

Dentist 1

Dental Student Advice

- Take the time to ask a lot more questions and focus more on treatment planning – you run into so many different scenarios when you are on your own and no one to guide you anymore
- Work a little harder on a budget. (the numbers say it all)
- All the best for the rest of the year, keep your chin up and yes there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Career Advice

- Enjoy the great feeling to be finished school and on your own. Yes, there are a lot of challenges when you first start out - like how to book your schedule and how much time do you need for procedures. Advice that was given to me was- “take your time – speed will come”.

Dentist 2

Dental Student Advice

- Enjoy the life of the student as much as you can, it is the most wonderful time in your life.
- However, do NOT forget that you need to build a strong base of knowledge and sharp set of skills in dentistry; this knowledge and skills are what's going to make you a good dentist in the future... never forget.

Dentist 3

Dental Student Advice While Still In School

- Don't be afraid to ask questions. It is your opportunity to learn as much as you can in those 4 years and they go by quickly. Use the knowledge that your instructors have.
- Try and get along with your classmates as best as you can and don't argue over silly things cause when it comes to bargaining for chairs in clinic it is better to be on good terms with everyone.
- Don't sweat the small stuff. No matter how far you think you are behind in your requirements it will all be ok in the end. Instructors and Classmates will help you to find suitable patients (see above point- stay on their good side).

Career Advice

- Would advise any young dentist to seek a practice which offers support allowing you to seek advice and guidance with more difficult cases, rather than being forced into doing things you don't feel confident in doing.
- Great to be part of a practice where all are supportive of each other and feel able to run cases by each other for advice.

Dentist 4

Dental Student Advice

1. Your #1 priority (other than getting through dental school) is providing competent and appropriate dental care to your patients- it is as simple as that. Patients just want someone to listen, take care of the problem (or send them to someone who will) in a caring, pain free and professional manner.
2. Get out of dental program with your mental faculties and sense of humour intact – The University does not want to keep you any longer than they have to (really). Unless you do post grad or come back and teach. And do that early on if you can and are smart enough. BSc Dents are a great way to develop and explore an interest and increase research skills. Someone has to teach the next generation. Maybe you can do it better.
3. You are in a professional faculty so act like it. No one is going to do the work for you, don't whine, put your head down and go. You wanted this unless you are a child of a dental professional- then they wanted it and need someone to take over the empire. No pressure there. But you would not be here if the powers that be didn't feel you could handle it.
4. Be organized, keep on top of your patient lists- people are relying on you to look after their mouths and are taking time off work(when they earn their livelihood and support their families) to see you. Some will be in pain and discomfort. Requirements will happen. In the real world you don't always get to pick and choose.
5. Treat people how you would like to be treated- that goes for patients, staff, classmates and generally everyone (including spouses). You will be amazed how people will meet you half way if you are not a jerk. You will most likely not see many of your classmates after graduating. You will see them at their worst and best now. Don't think that you are the only one having issues, we all handle stress in different ways. Don't be a hermit.
6. Your clinical speed will improve as you learn and practice consistent and repeatable procedures.
7. Never stop learning from CE/ courses, other staff, dentists and assistants.
8. Be adequately insured for life, disability, malpractice, and office. Get coverage while you are younger and healthier. Your family and office staff depend on you. Save for the rainy day right away, at minimum 10% - 15% by automatic withdrawal -you won't miss it. Live within your means (see Marc for that).

It all goes by really fast so enjoy the ride and the scenery along the way. Good luck.