Factors Influencing Student Career Plans


**Objective:** Electronically surveyed DMD 2020 & DMD 2021 students to determine influences upon their career plans.

**Methods:** Survey was conducted in October 2020. Students reported their future plans, then indicated the level of influence of 10 factors upon their plans using a Likert-type scale. Students deciding to pursue a specialty or residency program rated the influence of a list of factors upon that decision and choosing a specific program.

Most frequently indicated as “discouraging”: length of program, student debt, feeling clinically ready to practice

Most frequently indicated as “encouraging”: Type of procedures, Dr./pt. relationship, lifestyle, family members

**Results:**
- 54 respondents
  - 41.2% male 56.9% female
  - 29.4% 2020 70.6% 2021
  - 43.1% single, 5.9% married, 51% unmarried relationship
  - 54% students are planning to attend a post-graduation residency.

Major influences most frequently chosen: faculty and family mentors, other experiences
Small influence most frequently chosen: patient experience, a class in dental school

When considering a residency program, most selected major influences were: overall feeling of the program, ability to earn on the side, distance to significant other, geographic location

With a larger data set of higher responses and inclusion of more DMD classes, this study would continue to provide useful information to dental schools and residency directors who are searching for the best candidates for their program.