

Prosthodontics Residency

Notes From the ADEA Residency Series

This information is a result of the annual ADEA Residency Series, co-sponsored with the Office of Career and Professional Development and UCSF ADEA chapter. Faculty, residents and D4s shared their thoughts about the qualities of an outstanding candidate in their specialty, and gave advice to D1s, D2, & D3s about the application process and residency experience.

Q: What's a typical day in the life of a prosthodontics (prosth) resident?

A: Panelists reported that the work is 80% clinical and 20% didactic. Residents spend 5 days a week working directly with patients. A majority of cases involve implants.

Q: What is UCSF's prosthodontics residency like?

A: According to panelists, UCSF's program is more lab-based than other programs, so residents must know their lab work. UCSF pays residents a \$20,000 stipend and does not charge tuition. UCSF's program admits 3 residents each year. It is a 3 year program with mostly didactic learning in the 1st year, less in the 2nd year, and almost none in the 3rd year. In the 1st year, you do your own lab work, which is a good way to learn, but in the 2nd and 3rd years, you can send out more of the lab work. Residents generally see patients from 8AM-5PM, and take classes before, after, or during lunch. Residents do not do implants or extractions. UCSF is using more and more technology.

Q: What is the VA prosthodontics residency like?

A: Panelists shared that 2 residents are accepted every 3 years at the VA. The hours are more flexible, but there is less support since there are fewer faculty members at the site. Panelists also stated that there is no financial stress because patients don't pay.

Q: When should students apply for a prosthodontics residency?

A: Prosth programs are not part of the PASS/match program. Panelists recommend students apply in the summer following their 3rd year of dental school.

Q: What constitutes a competitive application for prosthodontics residency?

A: According to panelists, applicants should "do above and beyond minimum requirements in order to succeed". Applicants should have a clear idea what their ideal program would consist of and be able to communicate that in the application. UCSF's research requirements are minimal, but increasing. Most programs ask for more research experience. If you want to do a master's, you must take the GRE. Letters of recommendation are particularly important. Students write the letter of recommendation from the Dean. Send the letter to Rick Poretto or Dean Perry; it takes 8-10 business days for them to process the letter. The Office of Career and Professional Development can review your CV and personal statement and provide feedback on these documents.

Q: What are prosthodontics residency interviews like?

A: Panelists shared that at U. Minnesota, the interview lasts all day; interviewees follow residents and go to lectures, and must complete a crown wax up test. Applicants may find out on the spot whether they are accepted. U. Washington (an unpaid residency) also requires interviewees to prep and wax crowns; U. North Carolina and U. Ohio may also require this. At U. Connecticut, current residents select who will be admitted. At UCSF's interview, applicants get to "hang out" with residents to see if they get along well. UCSF interviews residency applicants later than other schools. Some schools contact you for interviews in August, but UCSF waits until October to review applications. There is no matching.

Q: What opportunities are there after graduating?

A: According to panelists, doing a pros program enables residents to gain a great deal of exposure to and experience with cases. "The 3 years in residency is equivalent to about 15 years of GP experience". Prosthodontists work with others or open their own offices. There are also further schooling opportunities.

Q: How can prospective applicants find out more about prosthodontics?

A: Students are welcome to attend 8AM implant seminars, and should e-mail faculty to find out more information. Individual programs' websites may be outdated. Call each school and ask about their deadlines and other information from a live person.