

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNITY DENTISTRY (MSc[CommunityDent])

(See also General Regulations)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Science in Community Dentistry is a postgraduate degree awarded following the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study and clinical applications related to community dentistry.

Admission Requirements

D234 To be eligible for admission to the curriculum for the degree of Master of Science in Community Dentistry, a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) hold the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery from this University, or a degree of other qualification of equivalent standard from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - (c) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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Qualifying Examination

D235 (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test a candidate's formal academic ability or his or her ability to complete the prescribed courses of study and practice. It shall consist of one or more written papers, or the equivalent, and may include a practical examination, and oral examinations.

- (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he or she has satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Award of Degree

D236 To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Community Dentistry, a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
 - (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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Curriculum

D237 The curriculum shall consist of a minimum of 600 hours of study and clinical practice related to Community Dentistry as prescribed in the syllabuses. It shall extend over not less than 1 academic year of full-time study or not less than 2 academic years of part-time study, and shall include all examinations and the submission of a dissertation, project report or research paper in publication format.

D238 To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall:

- (a) follow instruction in the courses prescribed and complete satisfactorily all coursework requirements;
 - (b) satisfy the examiners in all examinations as may be required; and
 - (c) complete and submit a dissertation, project report or research paper that satisfies the examiners.
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Dissertation or Project Report or Research Paper

D239 The title of a dissertation, project report or research paper shall be submitted for approval not later than April 30 in the final academic year of study, and the written work shall be submitted not later than September 1 in the same year. The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation, project report or research paper represents his or her own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation, project report or research paper.

Assessments

D240 Any assessment of the candidate's coursework during the course of study, including written assignments, shall be taken into account in determining the candidate's overall result.

D241 Assessments may be held in each year of study and may take the form of written papers; oral, practical, and clinical examinations; assessments of coursework; or a combination of these methods.

D242 A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in any part of the examinations may be permitted to present again for examination at a time to be determined by the Board of Examiners; or he or she may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

D243 A candidate who has presented a dissertation, project report or research paper that has failed to satisfy the examiners may be permitted to revise and re-present the written work within a period to be determined by the Board of Examiners; or he or she may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provision of General Regulation G12.

D244 Failure to take any examination as scheduled normally shall result in automatic course failure. A candidate who is unable, through illness, to be present at an examination may apply in writing within 2 weeks of the examination for permission to be examined at some other time to be determined by the Board of Examiners.

Assessment Results

D245 At the conclusion of the assessments, and after presentation of the dissertation, project report or research paper, the names of the successful candidates shall be published in alphabetical order. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidate's degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNITY DENTISTRY (MSc[CommunityDent])

DENT7009 Master of Science in Community Dentistry

The Master of Science in Community Dentistry is a course of study that is designed to enable practising dentists to acquire advanced training in the theory and practice of oral epidemiology, preventive dentistry, related behavioural and social sciences, and provision of oral health care services to defined populations and communities.

The prescribed course of study has a minimum of 600 hours of coursework and will include seminars, tutorials, clinical work, together with project assignments and training in research.

Course Modules

This course is composed of modules relevant to the practice of community dentistry. The nature and scope of the modules will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect advances in the field. These modules include:

General Public Health Didactic Components (Total 100 hours)

There are many postgraduate taught course modules (20 hours each) offered by the School of Public Health in public health practice, epidemiology, health economics and policy, and administrative medicine. Each student will be required to choose and take 5 of these modules.

Community Dentistry Practicum and Didactic Components (Total 380 hours)

A. Oral epidemiology and disease prevention (90 hours)

1. Measurement and epidemiology of oral health and diseases
2. Prevention and management of oral diseases in communities
3. Occupational and environmental health and safety in relation to dentistry
4. Evidence-based dentistry

B. Biostatistics and research in community dentistry (90 hours)

1. Critical review of dental literature
2. Statistical methods and modelling
3. Use of statistical software
4. Research methods in clinical dental studies

C. Oral health policy and promotion (60 hours)

1. Behavioural and social aspect of oral health
2. Oral health education and promotion
3. Oral health care delivery systems
4. Oral health care financing

D. Provision of oral health education and community dental service (140 hours)

1. Oral health education
2. Communication via mass media
3. Clinical oral examination and screening
4. Preventive dentistry
5. General dentistry
6. Outreach dental care
7. Geriatric dentistry

Research project (120 hours)

Under the guidance of supervisors, students are also required to carry out a research project, involving collection of relevant information or original data and data analysis, and to submit a dissertation, research paper or project report in a publication format.

Directed self-study

In addition to close teacher-student contact hours, students are required to study the literature and relevant books as directed and recommended by their teachers and supervisors. They are also encouraged to attend the research seminars and Oral Health and Science Seminars organized by the Faculty of Dentistry to broaden their knowledge and be informed of the latest developments in all areas of dentistry.
