



Orthodontics Gainesville

Program Director **Timothy T. Wheeler, D.M.D., PH.D.**
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Program Description

This program is designed to educate dentists to become leaders of the orthodontic profession and is committed to developing the following qualities in the students: ethics, integrity, scholarship, open-mindedness, sound judgment, the ability to communicate and to relate to patients, and manual ability to provide treatment.

The program is based on the premise that a specialist in orthodontics must be:

1. A competent and ethical dentist with an extensive background in growth and development and oral pharyngeal function.
2. An astute diagnostician prepared to interact with professional colleagues in medicine and dentistry in formulating a multidisciplinary treatment plan.
3. Mechanically versatile and able to apply biomaterials science to design treatments which reflect patient needs rather than technique limitations.
4. Knowledgeable in the development of research programs and critical of scientific conclusions and able to present and defend data to peers.
5. Experienced in teaching basic orthodontic diagnosis and treatment skills to non-specialists through continuing education courses, table clinics, or part- or full-time teaching in a pre-doctoral orthodontic program.
6. Service-oriented and sensitive to the individual who seeks treatment, as well as to the handicapped person who requires community support.
7. A perpetual student: belonging to, supporting, and participating in organized dentistry.

Four residents are accepted each year into the 35-month program. Upon completion of the program, the graduate will receive a Certificate in Orthodontics and a Master of Science in Dental Sciences with specialization in orthodontics.

The didactic curriculum is organized into the following broad courses: growth and development and their abnormalities and manipulation; biology of bone and connective tissues; biology of tooth movement; diagnosis and treatment planning; scientific research method; biostatistics; biomechanics; orthodontic appliances and techniques; materials; oral function, adaptation, and dysfunction; advanced oral biology; oral pathology; practice management; orthodontic treatment; craniofacial anomalies; and orthognathic surgery. Students critically study orthodontic and related literature and are taught to apply this information in the clinical setting.

A diverse clinical education is provided by two full-time and four part-time clinical faculty members. Each student begins treatment of approximately 70 patients and receives about 30 transfer patients from more senior students. Students begin new cases during all years of the program. The clinical experience includes treating a wide range of malocclusions, craniofacial anomalies, and TMJ problems with state-of-the-art treatment modalities including various fixed and removable functional appliances and orthognathic surgery. Students choose a research topic with the help of the faculty and conduct research under the guidance of a faculty mentor and research committee. The thesis follows the graduate school's guidelines. Students generally present their research at the annual meetings of the International Association for Dental Research or the American Dental Association, as well as at the state and regional orthodontic meeting, and this research generally is published in an appropriate scientific journal.

A stipend of \$2,000 is available for the first year though stipends are subject to change. In 2007-2008 the approximate annual tuition was \$9,971 for Florida residents and \$30,143 for non-residents.

To receive an application or additional program information, **write to:**

Dr. Venita J. Sposetti

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