

College of Dental Medicine  
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



Dean

Nova Southeastern University, College of Dental Medicine  
Davie, Florida

## THE SEARCH

Nova Southeastern University is seeking an accomplished and forward-looking leader to serve as the next dean of the College of Dental Medicine. The college is well-established and positioned for continued growth within one of the nation's largest, private research universities and a comprehensive academic health environment. With strong academic programs, an expansive and evolving clinical enterprise, and a growing research profile, the college is prepared to build on its foundation and advance its impact in dental education, clinical care, and discovery through thoughtful leadership, collaboration, and strategic investment.

Reporting to NSU's executive vice president, provost, and chief academic officer, the dean will lead the college within NSU Health, alongside schools of allopathic medicine, nursing, optometry, osteopathic medicine, and pharmacy. This integrated setting presents meaningful opportunities to strengthen interdisciplinary education, expand clinical productivity, and accelerate research growth—particularly in translational and population-focused oral health research. The college's location in South Florida offers a distinctive clinical and research environment, shaped by a large, diverse, and medically complex population, providing a strong platform for innovation in education, care delivery, and community engagement.

The dean will work closely with the college faculty and staff, and university leadership to support innovation, reinforce academic and clinical excellence, and guide the college's continued development in alignment with NSU's mission and strategic priorities. This role will appeal to a leader who values collaboration, understands the complexity of academic health systems, and is motivated to shape the next phase of a thriving dental school—one that prepares practice-ready graduates, advances oral health outcomes, and contributes meaningfully to the broader health sciences enterprise.

Nova Southeastern University has retained Isaacson, Miller to assist with this important recruitment. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed confidentially to Isaacson, Miller, as indicated at the end of this document.

## ABOUT NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1964, Nova Southeastern University (NSU) is a research university recognized for its entrepreneurial spirit, strong professional education focus, and deep commitment to community impact. Originally established as Nova University of Advanced Technology, NSU was conceived to advance innovative graduate education and applied research. Over the ensuing decades—and following a pivotal 1994 merger with the Southeastern University of the Health Sciences—the institution has grown into one of the nation’s largest, private, research universities. NSU is currently one of only 11 universities nationwide, and one of only two in Florida, to be recognized by the Carnegie Foundation with all three of their designations: Very High Research Activity (R1), Community Engaged Institution, and Opportunity College and University (OCU). These distinctions reflect NSU’s mission to make a meaningful impact throughout its many schools and colleges.

The university is widely recognized for its medicine and profession-focused model, interdisciplinary collaboration, and emphasis on experiential learning across the health sciences, law, business, education, computing, and the arts and sciences. Today, NSU enrolls more than 20,000 students from all 50 U.S. states and over 115 countries and offers more than 130 academic degree programs across undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels. The university is organized into 12 colleges and one college preparatory school. These are

- [Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice](#)
- [Barry and Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy](#)
- [College of Computing, AI, and Cybersecurity](#)
- [College of Dental Medicine](#)
- [College of Optometry](#)
- [College of Psychology](#)
- [Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine](#)
- [Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine](#)
- [H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship](#)
- [Halmos College of Arts and Sciences and the Guy Harvey Oceanographic Research Center](#)
- [NSU University School \(PK–12\)](#)
- [Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing](#)
- [Shepard Broad College of Law](#)

NSU’s flagship campus is located in the greater Fort Lauderdale area of Florida. It is a 314-acre academic and research hub that houses the majority of the university’s colleges, core research infrastructure, and student life amenities. This campus is home to the Alvin Sherman Library—one of the largest library buildings in Florida—as well as comprehensive health program facilities that uniquely support interdisciplinary education across the fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, and allied health. In addition to its flagship campus, NSU operates additional campus locations throughout Florida, as well as in Puerto Rico, Nevada, and Colorado.

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Learn more at the [NSU website](#).

## ABOUT NSU HEALTH

NSU Health is the clinical enterprise that connects Nova Southeastern University's health colleges through a shared platform for patient care delivery, clinical operations, and community-facing services. Through NSU Health, the university supports clinical infrastructure and operational capabilities that enable hands-on education, interdisciplinary practice, and expanded access to care across the region. As NSU continues to evolve its academic health environment, NSU Health plays a central role in integrating clinical strategy, quality, compliance, and operational performance across the health disciplines.

For the dean of the College of Dental Medicine, this structure creates meaningful opportunities and practical realities, requiring close partnership with NSU Health leadership. The dean will work in a matrixed environment where academic priorities, clinical-training needs, and the dental enterprise's operational demands must be aligned through collaborative planning, clear decision pathways, and shared accountability. This partnership will be especially important in areas such as clinical staffing models, patient access and flow, capital and technology investments, and long-range facilities planning, ensuring that CDM can sustain clinical excellence and meet accreditation expectations across its sites.

## ABOUT NSU'S COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Founded in 1997, Nova Southeastern University's College of Dental Medicine (CDM) was the first private dental college established in the state of Florida and the first in the nation founded in partnership with a College of Osteopathic Medicine. As one of NSU's dynamic health-focused colleges, the College of Dental Medicine is part of an interdisciplinary academic health environment that includes osteopathic medicine, allopathic medicine, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, psychology, and the health sciences. Guided by the university's mission and values, the college is dedicated to advancing oral health through excellence in education, clinical care, research, and service, while preparing graduates to lead with professionalism, collaboration, and a strong commitment to community impact.

### Education

CDM offers a four-year [Doctor of Dental Medicine \(D.M.D.\) program](#), enrolling 605 predoctoral students, that is grounded in a curriculum that emphasizes comprehensive, patient-centered care; early and sustained clinical exposure; service learning; and interprofessional education alongside students from NSU's other health programs. Advanced training is supported through a robust portfolio of postdoctoral and graduate programs, serving 85 postdoctoral residents and 87 graduate students, including [Advanced Education in General Dentistry \(AEGD\)](#), [Endodontics](#), [Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery](#), [Orthodontics](#), [Pediatric Dentistry](#), [Periodontology](#), [Prosthodontics](#), and [Master of Science in Dentistry degree \(M.S.\)](#). In addition, NSU CDM offers three dual-degree pathways that allow students to pair the [D.M.D. with early admission undergraduate dental tracks](#), a [Master of Public Health \(D.M.D./M.P.H.\)](#), or a [Master of](#)

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[Business Administration \(D.M.D./MBA\)](#). CDM's academic programs reinforce the college's commitment to graduating clinically excellent, practice-ready dentists.

CDM is also widely recognized for its investment in digital dentistry and educational technology, supporting an increasingly comprehensive digital workflow across simulation and clinical training. This commitment was further affirmed by its designation as an Apple Distinguished School, recognizing the college's leadership in integrating technology to elevate teaching, learning, and clinical preparation. The college has made significant investments in digital platforms and simulation tools to enhance student learning and practice readiness and continues to evolve this infrastructure through philanthropy and external partnerships.

CDM also offers the [Drs. Kiran and Pallavi Patel International Dental Program](#), a 39-month accelerated pathway—the only program of its kind in Florida—designed for internationally trained dentists to earn a U.S. D.M.D. degree. The program is delivered at the Clearwater Dental Clinic, a 19,000-square-foot, fully digital, clinical education facility, featuring 64 dental chairs and three surgical suites. The comprehensive, patient-care experiences there are fully aligned with CDM's traditional D.M.D. curriculum and clinical standards.

## Research

CDM maintains a vibrant and growing research enterprise dedicated to advancing oral and craniofacial health through basic, clinical, translational, public health, and educational research. CDM's research portfolio spans biomaterials; tissue engineering and regenerative medicine; bioscience; clinical research evaluating emerging therapeutics; and epidemiology and health services, reflecting a strong commitment to improving patient care and population health through discovery and innovation.

A cornerstone of this enterprise is NSU's [Center for Collaborative Research \(CCR\)](#), which opened in 2016 and serves as a major hub for interdisciplinary and translational research. Located adjacent to the University's health colleges, the 215,000-square-foot, six-story facility is one of the largest and most advanced research centers in Florida and represents a significant institutional investment in research infrastructure. The CCR houses state-of-the-art wet and dry laboratories, advanced imaging and computing capabilities, and shared core facilities supporting genomics, flow cytometry, cell therapy, imaging, and vivarium services, fostering collaboration across dental medicine and other health sciences.

Learn more about [research at NSU CDM](#).

## Clinical

CDM operates an extensive clinical care enterprise through its Dental Medicine Patient Care Centers, delivering comprehensive general and specialty dental services to diverse patient populations across the lifespan while supporting the college's educational and service missions.

- [Student and Resident Clinics](#) provide preventive, restorative, cosmetic, and specialty services at reduced cost, with care delivered by dental students and residents under close faculty member supervision. These clinics support hands-on training while expanding access to care for the surrounding community.
- [Faculty Practice Clinics](#) offer comprehensive and specialty dental services in a traditional practice setting, with care provided directly by experienced faculty dentists.
- [Urgent Care Clinic](#), exclusively at NSU's Main Campus, serves walk-in patients experiencing acute dental pain, swelling, or urgent conditions, ensuring timely access to evaluation and treatment for individuals not already established as patients of record.

Across all settings, CDM delivers services spanning preventive, restorative, surgical, and specialty care, reinforcing clinical excellence, workforce training, and the college's commitment to community-responsive oral health care.

Learn more about the [clinics at NSU CDM](#).

## ROLE OF THE DEAN

The Dean reports to Ronald Chenail, Ph.D., NSU's executive vice president, provost, and chief academic officer, and works closely with academic and clinical leaders across the university, particularly NSU Health and the health colleges, to advance interdisciplinary education, clinical integration, research collaboration, and institutional partnerships.

As the chief academic and administrative leader of the College of Dental Medicine, the dean provides leadership for all academic, clinical, research, financial, and operational activities of the college, which serves the community of students, faculty members, clinicians, and patients across multiple educational programs and clinical sites.

The dean is responsible for

- setting and executing a strategic vision that advances the college's academic quality, clinical impact, research enterprise, and national standing.
- promoting academic excellence through innovative curriculum development, faculty recruitment and development, and student success initiatives.
- strengthening research and scholarship, including interdisciplinary and translational efforts, and supporting growth in external funding.
- overseeing clinical programs that support high-quality patient care, educational excellence, and community engagement.
- ensuring sound financial and operational stewardship to support long-term sustainability.
- building and sustaining partnerships with accrediting bodies, alumni, donors, community and clinical partners, professional organizations, and government entities.

- fostering a collegial, supportive, and accessible environment that enables NSU-CDM faculty, staff, and students to thrive.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

### **Advancing a Cohesive and Forward-Looking Strategic Vision**

The next dean will have a powerful chance to articulate and promote a clear, cohesive strategic vision that aligns the College of Dental Medicine’s mission, values, and goals with those of Nova Southeastern University. Building on a strong foundation of academic, clinical, and research excellence, the dean must involve faculty, staff, students, and senior leaders in a collaborative visioning process that encourages alignment, unity, and shared purpose across programs and locations. Key to this effort will be the ability to convey a compelling, forward-looking vision that energizes the internal community while resonating with alumni, donors, and community partners—strengthening the college’s impact and positioning its continued distinction within NSU and nationally in academic dentistry.

### **Providing Strategic Administrative and Financial Stewardship for Long-Term Sustainability and Growth**

The next dean will be expected to exercise strong administrative and financial stewardship across a complex academic and clinical ecosystem, working closely with college leaders and partners across NSU and NSU Health to build trust, shared understanding, and effective decision-making pathways. Through collaborative engagement, the dean will help evaluate the health of clinical operations and financial models, supporting efforts to strengthen clinical productivity and outcomes while maintaining alignment with the college’s broader academic mission. This role offers the opportunity to advocate for resources that advance innovation, including digital dentistry, while ensuring stability and sustainable growth, supporting the full scope of CDM’s educational, clinical, and research priorities.

### **Supporting Academic Excellence and Continual Educational Improvement**

CDM is well-positioned to build on a strong foundation of academic excellence and continue advancing the preparation of competent, patient-focused graduates. Sustaining this momentum requires ongoing curriculum review and refinement informed by national trends, accreditation standards, faculty expertise, and student feedback. A clear, outcomes-based approach aligned with graduation requirements and competencies will support continual improvement while reinforcing rigor and professional readiness.

As CDM prepares for the CODA 2029 accreditation site visit, the next dean will provide steady, collaborative leadership that supports faculty and program leaders and reinforces confidence in the college’s academic and clinical direction. By leveraging the accreditation cycle, the dean can strengthen alignment across programs and sites, highlight institutional strengths, and further enhance academic coherence. Active engagement in the CODA process will ensure accreditation serves as a catalyst for continued excellence in teaching, assessment, and patient-centered dental education.

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### **Stewarding and Growing the Clinical Enterprise**

In close partnership with NSU Health—and working collaboratively with and reporting to Dr. Chad Perlyn, NSU executive vice president and chief medical officer and executive medical director of NSU Health, the dean can reimagine the dental clinics as a high-functioning, entrepreneurial clinical enterprise grounded in best practices for growth, access, and quality. By exploring innovative models to expand dental services within the broader health system, the dean can extend the college’s clinical reach while strengthening integration with interprofessional care. Optimizing scheduling, workflows, and operations will allow productivity and education to reinforce one another, enhancing the clinical footprint and elevating care delivery. This approach supports sustainable growth; expands patient access; and immerses students in contemporary, patient-centered practice environments.

### **Advancing Digital Innovation Across Clinical Care, Education, and Technology**

CDM has established a strong foundation in digital dentistry and educational technology, creating opportunities to further advance innovation across clinical models, academic pedagogy, and operational systems. The next dean can build on this momentum by supporting thoughtful adoption, lifecycle planning, and consistent implementation of digital tools across programs and sites.

Beyond technology alone, this work includes advancing digitally enabled clinical models, modern teaching and learning approaches, and data-informed decision-making that enhance both educational outcomes and patient care. By leveraging CDM’s digital strengths, the dean can deepen industry partnerships, expand continuing education offerings, and strengthen the college’s national visibility. Ensuring that innovation remains aligned with accreditation expectations and operational realities will be essential to sustaining impact while positioning CDM at the forefront of technology and dental education.

### **Growing Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research**

The next dean will step into a college well-positioned to grow its interdisciplinary research enterprise, supported by robust infrastructure and strong collaborative opportunities across the health sciences. Building on this momentum, the dean can actively cultivate partnerships within a matrixed academic health system to advance high-impact scholarship in oral health, patient care, education, and translational innovation.

Sustaining this progress will require focused efforts to enhance research productivity and visibility while strengthening a culture that values inquiry, mentorship, and innovation. By aligning research priorities with institutional strengths and making strategic investments in faculty recruitment and development, the dean can deepen interdisciplinary collaboration, elevate the college’s national profile, and further position CDM as a leader in academic dentistry.

### **Strengthening Partnerships Across NSU and the Broader Community**

Furthering the college's mission relies on ongoing collaboration within a complex, interconnected health system and on strong, lasting relationships beyond the university. This role requires a leader who can thoughtfully engage partners across NSU and NSU Health to identify opportunities for integration that enhance education, clinical care, and research for the benefit of the whole enterprise. Advocating for the value and unique contributions of dental academic medicine, while helping others understand its role within an academic health environment, will be essential. At the same time, maintaining and deepening community partnerships remains a core part of the college's identity and impact. By nurturing these internal and external relationships, the dean can help ensure alignment, mutual benefit, and a shared commitment to advancing oral health, education, and service.

### **Preserving and Strengthening a Culture of Communication, Trust, and Transparency Across All Sites**

Leading the college forward will require intentional stewardship of a culture rooted in trust, open communication, and mutual respect that is widely recognized as CDM's founding strength. The dean must actively foster transparent dialogue, create space for ideas to flow freely across roles and locations, and ensure that faculty, staff, and students feel heard, valued, and aligned. Maintaining cohesion between NSU's Main Campus and Tampa Bay Campus will be especially important to sustain consistency, shared purpose, and collective momentum. By demonstrating trust-based leadership and promoting strong communication practices, the dean can cultivate an environment that encourages collaboration and innovation while inspiring students through a culture that embodies the values, professionalism, and curiosity anticipated of the next generation of dentists.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS**

The successful candidate will possess the following qualifications and characteristics:

- D.D.S., D.M.D., or equivalent dental degree from a CODA/ADA-accredited institution, with eligibility for licensure; additional advanced degrees and specialty certification desirable
- scholarly distinction appropriate for appointment at the associate- or full-professor level, with demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, and service
- proven senior leadership experience in academic dentistry or related higher-education settings, with success managing faculty, staff, students, programs, and complex operations
- a clear vision for the future of dental education and the profession, including curriculum innovation, interprofessional education, and emerging technologies
- strong commitment to clinical excellence, patient safety, and the integration of education, research, and clinical care
- demonstrated ability to recruit, retain, mentor, and develop diverse faculty members and foster a collaborative, high-performing academic culture
- experience with accreditation and regulatory processes, including CODA and relevant regional accrediting bodies

- record of effective strategic planning, financial stewardship, and operational leadership, including oversight of budgets, clinics, and revenue streams
- ability to build strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders, including alumni, donors, community partners, and professional organizations, and to support advancement and fundraising efforts
- exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, with a demonstrated commitment to integrity, transparency, and shared governance

## DAVIE, FLORIDA

Davie, Florida, is a vibrant community in central Broward County that combines suburban space, green open areas, and convenient access to the Fort Lauderdale–Miami metropolitan region. The town is widely recognized as a hub for higher education and health sciences, hosting multiple colleges, universities, and research-oriented institutions. With a pleasant, year-round climate, extensive parks and trail systems, and proximity to major highways, airports, beaches, and cultural amenities, Davie offers a strong quality of life for professionals and families alike.

For more information, visit <https://www.davie-fl.gov>.

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/nova-southeastern-university-college-dental-medicine/dean>.

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*Nova Southeastern University is in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and does not discriminate with regard to applicants or employees with disabilities and will make reasonable accommodation when necessary.*

*NSU is an Equal Opportunity Employer and considers applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status.*

*This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Nova Southeastern University, College of Dental Medicine. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by Nova Southeastern University, College of Dental Medicine would supersede any conflicting information in this document.*