

A Special Invitation and Opportunity for the UMKC SOD Class of 2027



What is the Final 18?

The Final 18 is a Missouri Dental Association sponsored program designed to provide you with focused, insightful, and experienced mentorship over the final 18 months of your dental school journey to give you a leg up as you begin your dental career.

What kind of things are included as part of Final 18? These are just some options:

Job and Interview Prep	Connect4Success Conference
Developing a Working Budget	MDA Dental Day at the Capitol
Understanding Contracts and Insurance	Mentor Dinners
Network with a wide variety of dentists	
Understand how to access helpful resources and how to be involved post-graduation	

Does it cost? What is my commitment?

Final18 is free to join and comes with some nice perks like meals and discounted or free registration fees for MDA events. Your commitment is to participate actively in your own development, including responding to polls or surveys. We know you are busy and will work around your schedule. This is not a contractual obligation but an opportunity to get exposure and experience that is not offered in your curriculum. You'll get out of it what you put into it. Participation levels could also lead to varied financial bonus amounts at the end of the program.

What if I intend to pursue a residency?

You can still apply if you are looking at a residency program before returning to have a career in Missouri.

Can I talk to someone who has been in Final18? Of course! Pilot participants from the Class of 2026 are Jaspreet Chauhan, Jason Firth, Elias Halwaji, Galen Hayashi, Meredith Kruse, Tim Nguyen, K-Leigh Pappas, Mikaylie Parco, Shreya Patel, Kristen Schneider, and Hira Sukhera.

Who can join?

Any student in the Class of 2027 who intends to build their career in Missouri. If you plan to move out of state after graduation, this is not for you.

How do you join?

Space is limited. Selections will be based on applications. Use [this link](#) to submit your application before the deadline of January 30, 2026.

Important 2026 Target Dates in the Final 18 Calendar for Class of 2027

Balancing busy calendars for these many people is difficult. Please note that while all events are optional and subject to change, priority events are listed in bold. Further explanation will follow at Orientation Dinner.

• February 2026			
○ Thursday 2/12	Orientation Dinner	Kansas City	
○ Tuesday 2/17	Case Study and Chat	1 hour Zoom	
○ Tuesday 2/24	Me and My Budget	1 hour Zoom	
• March 2026			
○ Wednesday 3/4	Dental Day at the Capitol	Jefferson City	
○ Saturday 3/28	MERIT Meeting	Jefferson City	
• April 2026			
○ Tuesday 4/7	Interview Prep	1 hour Zoom	
○ Friday 4/17	MDA Board Meeting	Jefferson City	
○ Tuesday 4/21	Understanding Contracts	1 hour Zoom	
• May 2026			
○ Tuesday 5/12	Developing A Professional Ethic	1 hour Zoom	
• June 2026			
○ Thurs – Sat 6/25-27 C4S, House of Delegates		Lake of the Ozarks	
• July 2026			
○ Tuesday 7/7	Case Study and Chat	1 hour Zoom	
○ Tuesday 7/21	Case Study and Chat	1 hour Zoom	
• August 2026			
○ Tuesday 8/18	How to Maximize Rotations	1 hour Zoom	
• September 2026			
○ Tuesday 9/15	Taking Personal Inventory	1 hour Zoom	
• October 2026			
○ TBD	Mid-course evaluation	Dinner at UMKC	

Questions? Contact Paul Roberts at the MDA paul@modentalmail.org