



2025

UNIVERSITY
OF NEW ENGLAND

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE
GRADUATION CEREMONY



COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE
CLASS OF 2025
GRADUATION CEREMONY

May 16, 2025
10 a.m.

Girard Innovation Hall | Portland, Maine

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

The University of New England is Maine's largest independent university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state's top provider of health professionals and home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts. Visit www.une.edu.

THE DENTIST’S PLEDGE

I, (Dental Student’s Name), as a member of the dental profession, shall keep this pledge and these stipulations.

I understand and accept that my primary responsibility is to my patients, and I shall dedicate myself to render, to the best of my ability, the highest standard of oral health care and to maintain a relationship of respect and confidence.

Therefore, let all come to me safe in the knowledge that their total health and well-being are my first consideration.

I shall accept the responsibility that, as a professional, my competence rests on continuing the attainment of knowledge and skill in the arts and sciences of dentistry.

I acknowledge my obligation to support and sustain the honor and integrity of the profession and to conduct myself in all endeavors such that I shall merit the respect of patients, colleagues, and my community. I further commit myself to the betterment of my community for the benefit of all of society.

I shall faithfully observe the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct set forth by the profession.

All this, I pledge with pride in my commitment to the profession and the public it serves.

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the UNE College of Dental Medicine is to improve the health of Northern New England as well as rural and underserved areas while shaping the future of dentistry through excellence in education, discovery, and service.

CORE VALUES

- Excellence
- Professionalism
- Patient-Centered Care
- Social Responsibility
- Diversity
- Scholarship
- Leadership

VISION

The College of Dental Medicine will:

- Be a premier institution in the United States for educating dental professionals who will fulfill their obligations to improve the oral health, overall health, and quality of life of people in their communities with integrity, compassion, and respect.
- Provide outstanding didactic and clinical education in a humanistic environment that embraces scientific and technological advances and supports patient-centered, evidence-based, comprehensive oral health care in a group practice model.
- Cultivate and support the richness of diversity in the development of professionalism, ethical behavior, communication, and leadership by encouraging and supporting diversity of faculty, students, and staff.
- Develop dental professionals who are leaders of their own oral health care teams and partners in the interprofessional health care delivery systems of the future.
- Educate dental professionals to understand and apply relevant clinical practices to the connections between oral health and overall health.
- Advance its commitment to community health and service of underserved populations.
- Promote scholarship, innovation, and lifelong learning for faculty, professional staff, and students.

THE POMP BEHIND THE CIRCUMSTANCE

Academic Regalia

THE GOWN

The history of the academic gown goes back to the 12th century. During this period, everyone — both men and women, royalty, lay folk, clerics, tradesmen, students — wore long flowing robes. The apparel varied in elegance according to the rank and wealth of the owner, from simple rough worsteds to rich gold brocades wrought with tassels and trimmed with colorful velvet and rich furs. It was in this period that the first organized bodies of learning were formed. From the gowns worn in the “universities” of the period have evolved the academic costumes of today.

The bachelor's gown is a simple design falling straight from a rather elaborate yoke with long pointed sleeves. The gown worn by a master has long, closed, somewhat fuller sleeves, which reach nearly to the wearer's knees. The arms go through slits at the elbow, giving the appearance of short sleeves. The doctoral gown is cut much fuller and has large bell-shaped sleeves. The gowns are usually, but not always, black, and those of bachelors and masters are generally devoid of ornamentation. The doctoral gowns are distinguished by the five-inch velvet panel around the neck and down both sides of the front as well as by three-inch velvet bars sewn on each sleeve. The color of the velvet trim may be black or may indicate the nature of the degree. For example, the color designating a Doctor of Dental Medicine is lilac.

THE HOOD

The hood seems to have had a somewhat practical origin. Medieval monks used their hood for two purposes: to protect their shaved heads in the winter and as a container to collect alms. Today, the hood serves as the most symbolic part of the academic regalia by which the observer can ascertain the wearer's level and kind of degree. The bachelor's hood is the smallest, being three feet long. The velvet trim along the edges, indicating the nature of the degree, is two inches wide. The master's hood is six inches longer and bears a three-inch velvet trim.

The doctoral hood presented today is a full four feet long and exhibits a five-inch lilac trim indicating the Doctor of Dental Medicine degree. The colorful interior of the hood, visible from behind, indicates by hue the degree-granting institution. The University of New England's colors are blue and grey.

THE CORDS AND STOLES

The cord in graduation ceremonies is used to signify a special designation or membership in an honor society. The origin of the cord is from the Catholic and Anglican churches, where cords were used to distinguish between the varying levels of clergy members. The stole featuring navy blue with lilac trim and the gold insignia of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) represents membership in the OKU National Dental Honor Society.



GRADUATION SPEAKER
ADAM SALTZ, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
President of the Maine Dental Association

Adam Saltz, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.S., graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio with a master’s degree and certificate in Periodontics. He completed his dental training at Nova Southeastern University as part of their accelerated dual admission program. While there, he also earned a Master of Public Health. Saltz is the managing editor for Decisions in Dentistry, a peer-reviewed journal that offers evidence-based clinical information and continuing education for dentists. In 2020, he received the Dr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Kramer Scholar Award for Excellence from the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation. This award is given to the nation’s top overall graduating periodontal resident for outstanding character, service, leadership, and academic achievement. Saltz serves as president of the Maine Dental Association and chairs multiple state and regional committees as the District 1 Representative to the American Dental Association (ADA) New Dentist Committee. Saltz is an adjunct professor for the Kansas City University College of Dental Medicine. He was recognized by the ADA in 2023 for its 10 Under 10 award for contributions to education, public health, and organized dentistry as a new dentist. Saltz is a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology and maintains an active practice in South Portland, Maine.

ORDER OF CEREMONIES

PROCESSIONAL

Platform Party, Faculty, and Graduate Class of 2025

OPENING REMARKS

Nicole S. Kimmes, D.D.S., *Dean, College of Dental Medicine*

UNIVERSITY WELCOME

Gwendolyn Mahon, Ph.D., M.Sc., *Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Adam Saltz, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.S., *President of the Maine Dental Association*

HOODING PROCESSION

Reader of Candidate Names: Molly Cohen, D.M.D., *Associate Clinical Professor*

Caribou Group Practice

Hooder: William Benson, D.M.D., *Associate Clinical Professor*

Denmark Group Practice

Hooder: Jay Beauchemin, D.D.S., M.S., *Clinical Professor*

Eastport Group Practice

Hooders: Jeffrey Finegold, D.M.D., *Associate Clinical Professor*
Oliver Keefer, D.D.S., *Associate Clinical Professor*

Farmington Group Practice

Hooders: Kelly Holst, D.M.D., M.Ed., *Assistant Clinical Professor*

CLASS PRESIDENT REMARKS AND THE DENTIST’S PLEDGE

Michael Williams, D.M.D. *Candidate, President of the Class of 2025*

CLOSING REMARKS

Nicole S. Kimmes, D.D.S., *Dean, College of Dental Medicine*

RECESSIONAL

Platform Party, Faculty, and Graduate Class of 2025

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INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET