

## Rural Scholars Track Scholarship Program

**Tuition**  
**\$28,418**  
**Per Academic Year**

**RST Graduates**  
**5 Students since**  
**inception in 2017**

## RST Graduates Practice in Rural Areas



## Scholarship Recipient Qualifications

- Desire to care for the underserved
- Past educational accomplishments & community outreach activities
- Assessment of whether the student may continue to serve once their contract is fulfilled
- Student must be in good standing in all didactic, clinical and research courses during their time in the DDS program

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## RURAL SCHOLARS TRACK

Mason C. Liles, DDS, a 2021 dental graduate, was a recipient of a LSUUSD Rural Scholars Track (RST) Scholarship in his third and fourth year of dental school. The scholarships, funded with private donations, help to address the maldistribution of dentists in the state by encouraging students to practice in Louisiana Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA), which are primarily rural. In 2019, 59 of the 64 parishes in Louisiana were designated as such. For every year that a student receives a waiver of their base tuition, they are required by contract to practice in a HPSA area for at least one year. Most dentists and specialists in the field are concentrated in urban areas of the state for economic reasons.

Dr. Liles is now practicing full-time and splitting his services between two small towns in Richland Parish —Mangham (population 672) and Rayville (population 3514). Both are low-income population Dental HPSAs. He also teamed up with a local therapist who works with autistic children to help them feel comfortable enough for a dental diagnosis and subsequent treatment by a dental specialist. His patient base is split equally among Medicaid, private insurance and private pay.

Dr. Liles chose to work in a rural area because he was raised in Winnsboro, a small town with a population of less than 5,000. As a resident, he realized there was a need for more healthcare providers, especially dentists.

"The healthcare community in the rural area is great to work with because you get to know all the physicians, practitioners, therapists, and other providers. It makes it easier to provide a treatment plan specific for a patient's overall needs through collaboration with other providers," he said. "Patients also become like family because you see them around town, like at the grocery store or a baseball game."

Five graduates have benefited from the program since its inception in 2017. Currently, two dental students are enrolled in the program. If you would like to know more about the program, please email Heather Allen, RDH, MSHCM at [hharo@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:hharo@lsuhsc.edu) or Dr. Nicholas Mosca at [nmosca@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:nmosca@lsuhsc.edu).



Mason Liles. DDS '21



2021/22 RST Students (l-r): Caitlyn Morris, Celine Snow, Hannah Broussard & Serena Jones

# LSU Health

## NEW ORLEANS

### School of Dentistry

The LSU Health School of Dentistry, established in 1968, is a public school and is the only dental school in Louisiana. Its mission is to educate future general dentists, specialists and dental auxiliaries with the skill, knowledge, ethical judgment and experience to provide competent oral health care. From a national perspective, it is unique among the dental schools in the United States because it offers degrees in dentistry, dental hygiene and dental laboratory technology. By training students in all aspects of dentistry, we offer a level of training that has resulted in the school's reputation of providing an outstanding clinical education in addition to exemplary accomplishments in research and community service.

Year Established

**1968**

Faculty

**97**

Students

**385**

Alumni

**6000+**

## Doctorate of Dental Surgery

**2022: 957 APPLICANTS  
75 ACCEPTED**

## Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

**2022: 128 APPLICANTS  
38 ACCEPTED**

The mission of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Dentistry (LSUSD) is to serve the needs of the citizens of the State of Louisiana by:

- Educating future general dentists, specialists and allied dental professionals to provide excellent and current health care.
- Providing a leadership role in research through investigating new approaches to the prevention and management of disease, developing innovative treatment modalities, expediting the transfer of knowledge for clinical use and enhancing health care delivery.
- Providing health care services to the public and disseminating information to the dental community on a local, national and international level.

# Did You Know?

- The LSU Health School of Dentistry is the only dental school in Louisiana.
- It's the only dental school in the country which has all three dental degree programs: dentistry, dental hygiene and dental laboratory technology.
- The school employs the only two oral and maxillofacial pathologists in the state who offer an oral biopsy service for practicing dentists.
- The school's Orofacial Pain Clinic is the only clinic of its type in the southeast.
- Its Rural Scholars Track Program in Dentistry aims to address the severe dental professional shortages in rural, underserved areas of Louisiana.
- Faculty and students provide nearly 100,000 patient visits statewide, providing care to the poor, the elderly and the young.
- Students offer valuable outreach in the Greater New Orleans Area to educate children and adults about the importance of proper oral health.

## Under One Roof

### *Academics & Patient Care*

#### **DENTAL DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Doctorate of Dental Surgery  
Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene  
Associate of Science in Dental Laboratory Technology

#### **DENTAL SPECIALITIES**

Endodontics • General Dentistry • Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery • Orthodontics  
Pediatric Dentistry • Orofacial Pain • Periodontics • Prosthodontics

## Location

1100 Florida Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70119

**[www.lsusd.lsuhsd.edu](http://www.lsusd.lsuhsd.edu)**