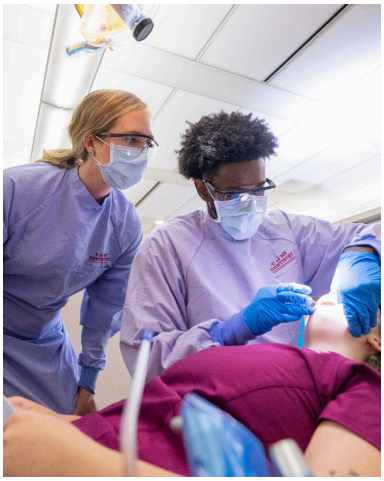
Modernizing Minnesota's Only Dental School

2026 CAPITAL REQUEST: $100M | UNIVERSITY MATCH: $50M

Oral health is essential to overall well-being. As Minnesota's only dental school, the University of Minnesota (UMN) is the primary engine for the state's oral health workforce. We train **73% of Minnesota's practicing dentists** and develop restorative materials used globally.



The Opportunity: Address a Growing Workforce Gap

Minnesota faces a critical shortage: **approximately 160 dentists retire annually**, while UMN currently graduates only **120**. To support dental access statewide, we must expand our capacity. UMN Dentistry has not undergone a major physical renovation since the mid-70s. While technology and teaching methods have evolved, the training space has not. To remain competitive and keep talent in-state, our facilities must evolve.

The Proposal: Transforming Moos Tower

This request will modernize the 1970s-era Moos Tower, transforming it into a state-of-the-art hub for clinical care and education. This investment will:

- **Expand Capacity:** Additional teaching and clinical space allows us to increase capacity to bridge the dental practitioner gap.
- **Advance Technology:** Integrate digital workflows, 3D printing and flexible teaching labs.
- **Enhance Care:** Improve environments for treating special healthcare-needs patients and foster a "team care" clinical approach.
- **Ensure Safety:** Address critical infrastructure needs, including HVAC upgrades, asbestos removal and plumbing repairs.

School of Dentistry at a Glance

- **Unmatched Impact:** Supports 100,000+ annual patient visits at Moos Tower and 20,000+ appointments at 24 outreach sites across Minnesota.
- **Safety Net Provider:** Serves as a crucial safety net, with 48% of patients on medical assistance, and acts as the top referral center for complex dental cases in Minnesota.
- **The Future Workforce:** Each year, we graduate 190+ professionals, including dentists, dental therapists, hygienists and residents.

With state support, we can meet the needs of a 21st-century workforce and transform Minnesota's dental school to better serve patients and communities across the state.

Transforming Minnesota Dentistry

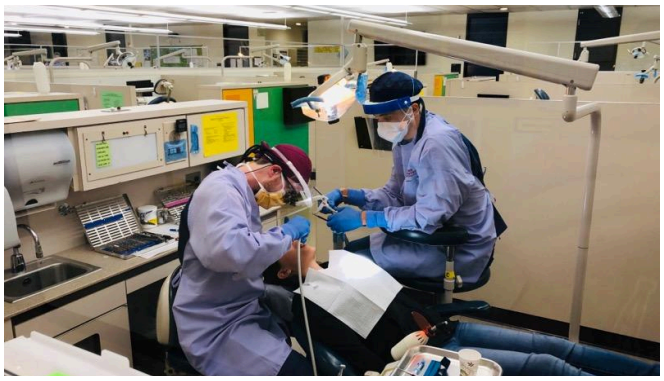
Training dentists in Minnesota means keeping dentists in Minnesota — and to do that, our facilities must evolve. The proposed renovations to Moos Tower will create modern, collaborative spaces that expand capacity, integrate new technologies and equipment, and enhance both the student and patient experience.

Current: 1970s-era Training and Clinical Spaces

Educational Spaces

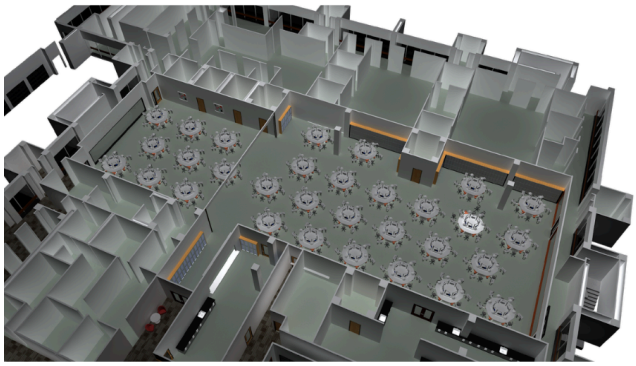
The current preclinical environment uses outdated equipment and does not align with real-world practice settings.

Clinical Care



The current clinical setting does not offer a modern experience for patients or space for collaborative learning.

Proposed: State-of-the-Art Hub for Clinical Care and Education



Conceptual designs add 50 spots for additional learners and provide learning spaces that mirror modern clinical settings.

Conceptual designs feature open learning centers between clinical areas to improve the patient and student experience.