

Woo! Welcome to the cold winters at University of Michigan! Since these posts and blogs are meant to give you an insight into what life is like at UMSoD, I'll give a little background about the school. UMSoD is part of a larger University institution so it's not the only school on campus, and that's one of the things I love about it. You're exposed to so many different types of students from across all disciplines. University of Michigan is definitely one of the biggest and most prestigious public universities in the country, and to be honest I didn't know much about the school until I visited. Michigan has one of the earliest clinical experiences starting in the first year, and by middle of D2, students have their own group of patients. I hope that these posts from me and our fellow alumni at other dental schools. On the real though, you should choose the cheapest dental school you can get in to because dental school loans are no joke and you don't want to be paying \$1000-3000 a month for 10-20 years. Michigan is great because it's very cost-friendly for out-of-state students and even more affordable than California dental schools. Anyways, here's a snippet of things you could do here on campus and why it's awesome (aka make Michigan your top choice).

1. Study on top of Munger's graduate residential building with an amazing view of Ann Arbor. I like to study in different spaces all the time, because for (1) it helps you remember more things and associate your memory to location and (2) it's nice to explore!



2. Take a walk through the diag during Fall. The midwest is definitely special when it comes to the seasons. I've never seen so many trees turn orange before and literally paint the entire landscape orange. It's one of those things that make you really appreciate the nature in life.



Getting free stuff all the time in Ann Arbor streets. There are SO MANY events held in Ann Arbor and because Michigan's small town with a city feel, all the students, faculty, residents, and visitors come out and enjoy the weather.



A night life that is only 4 blocks away. It's pretty new to me to have a night life since in Santa Cruz, you need to schedule your time so you'll be able to make the last Night Owl, but in Michigan, you can literally walk home if you want to.



Of course being able to ski and snowboard just several miles away from school. It snows a LOT in Michigan, so you won't ever be missing snow...ever.



Wherever you go in the world, the alumni network is insanely huge, so #FOREVERGOBLUE!



#### Timeline of Patient Experience:

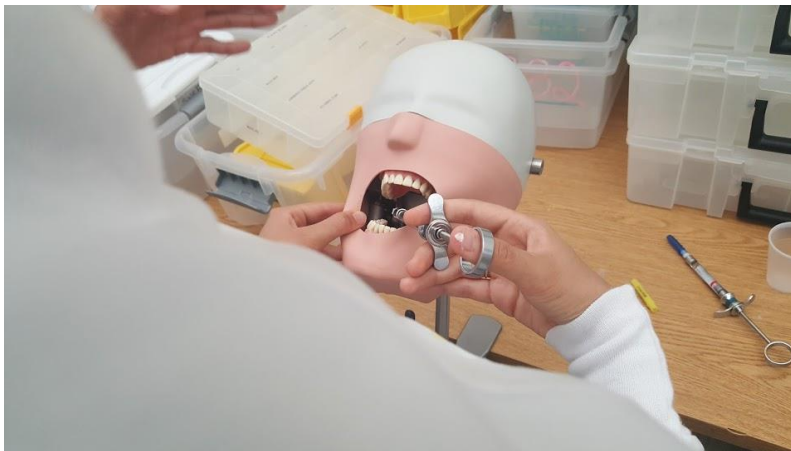
One of the biggest pluses of UMich School of Dentistry is the fact that we start clinic EARLY. VERY early. And the way we learn here is, “Learn by doing”. There’s no motto that officially states that, but reflecting back on my experience, man do you learn so much more when you’re thrown into it and not babied. There have been numerous times where I did not know what to but because we learn early, we definitely learn fast. The way the clinical curriculum is structured though, intertwines near perfectly so that you’re increasingly pushed outside of your comfort zone, but just at the right intensity to fuel your drive to learn. However, you learn so much more than using your hands and doing dentistry at Michigan. It’s about the science of dentistry, the medicine of dentistry, and overall health of the patient. Dentistry is NOT just about the mouth and you learn about the entire body. Each semester you take 1-2 classes on the body system, including but not limited to: musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, nervous, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, respiratory, anatomy, physiology, histology, endocrinology..etc. It’s overwhelming and definitely the hardest part of didactic dental school, but for good reason. For example, if a patient has diabetes and they arrive in your dental chair, and they start feeling unconscious, you gotta be able to know what to do and manage an emergency situation.

D1 Fall: Start holding a handpiece and using indirect vision. Indirect vision is when you use a dental mirror and solely rely on that to cut, drill, or fill. For me, this part came to me naturally as I’ve grown up practicing my art skills with drawing and cutting hair with a mirror. This is definitely one of the best parts of dental school because you are actually doing what you’re here to learn: using your hands!



D1 Winter: see our classmates as our first patients. They're our first dummies we use next to our dummy mannequins. Learning with classmates make a very safe learning environment

because everyone is in the same boat. It's your first time going into someone else's mouth and it can be daunting, but you just gotta be confident and apply your knowledge. Here are a few pictures of me doing a dental exam and injecting my classmate with anesthetic. You give a shot and you take a shot. This helps you understand how the anesthetic works and how you can make your patients feel as comfortable as possible.





D2 summer: see our first patient. We help each other out a lot in the school by being dental assistants for one another. Being an assistant is an invaluable part of the dental education because you're able to predict what the provider will do for the next step and you can learn from a less stressful point of view with the patient.



D2 fall: get our own family of patients. Managing patients is another type of stress to deal with. But hands down I'd rather deal with the stress of managing patients because studying for our

didactic courses from 6pm to midnight after being in class from 8am-5pm for 7 days a week can really burn you out. I love having the autonomy of managing my patients and this is my first “dental practice”. You’re completely in control in how you want to treat your patient. You’re basically on your own and it’s a great privilege, and I’m honored to have the responsibility of taking care of my patients.

