L.AS).

After the State diploma, four years of additional training are required to work in orthodontics (three to four years in the long cycle).

• **13.94** billion euros of dental care provided (2021)

• **42,031** active dental surgeons (2021)

• **.62** dental surgeons for every 100,000 inhabitants (2021)

• **.48%** of dental surgeons are women (2021)

• **.40%** of dental surgeons in France graduated abroad, mainly in European countries (2021)

Sources: <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr>
<https://drees.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr>

International

FOREIGN STUDENT ADMISSION

Regardless of their level of training in medicine, foreign students **must pass the admission exam at the end of the first year of the specific "accès santé" program (PASS) or after a Licence in another subject with the "accès santé" option (L.AS)**. To enter the third cycle, two specific European and foreign dentistry internship exams are held. The registration documents must be submitted by the end of March. The eligibility exams are held in September at the Embassy of France (*Service de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle*) or at the Consulate, and the admission exams take place in December.

Internat d'odontologie à titre européen (EU internship program)

(ODT-UE):

www.cng.sante.fr/candidats/internats/concours-medicaux/docteurs-juniors-praticiens/internat-dodontologie-titre-europeen-odt-ue



RELATED FIELDS

- Oral Surgery
- Endodontics
- Oral Medicine
- Conservative Dentistry
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Orthodontics
- Dento-facial Orthopedics
 - Periodontics
 - Dentures
- Public Health
- Dental Care

Useful links

- National directory of dental surgery (*Annuaire national de Chirurgie dentaire*): www.academiedentaire.fr
- Chirugiens-Dentistes de France : www.lescdf.fr
- National competitive examination in odontology (*Concours national d'internat en odontologie – ODT*): www.cng.sante.fr/concours-national-dinternat-enodontologie-odt
- Alliance of dentistry professions unions (Confédération nationale des syndicats dentaires: www.cnsd.fr
- Council of European Dentists: www.cedentists.eu/
- *École des hautes études en santé publique* (EHESP) : www.ehesp.fr
- National network of hospitals (*Hôpitaux de France*): www.hopital.fr
- French Ministry of Health and Prevention (*Ministère de la santé et de la prévention*): www.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr
- *Ordre national des chirurgiens-dentistes* : www.ordre-chirurgiens-dentistes.fr
- *Réseau CHRU - Centres hospitaliers régionaux et universitaires* : www.reseau-chu.org
- *Union nationale des étudiants en chirurgie-dentaire* (UNECD) : www.unecd.com
- *Université numérique en santé et sport* : www.uness.fr

LEVEL 1st cycle

Medical Studies in France follow the European L-M-D system and are divided into three cycles. Each university is affiliated to one of the 32 Regional University Hospital Centers in France (CHRU). Dentistry training is only taught in French (required French level is CEFRL B2). There are two main ways to follow curricula in Medicine, Midwifery, Dentistry and Pharmacy (MMOP).

PFIRST YEAR OF LICENCE IN MEDICINE, MIDWIFERY, DENTISTRY, PHARMACY, AND PHYSICAL THERAPY (MMOPK) PATHWAY "ACCÈS SANTÉ" (PASS) WITH ANOTHER SUBJECT AS OPTION – L1

Prepared within a university department or a *Unité de Formation et de Recherche* (UFR), the first year of *Licence* is the same for the four programs – medicine, dental surgery, pharmacy, midwifery and physical therapy – and gives access to four different admission exams for the second year.

FIRST YEAR OF LICENCE WITH THE "ACCÈS SANTÉ" (L.AS) OPTION IN ALL SUBJECTS – L2

The first year of *Licence* follows an academic course in "accès santé"-related subjects. Students need at least 60 or 120 ECTS (10 of which in health courses) to apply for the second or third year of the first cycle of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Midwifery and Physical Therapy Training. Students are selected for the second year according to the results obtained and their PASS or L.AS training pathway. Some courses require additional oral examinations.

SECOND YEAR OF THE FIRST CYCLE OF DENTISTRY STUDIES (DFGSO 2) – L2

The second year focuses on oral care and surgery practice. It also includes theory (e.g. on oral ecosystem) and practical workshops using simulators to acquire the skills needed for future patient treatment. The training encompasses five disciplines. During the second and third year, students observe patients and the treatment provided (nursing internship, emergency care training, etc.).

THIRD YEAR (DFGSO 3) – L3

Initiation carries on into the second year in several subjects: General Anatomy and Physiology, Clinical Radiology, Pharmacology; Inflammatory and Infectious Diseases, Dental and Periodontal Diseases, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Masticatory Function. Supervised by a mentor, students enter a clinical internship in hospital dental services.

The *Diplôme de Formation Générale en Sciences Odontologiques* (DFGSO) (Licence level) is awarded at the end of the third year.

LEVEL 2nd cycle

SHORT THIRD CYCLE

FOURTH YEAR (DFASO 1) – M1

Students obtain the status of extern in dentistry in their fourth year. During the internship years, future dental surgeons convert their academic knowledge into professional skills by providing care in real-life conditions. Several other internships take place during their fourth and fifth year, either in a private practice or in another hospital department (stomatology, maxillofacial surgery, etc.).

FIFTH YEAR (DFASO 2) – M2

The validation of the fifth year requires obtaining the *Certificat de synthèse clinique et thérapeutique* (CSCT), which enables the prescription of medication and health care products, the ability to substitute for dental surgeons during their vacations, and the possibility to work as a dental assistant. The *Attestation de Formation aux Gestes et Soins d'Urgence* (AFGSU) validates the completion of the second cycle.

The *Diplôme de Formation Générale en Sciences Odontologiques* (DFGSO) (Master level) is awarded at the end of the fifth year.

SHORT AND SPECIALIZED THIRD CYCLE (1 YEAR)

The sixth year of studies is equivalent to a short third cycle (DFTCC), dedicated to patient approach and preparation for independent practice.

At the end of the training, students must register to write a thesis for a year. They will present it during the period from October to the end of June and from September to the end of October. Subsequently, they are awarded the **Doctor of Dental Surgery State Degree**, granting them authorization to practice.

LEVEL 3rd cycle

LONG THIRD CYCLE - INTERNSHIPS

INTERNAT EN ODONTOLOGIE (CYCLE LONG 3 OU 4 ANS)

Access to the long cycle is determined by a ranking examination at the end of the second semester of the fifth year or at the end of the second semester of TCEO1 (sixth year). Students choose their place of study and specialization based on their ranking.

www.cng.sante.fr/concours-national-dinternat-en-odontologie-odt

Internship is the long third cycle devoted to specialization. It lasts three to four years, during which students/interns in dentistry continue their training while working in a hospital. Their starting salary is €1,600 and increases subsequently.

Dentistry comprises three specializations:

- > Orthodontics, also known as dentofacial orthopedics, focuses on correcting dento-maxillofacial disharmonies and occlusion problems. Theoretical courses are organized in national seminars, and there are six semesters of clinical internships (three years).
- > Oral surgery training specializes in performing more complex oral and maxillofacial procedures, with refresher courses in medicine. Theoretical courses are organized in national seminars, and there are eight semesters of clinical internships (four years).
- > Oral medicine focuses on high-risk patients and individuals with severe pathologies, their diagnosis and the treatment of the consequences on the orofacial region. Theoretical courses are organized in national seminars, and there are six semesters of clinical internships (three years).

At the end of the curriculum, interns are awarded the **Doctor of Dental Surgery State Degree** after having completed their internships and written a thesis for the *Diplôme d'Études Spécialisées* (DES), which grants authorization to practice as a dentist.

OTHER DIPLOMAS

- > *Diplôme d'Études Spécialisées* (DES) in Oral Surgery.
- > *Certificat d'Études Cliniques Spéciales* (CECS), Major in Orthodontics.
- > *Certificats d'Études Supérieures* (CES): Materials Technology; Surgical Dentistry; Conservative Dentistry, Dentofacial Orthopedics, Periodontics, Dental Prosthetics.
- > *Diplômes d'Université* (DU): Periodontics; Occlusodontics; Implantology; Orthodontics; Prosthetics; Preparation for training as a dental assistant; training in oral epidemiological research; Forensic Dentistry; Medical Law, oral and personal injury expertise, etc.
- > *Diplômes Inter-Universitaires* (DIU): Endodontics; Oral Medicine and Surgery; Advanced Pediatric Dentistry; General Anesthesia.