

Orthodontic Time in 1937-38 Dental Curriculums

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THE dental curriculum suggested by the Dental Educational Council in 1922 allotted undergraduate orthodontic didactic and laboratory instruction 80 clock hours. The curriculum recommended by the Curriculum Survey Com-

TABLE 1.—TOTAL TEACHING TIME, ORTHODONTIC DIDACTIC AND LABORATORY TIME, AND THE PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL TIME DEVOTED TO ORTHODONTICS IN THE CURRICULUMS OF 20 DENTAL SCHOOLS AND IN THE CURRICULUMS SUGGESTED IN 1922 AND IN 1935.

School	Total hours of teaching	Hours of Orthodontics	Per cent of total time devoted to Orthodontics
1	3595	83	2.31
2	4194	44	1.05
3	4290	37.5	0.87
4	4312	64	1.48
1935 Recommendation	4367	112	2.56
1922 Recommendation	4400	80	1.82
5	4475	95	2.12
6	4494	126	2.81
7	4576	48	1.05
8	4709	102	2.16
9	4713	29	0.62
10	4730	112	2.37
11	4776	96	2.01
12	4800	128	2.66
13	4848	96	1.98
14	4903	205	4.18
15	5011	100.5	2.01
16	5177	199	3.85
17	5195	128	2.46
18	5248	160	3.05
19	5264	160	3.04
20	5312	80	1.51

mittee of the American Association of Dental Schools in 1935 increased this time to 112 hours. An analysis of the 1937-38 class schedules* of 20 of the dental colleges in the United States shows that the time devoted to this portion of the instruction varies widely from both of these suggested curriculums.

*For a generalized analysis of these class schedules see "A Comparative Study of 1937-38 Dental Curriculums," T. D. Speidel and A. W. Bryan, *The Journal of Dental Education*, 3:3, (October) 1938.

The total teaching time, the time devoted to orthodontic didactic and laboratory instruction,** and the percentage of the total teaching time devoted to this portion of undergraduate Orthodontics in the curriculums of 20 unselected dental colleges, and in the curriculums suggested in 1922 and in 1935, are shown in Table 1.

The clock hours devoted to orthodontic didactic and laboratory work range from 29 hours to 205 hours. The average, 104.6 hours, is more than the 1922 recommendation and less than the 1935 recommendation. Only 7 schools allot more time than the 1935 recommendation.

The lack of emphasis on this phase of instruction becomes even more evident when the orthodontic time is related to the total teaching time of the various curriculums. The total teaching time of 16 of the curriculums exceeds the recommended total. However, in 15 schools the percentage of the respective schools' total teaching time devoted to Orthodontics is less than the percentage recommended in 1935.

These data seem to raise the following questions :—

1. Does it not seem that a phase of Dentistry of the scope of Orthodontics requires a larger time allotment than shown, if its undergraduate teaching is intended to prepare a dentist for even a limited practice of Orthodontics?
2. If, failing adequate preparation for the practice of Orthodontics, does this amount of undergraduate orthodontic training provide a satisfactory basis for an advanced orthodontic course of a true graduate school caliber?

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**The majority of the class schedules gave no information concerning the time used for clinical orthodontics.