

UNIT NAME: West Virginia University School of Dentistry

UNIT SUMMARY AND RESPONSIBILITY

The WVU School of Dentistry fosters the development of clinically competent graduates. Our four-year predoctoral program (DDS) accepts 48 students per year. Our dental hygiene program (BSDH) accepts 20-22 students per year. In addition to our predoctoral and dental hygiene programs, we offer advanced education and residency programs in oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, endodontics, prosthodontics, periodontics, a general practice residency and beginning in July 2024 a residency program in pediatric dentistry. Graduates from the WVU School of Dentistry programs not only succeed but remain in the state, providing oral health care in communities across West Virginia. Of the practicing general dentists in our state, eighty-three percent are graduates of WVU School of Dentistry.

The Office of the Dean at West Virginia University School of Dentistry functions as the core of the dental school and its clinics providing leadership, administering guidance, offering resources, and ensuring student success and excellence in patient care. The dean's office also acts as a crucial liaison to university administration, state agencies and national dental certification groups. Organizationally, the dean assigns specified administrative functions to associate deans in five areas including pre-doctoral and post-doctoral programs, admissions, clinical operations and student affairs and outreach. Development, finance, information technology and marketing staff also fall under the direction of the dean.

UNIT HEAD COUNT COMPARISON

The dean's office staff did not experience significant change from 2018 through 2024. The employee count was reduced from 18 in 2018 to 17 in 2024. The decrease in one FTE is due to the hold on filling the administrative assistant position that supports the school's admission efforts.

UNIT ADMINISTRATOR-LEVEL OR ABOVE POSITION COUNT COMPARISON

From 2018 to 2024 the administrative and leadership support of the office of the dean did not experience significant change from 2018 through 2024. The employee count increased from 7 in 2018 to 7.7 FTE in 2024. The 0.7 FTE increase was due to separating the administrative responsibilities for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral affairs.

UNIT BUDGET COMPARISON

From 2018 to 2024, salary expenses have increased from \$906,212 in 2018 to \$1,002,484 in 2024. The 96K increase was mainly due to regularly scheduled increases and market adjustments in the marketing, development, and finance positions; state-funded salary increases of \$23K and the \$73K increase for WVU Dental Corporation positions. The dean's office operating budget saw a significant decrease from \$267,921 in 2018 to \$160,055 in fiscal year 2024 – a \$107,866 reduction.

UNIT BENCHMARKS

As one of the smaller dental schools in the country, we found it difficult to peer review schools that are similar to our size. With that, we compared our school with four of our closest neighboring schools. In all four comparisons there were similar types and numbers of senior leadership positions/functions.

CONCLUSION STATEMENT / REVIEW OUTCOME

The Office the Dean at the School of Dentistry has not experienced appreciable growth in personnel or administrative operating costs in the Dean's office for the period of this review 2018-2024. Our leadership team is committed to supporting our department chairs, program directors, faculty, staff, and most importantly our students and our patients. As the State's only dental school, we are committed to transforming lives, and eliminating oral health disparities for our West Virginia families and surrounding communities.