Distribution of Clock Hours of Instruction in Dental Schools by Class Year

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CLOCK HOURS by class year rise for the first three years of dental school instruction, and decrease slightly in the final year.

The majority of time in the first two years is spent in didactic instruction while the final two years are spent predominately in patient care.

- Patient Care (46.4%)
- Computer Simulation (6.5%)
- Didactic (31.1%)
- Independent study/Small groups (9.3%)
- Other Areas* (6.7%)

TOTAL CLOCK HOURS: 369,884

Total Clock Hours per Program: 5,360.6

Number of Programs Reporting Clock Hours for All Years**: 69

*Other Areas includes categories not identified in the survey.

**These totals include data from 69 dental education programs. The University of the Pacific has a 3 year program and reported clock hours for all three years of the program; it is included in these totals.

Source: American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, Commission on Dental Accreditation 2021-22 Survey of Dental Education: Report 4 – Curriculum

YEAR ONE

- Patient Care (4.7%)
- Computer Simulation (10.9%)
- Didactic (57.0%)
- Independent study/Small groups (15.3%)
- Other Areas* (12.0%)

TOTAL CLOCK HOURS: 78,358

Year One Total Clock Hours per Program: 1,135.6

Number of Programs Reporting Clock Hours for Year One: 69

YEAR TWO

- Patient Care (12.9%)
- Computer Simulation (14.3%)
- Didactic (48.2%)
- Independent study/Small groups (9.9%)
- Other Areas* (14.6%)

TOTAL CLOCK HOURS: 87,000

Year Two Total Clock Hours per Program: 1,260.9

Number of Programs Reporting Clock Hours for Year Two: 69

YEAR THREE

- Patient Care (69.9%)
- Computer Simulation (1.9%)
- Didactic (19.9%)
- Independent study/Small groups (6.9%)
- Other Areas* (1.4%)

TOTAL CLOCK HOURS: 107,092

Year Three Total Clock Hours per Program: 1,552.1

Number of Programs Reporting Clock Hours for Year Three: 69

YEAR FOUR

- Patient Care (84.3%)
- Computer Simulation (1.0%)
- Didactic (7.5%)
- Independent study/Small groups (6.5%)
- Other Areas* (0.8%)

TOTAL CLOCK HOURS: 94,474

Year Four Total Clock Hours per Program: 1,389.3

Number of Programs Reporting Clock Hours for Year Four: 68

For more information visit, **ADA.org/HPI** or contact the Health Policy Institute at **hpi@ada.org.**