One of the world's most distinctive metropolitan centers, San Francisco has been the home of the School of Dentistry since its incorporation in 1896 as the College of Physicians and Surgeons. The school has been recognized since its inception as a major resource for dental education in the Western states.

- In 1962 the College of Physicians and Surgeons joined the University of the Pacific.
- In 1967 an eight-story building was completed for the teaching of clinical dentistry and for conducting dental research.
- In 1996 the school opened a state-of-the-art preclinical simulation laboratory combining the latest in educational technology with a simulated patient experience.
- In 2002 three new state-of-the-art classrooms were completed.
- In 2003 a new Health Science Center was opened on the Stockton campus combining facilities for dentistry, dental hygiene, physical therapy, and speech pathology.
- In 2004 the university named the dental school in honor of its long-standing dean, Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni.
- In 2011 the school was awarded the prestigious Gies Award for Vision by the American Dental Education Association.
- In 2014 the dental school moved to a completely renovated and updated facility in downtown San Francisco, setting the pace for new and better methods of educating students and providing care to patients.
- In 2015 the dental school became the first school in California and in the United States to have students be licensed through a portfolio exam process.

The Alumni Association provided a twelve operatory dental clinic which has served as the school's major extended campus in southern Alameda County since 1973. The clinic currently serves as the clinic site for the school's Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency program.