A Dental School for West Texas & the Borderlands

The Motivation

General dentists are not evenly distributed across Texas

- 53% of general dentists are located in the 5 most populated counties: contiguous to existing dental schools
- 67% Dentist shortage in El Paso compared to the U.S.
- 50% of El Paso residents never visited a dentist

In the past 10 years, only 22 (<1%) of 2,390 Texas dental graduates have chosen to practice in West Texas.
Creating a Dental School – Accreditation Approval

October 2019
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)

November 2019
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

February 2020
Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)
Creating a Dental School – Goals

The mission of the Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine (WLHSDM) is to improve the oral health of the people of Texas and the greater El Paso community by: focusing on the unique oral and overall health care needs of the border populations; demonstrating excellence in education, research, and patient care; and providing leadership to the practicing community and other area stakeholders.
Creating a Dental School –
Innovative “Accelerated” Curriculum

Case based/symptom-based learning
Integration of biomedical, clinical and dental sciences
Emphasis on clinical decision-making, active reasoning/synthesis, and competency-based education
Early clinical experience
Certificate in Public Health
Spanish is requirement for graduation
Where to put the dental school?

Medical Science Bldg II
3rd Floor

- Office of the Dean
- Dental Learning Center (DLC)
- 5 conference rooms
- Dental student lounge
- Faculty offices
Dental Learning Center (DLC)

- 25,000 Sq. Ft.
- Dental Simulation Clinic
- Complete digital workflow
Dental Learning Center

80 “state-of-the-art” simulation stations
Dental Learning Center

Electric handpieces, intra-oral camera, scaler and curing light
Computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) technology
Texas Tech Dental Oral Health Clinic

- Construction commenced July 28, 2020
- 40,000 ft²
- 145 dental operatories
- Student and faculty care providers
- Emergency care clinic
- Computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) software technology

Our clinic gives our students the hands on training they need to be successful in their dental careers after graduation by getting them to treat patients in their first year of dental school
Texas Tech Dental Oral Health Clinic
Student care operatories
Texas Tech Dental Oral Health Clinic

Student care operatories
Texas Tech Dental Oral Health Clinic
Faculty care operatories
Texas Tech Dental Oral Health Clinic

Rounds classroom
What did we look for in a WLHSDM student?

1. Personal Attributes

2. Academic Accomplishments

3. Life Experiences

4. Contribution to the Guiding Principles
   • Awareness of oral and overall health needs of their future dental home communities
   • Discovery of new knowledge
   • Culturally competent
   • Commitment to the community and its people
   • Collaboration
   • Professionalism, ethical conduct, excellence in clinical care
   • Provide leadership in the community
Overall Application 2020-2021 Cycle

965 Total applicants
Avg GPA: 3.5
Avg SGPA: 3.4
Avg DAT: 20

32 El Pasoans applied: 3.3%
107 West Texans applied: 11%
885 In-State
80 Out of State

Interviewed 320 applicants

Diversity:
• White/Caucasian: 36%
• Asian: 31%
• Hispanic: 22%
• African American: 6%
• Multiracial: 3%
WLHSDM’s Inaugural Class of 2025

40 Students
- Avg GPA: 3.6
- Avg SGPA: 3.5
- Avg DAT: 20

7 El Pasoans: 18%
17 West Texans: 43%
23 Non-West Texans: 53%

38 In-State
2 Out of State

Diversity:
- White/Caucasian: 38%
- Hispanic: 35%
- Asian: 20%
- African American: 5%
- Multiracial: 2.5%

Gender:
- Female: 65%
- Male: 35%

21 different undergraduate universities represented in our inaugural class
HUNT
SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
TTUHSC EL PASO

Our students come from ALL OVER TEXAS and beyond!
Questions?