

Dr. Benjamin Carrico reflects on his experience in the St. Elizabeth Dental Residency program....

For me, all of these concerns were quelled by completing a post-graduate residency program. A tremendous amount of confidence is afforded by doing as many extractions in two weeks as you did during your entire third and fourth years of dental school. Learning to become proficient in rotary endodontics, getting more comfortable with placing posterior composites, along with being able to effectively communicate to patients their current condition and the best course of treatment are all things that ultimately require additional amounts of training and can subsequently contribute to your business' bottom line. In fact, there is not a day that goes by in my office where I don't benefit from something that I was taught during my residency training.

I feel very strongly that dental schools do their absolute best to produce good practitioners, but it is very difficult, in my opinion, for dental education to sufficiently approximate a private practice setting. It is for that reason that residency programs are so valuable; they help prepare you for the ins and outs of a typical day.

I like to think that dental school provided me my degree, but the residency made me a dentist.

Dr. Benjamin Carrico
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