The University of Michigan School of Dentistry has been noted for consistently including women in its dental classes since 1880, just five years after it was founded. However, the number of graduates averaged just 1.5 women per class from 1880 to 1976. Since 1977, the number of women graduates has risen dramatically. In 2012, 50 women graduated in a class of 113.

As more women have joined the University of Michigan’s dental faculty, they have been role models for incoming students who now expect equal opportunities. According to the American Dental Education Association, in 2008-2009 women made up 31% of all dental faculties. Fifty-one percent of women faculty were full-time compared with 48% of male faculty.