



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

*Mark A. Emmert, President*

June 20, 2007

Dean Paul Ramsey  
School of Medicine  
Box 357110

Dear Paul:

Based on the recommendation of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, the Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy has recommended approval of a certificate in Oral Health Therapy within the MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program. A copy of the change is attached.

I am writing to inform you that the School of Medicine is authorized to specify these requirements beginning winter quarter 2007.

The new requirements should be incorporated in printed statements and in individual department websites as soon as possible. The *General Catalog* website will be updated accordingly by the Registrar's Office.

Sincerely yours,

Mark A. Emmert  
President

Enclosure

cc: Jennifer Johnston (with enclosure)  
Mr. Robert Corbett (with enclosure)  
Dr. Deborah H. Wiegand (with enclosure)  
Todd Milton, J. D. (with enclosure MEDEX-20061204)



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
**CREATING AND CHANGING UNDERGRADUATE  
 ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

OFFICE USE ONLY  
 Control #  
**MEDEX-20061209**

After college/school review, send a signed original and 8 copies to FCAS, Box 351271

For information about when and how to use this form: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwcr/1503instructions.pdf>

College School of Medicine	Department or Unit MEDEX Northwest	Date 12/4/06
<p><b>New Programs</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leading to a Bachelor of _____ in _____ degree.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leading to a Bachelor of _____ degree with a major in _____</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leading to a <u>Certificate</u> Option within the existing major in <u>MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Prog.</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leading to a minor in _____</p>		
<p><b>Changes to Existing Programs</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Admission Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revised Admission Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revised Program Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revised Requirements for the Option in _____ within the major in _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revised Requirements for the Minor in _____</p>		
<p><b>Other Changes</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Change name of program from _____ to _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New or Revised Continuation Policy for _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate program in _____</p>		
<p>Proposed Effective Date:</p> <p><b>Quarter:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Autumn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Winter <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer      <b>Year: 20</b> <u>07</u></p>		

Contact Person Jennifer Johnston	Contact's Phone 206 - 616 - 4001	Contact's Email jenj@u.washington.edu
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**EXPLANATION OF AND RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE**

For new programs, please include any relevant supporting documentation such as student learning outcomes, projected enrollments, letters of support and departmental handouts. (Use additional pages if necessary).

MEDEX Northwest, UW School of Medicine has entered into a contract with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortia in Anchorage, Alaska to train Oral Health Therapists for practice in Alaska Bush communities. Alaska Natives living in 200 remote and isolated villages have overwhelming unmet oral health needs. This innovative program will provide training to enable tribal organizations to better serve the oral health needs of the villages they serve. The proposal builds on the work that has already been done in training the first group of Alaska dental therapists in New Zealand. These dental therapists are now in place in Alaska to serve as mentors and role models for an UW/Alaska-specific Dental Therapy Program.

The Oral Health Therapist Program is a two year program with the first year being offered in Anchorage through the MEDEX Program. In the second year of training students will be employees of an AK. tribal organization and placed in tribal dental clinics in Alaska where they will have further opportunities to develop their clinical and oral health skills in a community based environment. Oversight in year two will be provided by Dentists in those clinics, MEDEX Dental therapy faculty and ANTHC.

Six to ten Alaska students will be accepted in year one and are scheduled to begin in January 2007. Students will be MEDEX oral health certificate students and registered in some of the existing MEDEX courses. The dental therapist curriculum, 2007 course calendar and timeline for this training are attached. MEDEX is requesting approval to award a certificate at the end of year one, the didactic year. Certificate: Example attached.

**CATALOG COPY**

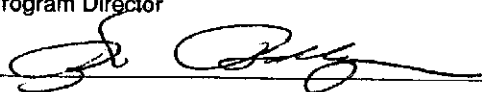
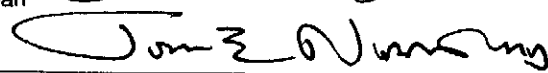
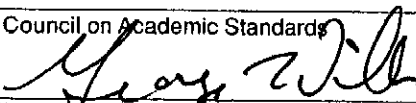
Catalogue Copy as currently written. Include only sections/paragraphs that would be changed if you request is approved. Please cross out or otherwise highlight any deletions.

No changes are requested.

**PROPOSED CATALOG COPY**

Reflecting requested changes (Include exact wording as you wish it to be shown in the printed catalog. Please underline or otherwise highlight any additions. If needed, attach a separate, expanded version of the changes that might appear in department publications)

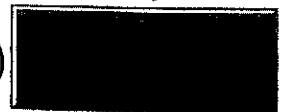
**SIGNATURES (required)**

Chair/Program Director		Date
Dean	 <i>USOM Vice Dean - Academic Affairs</i>	Date 12/12/06
College Committee		Date
Faculty Council on Academic Standards	 <i>George With</i>	Date 3/2/07

UoW 1503 (12/05) REVERSE

*(Post This  
Campus)*

*5/11/07*



1. Admissions and Selection Process for Oral Health Aide Therapy Program

Applicants are recruited through the Alaska Tribal Health organizations and must be employees of those organizations and residents of Alaska. Interested applicants will submit the DHAT Application to MEDEX Northwest, University of Washington. The application includes documentation of high school graduation, official transcripts of high school and college level coursework, 2 reference letters, verification of tribal support and a personal statement. All applicant files are reviewed for meeting these prerequisites and for their appropriateness for this type of training.

Interviews are offered to the most qualified applicants. The interview process is a group format based on a Peace Corp model that is used in selecting physician assistant students. Two or three applicants are interviewed together by two interviewers (faculty, dentists or ANTHC leaders) to assess their potential for this mid-level profession. Prior experience in health or dental roles as well as their motivation and preparedness for being successful in this two-year program are examined.

The typical class of students will be residents of Alaska and the overwhelming majority will be Alaska Natives. Some will have prior health or dental experience as dental aid techs or community health aides. Others will not have prior formal experience or training but will have the support of their community and tribal organization. All accepted students will be high school graduates and many will have college level coursework. Particular attention is paid to the science courses taken and grades received.

The first class of seven began in January 2007. All are Alaska Natives from villages throughout Alaska. (Bethel, Yakutat, Grayling, Metlakatla, Gakona, Klawock, Russian Mission). There are 4 woman and 3 men. The age range is 21 to 50 years old. Four are experience dental assistants, one is a community health aide, one is a special needs aide and one was a current University of Alaska student. All are employees of Tribal Health Organizations and have a four year repayment to these organizations as Dental Health Aide Therapists once they have completed their training.

2. The Continuation Policy for students (i.e., when/how is a poor performing student removed from the program)?

Assessment of student progress occurs at the completion of each curriculum unit with administration of competency examinations. Units rarely extend beyond one week. There is a summative evaluation at the end of each quarter and grades are submitted on a quarterly basis for the registered courses. The Alaska Native Tribal Health

Consortium (ANTHC) employs a full time health professional administrator to monitor academic progress as well as other factors that may negatively impact student performance. The administrator meets with each student privately monthly, or more frequently as need arises. Tutoring is available for remedial learning, and visiting faculty agree to make themselves available to the students outside class during the time that they are there. With student written permission the sponsoring tribal health organization will receive quarterly status updates to assure the student of the availability of the greatest amount of support.

A student will be removed from the program when, in the opinion of MEDEX Northwest, he/she has demonstrated an ongoing inability to grasp the subject matter, has fallen too far behind to catch up even with tutoring or individual help by the visiting faculty, or who has demonstrated social behaviors detrimental to himself or to his/her classmates. The final decision to remove a student from the program will only occur after documented meetings with the ANTHC administrator, ANTHC Clinical site coordinator (a Dentist) and referral to the DENTEX Student Progress Committee chaired by MEDEX Associate Director, Grace Landel, PA-C, M Ed.

### 3. How will the 2nd year work be certified and by what agency?

The Oral Health Therapist Program is an innovative two-year training program for Alaska Native mid-level providers to offer a limited scope of dental services to remote communities in the Alaska bush focusing on, but not limited to, school and community based preventive services. The first year of the curriculum, to take place in Anchorage, provides the didactic background and basic clinical framework to enable students to proceed with their second, clinical year in community-based settings of regional and sub-regional dental clinics throughout Alaska. MEDEX Northwest will certify the first year of training.

At the beginning of the second training year students will be employees of the Alaska Native tribal health corporations who sponsored their training and where they will return to practice following completion of their training.

MEDEX Northwest will develop the second year curriculum, course calendar, and timeline. In addition, MEDEX Northwest will perform on-site assessments to evaluate the regional and sub-regional clinics as appropriate training facilities, orient the students to their new learning environment, and train the regional and sub-regional based dentists who will serve as preceptors to oversee the clinical training. MEDEX oral health therapy faculty and ANTHC dentists will participate in these training activities.

Trained MEDEX faculty will monitor student progress during quarterly site visits. During the visits they will interview students, examine their clinical progress portfolios, and gather evaluation information from the preceptors. E-mail and phone contact with students and preceptors will occur on a monthly basis. ANTHC will

certify the second clinical year of training and MEDEX will provide final verification of competency in the form of individual student letters at the end of the two-year training.

The contractual arrangement currently in place between MEDEX Northwest and ANTHC requires ANTHC to be the certifying agency for the second year of clinical training. The terms of agreement provide certification to be awarded upon the recommendation of MEDEX Northwest. Certification to practice as a Dental Health Aide Therapist is granted by federal statute in the Alaska Community Health Aide Practice (CHAP) Act. The UW Oral Health Aide Therapy Program will be recognized as meeting the requirements of DHAT training by the CHAP Certification Board.

4. What is the relationship to the MEDEX Bachelor's program?

Oral Health Therapist students seek certification from MEDEX Northwest (for year one) and ANTHC (for year two). Students understand they are not enrolled as degree seeking students and are not eligible for the Bachelor of Clinical Health Services Degree. Oral Health Therapy students are not attempting a degree completion program nor can they change their status during the course of their training without applying through the official University of Washington admissions process. Applicants receive written notification of these limitations upon application to the MEDEX OH program.

5. What is the relationship between the Oral Health Therapy Program and the School of Dentistry?

The Oral Health Therapy Program is located in the School of Medicine and is being coordinated through the MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program. MEDEX has an extensive history of working with Alaska Native health workers and training mid-level providers for Alaska rural communities. MEDEX had the original contract to develop this mid-level oral health curriculum because political pressure from the American Dental Association and the Washington Dental Association made it impossible for the School of Dentistry to do so. The UW Dental School is collaborating with MEDEX to provide oral and public health lecturers during the didactic year of the training.

6. Is there a Memorandum of Agreement?

Yes, there is a contract between ANTHC and UW MEDEX Northwest Program describing the scope and responsibilities of each party. Once it has been signed off in OSP then we will be free to release a copy to the UW Curriculum office.

## **MEDEX-20061204: Certificate in Oral Health Therapy**

### **Tri-Campus Review Comments**

MEDEX Northwest, UW School of Medicine has entered into a contract with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortia (ANTHC) in Anchorage, Alaska to train Oral Health Therapists for practice in Alaska Bush communities. Alaska Natives living in 200 remote and isolated villages have overwhelmingly unmet oral health needs. This innovative program will provide training to enable tribal organizations to better serve the oral health needs of the villages they serve. The proposal builds on the work that has already been done in training the first group of Alaska dental therapists in New Zealand. These dental therapists are now in place in Alaska to serve as mentors and role models for a UW/Alaska-specific Dental Therapy Program.

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### **COMMENTS:**

#### **Comment by Milgrom Peter made 4/8/2007 7:08:02 AM**

This is an important program and believe it should be nurtured and expanded to other jurisdictions to fill serious shortages of professional staffing throughout the US. The curriculum outline could be improved by adopting a stronger public health and population based focus.

**Comment by Carol Jolles made 4/23/2007 3:30:06 PM**

I am a cultural anthropologist working currently on cultural dimensions of community oral health in southwest Alaska. In conjunction with that focus, I have just returned from field research with 3 of the many communities that would be served by the proposed dental therapist program should this certificate program be approved. In the course of the research that I just completed, community members in the Native Villages of Mountain Village, Pilot Station, and Kwethluk, located in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta of southwest Alaska, spoke movingly of the need for this type of program in their home communities and of their desire to have a dental therapist placed in their villages who would be qualified to offer preventive oral health care, basic dental services, and community-level informational outreach so that they would be better informed about oral health issues affecting their citizens. There is no way to communicate the deep level of need for these services in small, rural, Alaska bush communities. The design of this proposed dental therapist program is modeled after the very successful and important physician's assistant program. The program deals with the very serious problem of underserved minority citizens who have minimal access to oral health care and it does so by offering a program that prepares qualified local residents to provide these needed services. I strongly recommend that this certificate program be approved; it is both professionally and educationally sound and is desperately need.

**Comment by Philip Weinstein made unknown**

This dental therapist program is needed to control oral diseases in rural Alaska for Native Americans and may be the prototype of other programs. Communities in rural areas , in the bush, do not have regular access to dentists and there is much dental disease and tooth-related suffering. As long as there is a strong preventive orientation, there should be no concern that the therapists can repair and extract teeth.



MEDEX certificate in Oral Health: No negative criticisms were posted on the Tricampus Review page, and at its May 11th meeting, FCAS approved the proposal for post-Tricampus forwarding to FCTCP.

George Dillon, Chair  
FCAS

**UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM REVIEW PROCEDURES\*\***

**CHECKLIST**

Title of Proposal: Certificate in Oral Health Therapy (MEDEX-20061204)

Proposed by (unit name): MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program

Originating Campus:

UW, Seattle

UW, Bothell

UW, Tacoma

**I. Phase I. Developed Proposal Review** (to be completed by Originating Campus' Academic Program Review body)

**A. Review Completed by: FCAS**

Chaired by: George Dillon

03/02/07 Date proposal received by originating campus's review body

03/05/07 Date proposal sent to University Registrar

04/27/07 Date proposal posted & email sent to standard notification list

05/11/07 Date of originating campus's curriculum body approval

(Note: this date must be 15 business days or more following date of posting)

**B.   3   Number of comments received. Attach the comments and a summary of the consideration and responses thereof : (1-2 paragraphs)**

**II. Phase II. Final Proposal Review** (to be completed by FCTCP)

**A. Review Completed by:**

FCTCP subcommittee

FCTCP full council

Chaired by: Marcia Killien

5/31/07 Date request for review received from University Registrar

6/5/07 Date of FCTCP report

**B. Review (attached)**

YES NO

Was notice of proposal posted on UW Website for 15 business days?

\_\_\_x\_\_\_ Was notice of proposal sent to standard mailing list 15 business days in advance of academic program review?

\_\_\_x\_\_\_ Were comments received by academic program review body?

\_\_\_NA\_\_\_ Was response to comments appropriate? (explain, if necessary)

\_\_\_x\_\_\_ Was final proposal reviewed by FCTCP within 14 days of receipt?

\_\_\_x\_\_\_ Was there adherence to the University Campuses Undergraduate Program Review Process? (explain, if necessary)

All comments were positive thus no response was necessary. Review process was followed.

### C. Recommendation

\_\_\_x\_\_\_ Forward for final approval

\_\_\_ Forward to Provost because of University issues (Explain)

\_\_\_ Return to campus council because of insufficient review (Explain).

\*\*Endorsed by Faculty Senate Executive Committee, 1/10/05, modified 1/31/06; These procedures apply to new undergraduate degrees, majors, minors (and certificates) and substantive changes to same