

August 2021

Dear DDS ITD Class of 2024 Students:

We hope that you have had a great summer and you and your families are staying healthy and safe under these difficult and challenging times.

I am very pleased to extend a warm welcome on behalf of all faculty and staff as you embark on your academic career with us at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. We are very proud of our School and look forward to sharing with you our knowledge and experiences in all areas of Dentistry.

There are undoubtedly some questions you may have about the fall term. Faculty and administration are currently actively working on planning your fall term. At this point, fall term didactic lectures will be delivered online through the specific platform used by the University. Pre-clinical and clinical sessions will include both in-person and virtual hands-on learning engagements. Please ensure you have reliable internet access. We will continue to monitor directives from the provincial government, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO), public health authorities, and central administration of the University to plan accordingly. There is still some uncertainty on specific details, but plans are being developed for all potential scenarios.

Given the clinical and intensive nature of your program, please expect to be available to attend campus daily. We currently anticipate your hands-on sessions to be scheduled between Monday and Friday each week, plus the last three Saturdays in September, and it is likely that you will be required to attend campus on consecutive days. Further updates regarding your schedule for the fall will be sent as more information becomes available.

Dentistry Orientation Week activities are scheduled for the week **starting Monday, August 30**, commencing with **mandatory Dental Kit Orientation on Monday August 30th at 8:00 a.m.** During the week, you will become further acquainted with our School, its policies, programs, faculty, facilities, and your classmates.

Your curriculum will begin on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021**.

Is it important that you please take some time to read the latest information regarding COVID Protocols at Western at <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/health-safety/index.html>.

COVID-19 vaccination requirements in London's hospitals can be found here:
https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/about/covid19_planning_updates_recovery/student_vaccination_information/london_health_sciences_centre_st_josephs_health_care_london_windsor_regional_hospital_vaccination_requirements.html

Please also read the information presented on the [ITD Post Admission website](#), especially the information concerning the “*Policy Regarding Communicable Diseases and Occupational Health for Applicants to and Students of Schulich Dentistry*” in the ‘Health Risks & Protection Policy’ link. Note also the ‘Instructions for booking an appointment with Verified’ document to ensure you have met your pre-clinical placement requirements.

As you assimilate to life at Western, please know that we are here to assist you as that will be an important factor in your success. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mari Long, ITD Program Coordinator, at mari.long@schulich.uwo.ca; or Brenda Davis, Manager, Dental Education at brenda.davis@schulich.uwo.ca. Additionally, Dr. Jacinta Santos, Chair of the ITD Program is available to discuss any concerns you may have. She can be reached at jacinta.santos@schulich.uwo.ca, or her office is located in DSB 0149. For health and wellness issues, the [Learner Experience Office](#) is located in the Kresge Building Room K1, or can be contacted at learner.experience@schulich.uwo.ca.

I am also available if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at gsantos3@uwo.ca.

Finally, Schulich Dentistry has an active dental student society – UWODSS (UWO Dental Student Society) – who can assist you with student issues. I hope you will participate in the Society. It is a great way to get to know your colleagues and your School.

Once again, on behalf of the faculty and staff, I wish you every success and I hope you will enjoy your three years here at Schulich Dentistry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Santos".

Gildo Santos, DDS, MSc, PhD
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Dental Education