



MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY – PIERRE FAUCHARD ACADEMY – WISCONSIN DENTAL ASSOCIATION MENTOR PROGRAM

Fact Sheet

The Marquette University School of Dentistry – Pierre Fauchard Academy – Wisconsin Dental Association Mentor Program has worked since 1994 to integrate the dentists of tomorrow with the dental community of today. Through the program, student-protégés obtain counsel and guidance necessary to begin a career in the dental profession. Dentist-mentors also benefit from this type of professional relationship, staying apprised of practice sale population and the interests of soon-to-be new dentists.

A practicing dentist is paired with each dental student, typically at the start of their first year, to develop a mentor-protégé relationship. A kickoff dinner at the start of each school year creates a welcoming connection for all.

Each mentor-protégé pair defines how they want their relationship to progress, including how and when they are in contact. Several learning and networking events are scheduled throughout the school year. Informal and face-to-face communication is encouraged and highly recommended for a successful experience.

Mentorship Benefits

- Networking opportunities and planned activities with current and future colleagues.
- Sharing experience and expertise, while learning about new techniques and trends.
- Meeting a potential associate or future partners
- Providing guidance and personal experience to contribute to your profession's future success.
- Giving back to the dental profession.
- Staying apprised of changes in dental education.

Mentor Responsibilities

- Use personal experience and empathy to guide and advise your protégé(s).
- Help your protégé(s) to explore different career possibilities.
- Encourage your protégé(s) to develop a plan for the future.
- Be available to your protégé(s) and invest the time and effort necessary to develop a successful relationship.
- Invite your protégé(s) to join you for one or more days of on-site shadowing, giving your protégé(s) the opportunity to experience a typical work day with real patients.
- Promote professional activities, such as local component meetings, CE courses and meetings with dental suppliers and other professionals needed for a practice and a career (e.g., accountants, lawyers, bankers).
- Share the benefits of being part of organized dentistry and how professional camaraderie will be impactful throughout their dental career.
- Be a resource for all things related to the dental profession (e.g., licensure, OSHA requirements, etc).

Protégé Responsibilities

- Communicate openly and in a timely fashion.
- Respect mentor's time by keeping appointments and commitments.
- Express your expectations for the relationship.
- Provide feedback to your mentor.
- Share your thoughts about school, ask questions about entering into practice – learn about their experiences, both positive and negative.

What if the relationship doesn't work?

If you feel that your assigned protégé or your assigned mentor has not fulfilled your expectations, please contact one of the individuals below. They will offer suggestions to improve communications or, if need be, complete a reassignment. We take great effort in ensuring compatible pairings are made.

Program Contacts

Mentor Program Advisory Group

- Dr. Cheska Avery-Stafford, WDA Liaison dravery@averyfamilydentistry.com
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