The Path to Become an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dental School
Earning DDS or DMD (4 years).

Residency/Surgical Training
In hospital-based residency program (minimum of 4 years).

State Licensure
Obtain appropriate state licensure and permits.

Undergraduate Education
Including dental requisites.

Board Certification
Majority of OMSs pursue board certification.

Graduate Degrees
Some OMSs have additional graduate degrees, such as an MD, PhD or MBA.

Fellowships
Some OMSs complete 1- to 2-year fellowships for advanced training.

Education:

Additional options:

Did you know? OMSs train alongside medical residents in internal medicine, general surgery and anesthesiology and spend time in otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat), plastic surgery, emergency medicine and other specialty areas.

Upon completion of their programs, OMSs can diagnose and manage a variety of conditions, including:

- Dental implant surgery
- Extractions and other oral surgeries
- Third molar management and surgery
- Treatment of non-cancerous lesions/pathologies
- Treatment of oral, head and neck cancer
- Corrective jaw surgery
- Treatment of TMJ disorders and facial pain
- Treatment of facial injuries/trauma and reconstruction
- Surgery to treat obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)
- Cleft lip and palate surgery
- Facial cosmetic surgery

Visit MyOMS.org to find an oral and maxillofacial surgeon in your area.


This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.