

# American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

## Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Non-Categorical Internship Guidelines

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### Preamble

The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) acknowledges the utilization of noncategorical interns in some oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS) training programs to address service demands beyond the capacity of authorized resident complements. These interns typically engage in 12-month contracts, gaining experience primarily in outpatient dentoalveolar surgery and hospital-based patient care. While they contribute to program service obligations and enhance surgical competence, AAOMS does not endorse this practice. Instead, OMS residency programs are urged to explore alternatives, including increased professional staff support, caseload expansion, and efficiency improvements, before considering internships.

The Committee on Education and Training has developed guidelines for OMS programs to assist in the selection and utilization of non-categorical one-year interns. These guidelines are intended to ensure that non-categorical one-year interns receive an educational experience that enhances their readiness for residency training in oral and maxillofacial surgery. When unavoidable, programs should minimize intern engagement, uphold rigorous selection criteria, and adhere to educational standards outlined in the following guidelines.

### Selection Criteria

- Select candidates who have a strong interest and commitment to pursuing a career in oral and maxillofacial surgery.
- Prioritize candidates who demonstrate a high level of clinical aptitude, critical thinking skills, and professionalism.
- When selecting, consider the candidates' potential to match into an OMS categorical position in the future.

### Educational Objectives

- Define clear educational objectives for the one-year intern that align with the core competencies of oral and maxillofacial surgery training programs.
- Emphasize exposure to a wide range of surgical procedures beyond extractions, including trauma management, orthognathic surgery, pathology, and anesthesia experience.
- Integrate the intern into the OMS team to foster a collaborative learning environment.
- Encourage participation in interdisciplinary rounds, conferences, and educational activities within the department.
- Encourage participation in scholarly activities relevant to oral and maxillofacial surgery.

### Balance of Education and Service

- While acknowledging the need for clinical service, prioritize educational objectives to prepare the intern for a successful residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery.
- Strive for a balanced approach where service responsibilities complement educational goals without compromising learning opportunities.

### Supervision and Mentorship

- Ensure adequate supervision by experienced OMS faculty who are committed to teaching and mentorship.
- Provide regular feedback and evaluations to support the intern's learning and professional development.
- Emphasize ethical practice and patient-centered care throughout the internship experience.
- Ensure compliance with institutional policies and regulations governing patient care and professional conduct.

### Evaluation for Matching

- Monitor the intern's progress towards meeting milestones that align with successful matching into an OMS residency program.
- Provide guidance on preparing for the residency application process, including personal statement development and interview readiness.
- Provide the intern with a letter of completion, in lieu of a certificate of completion, which includes its outcomes assessment of their educational experience.