

CODA.ADA.org

# 2025 Annual Report

**CODA**\*

*Commission on Dental Accreditation*

Strengthening Dental Education

## About the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)

CODA is a globally recognized accrediting body for predoctoral, advanced, and allied dental education programs. In the US, CODA is recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE) and is the sole agency to accredit dental and dental-related education programs conducted at the post-secondary level. CODA ensures that dental education programs meet comprehensive standards. CODA also accredits fully operational international dental education programs.

CODA functions independently and autonomously in all matters of developing and approving standards, making accreditation decisions on educational programs and developing and approving procedures that are used in the accreditation process. It is structured to include an appropriate representation of the communities of interest. Learn more about CODA at [coda.ada.org/about-coda](https://www.coda.ada.org/about-coda).

### History of CODA

**1936:** American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Dental Education is formed to oversee the educational standards of dental professionals and the accreditation of dental schools and educational programs.

**1946:** ADA Council on Dental Education has evaluated and accredited 38 dental schools.

**1952:** The Council began participating in governmental recognition when the U. S. Commissioner of Education was first required to publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies.

**1972:** The Council on Dental Education recognized the need to provide the communities of interest with more direct representation in accreditation decisions and policy issues.

**1975:** ADA forms the Commission on Accreditation of Dental and Dental Auxiliary Educational Programs, later renamed the Commission on Dental Accreditation in 1979. All accreditation policy that had been used by the Council was adopted by CODA in 1975 and became CODA policy.

## Mission, Vision, & Values

### Mission

CODA serves the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs.

### Vision

CODA is a globally recognized leader for accrediting educational programs in the dental professions.

### Values

CODA is committed to the values of collegiality, consistency, integrity, quality and transparency.

## Structure Overview

The foundation of the accreditation process—whether a new application or reaccreditation—is a site visit, where a site visit team gathers and evaluates data and facts. The team also considers the program's self-study while evaluating compliance with CODA standards. From there, Review Committees meet to review site visit findings as well as programmatic reports and prepare

recommendations for CODA’s consideration. CODA makes the final decision on accreditation actions for a dental education program. CODA and review committees also discuss policy and standards related to accreditation.

Nominating Organization	Number of Members
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	1 member
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	1 member
American Academy of Oral Medicine	1 member
American Academy of Orofacial Pain	1 member
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry	1 member
American Academy of Periodontology	1 member
American Association of Dental Boards	4 members
American Association of Endodontists	1 member
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons	1 member
American Association of Orthodontists	1 member
American Association of Public Health Dentistry	1 member
American College of Prosthodontists	1 member
American Dental Assistants Association	1 member
American Dental Education Association (ADEA)	4 members
ADEA and the Special Care Dentistry Association, jointly	1 member
American Dental Hygienists’ Association	1 member
American Dental Association Board of Trustees	4 members
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists	1 member
American Student Dental Association and ADEA, jointly	1 member
National Association of Dental Laboratories	1 member
Public Members	4 members
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33 members of CODA</b>

## 2025 Commissioners (October 2024—October 2025)

Dr. Frank Licari (chair), Dr. Cataldo Leone (vice-chair), Dr. Evanthia Anadioti, Dr. Indraneel Bhattacharyya, Ms. Margaret Bowman-Pensel, Dr. Carolyn Brown, Dr. Ngoc Chu, Dr. Joseph Cohen, Ms. Jill Day, Dr. Scott DeRossi, Dr. Theresa Gonzales, Dr. Joseph Giovannitti, Dr. Catherine Hayes, Ms. LaShun James, Dr. George Kushner, Dr. Jessica Lee, Dr. Paul Luepke, Ms. Lisa Mayer, Dr. Keith Mays, Dr. Renee McCoy-Collins, Dr. Monica Nenad, Dr. Lisa Nowlin, Dr. Cornelius Pitts, Dr. Jeffrey Price, Dr. Kanthasamy Ragunathan, Dr. Miriam Robbins, Dr. Nancy Rosenthal, Dr. Kenneth Sadler, Dr. Glenn Sameshima, Dr. Fabricio Teixeira, Ms. Lonni Thompson, Dr. Deborah Weisfuse, and Mr. Noah Williams.

## CODA Staff

**Dr. Kathleen J. Hinshaw**, Sr. Director, CODA & USDE Recognition Compliance

**Marjorie Hooper**, Coordinator, CODA Operations

**Jess Lynk**, Manager, Communication & Data Management

**Shawn Morrison**, Manager, Training and Assessment

**Kelly Stapleton**, Manager, Predoctoral Dental Education

Predoctoral dental education and Dental therapy

**Attiyya Muhammad**, Sr. Project Assistant

**Dr. Yesenia Dworetzky**, Manager, Advanced Dental Education

Endodontics, Oral and maxillofacial surgery, Orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, and Periodontics

**Taylor Weast**, Manager, Advanced Dental Education

Dental public health, Oral and maxillofacial pathology, Oral and maxillofacial radiology, Pediatric dentistry, and Prosthodontics

**Melissa Wicker**, Manager, Advanced Dental Education

Advanced education in general dentistry, General practice residency, Dental anesthesiology, Oral medicine, and Orofacial pain

**Bridget Blackwood**, Sr. Project Assistant

**Shelby Burgus**, Sr. Project Assistant

**Jamie Asher-Hernandez**, Manager, Allied Dental Education

Dental assisting and Dental laboratory technology

**Katie Navickas**, Manager, Allied Dental Education

Dental hygiene

**Zaira Perez Limon**, Sr. Project Assistant

**Daniel Sloyan**, Coordinator, Allied Program Reviews

**Marianne Flood**, Coordinator, CODA Site Visits

**Bernadette Molina**, Coordinator, CODA Site Visits

Find staff contact information at [coda.ada.org/about-coda/coda-staff](https://www.coda.ada.org/about-coda/coda-staff).

## Resources

A variety of resources are available at [CODA.ADA.org](https://www.CODA.ADA.org).

- [Questions and answers](#)
- [Meeting schedule and materials](#)
- [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#)
- [CODA Policies](#)
- [CODA Standards](#)
- [Find a Program](#)
- [E-Portal](#)

## A letter from CODA Senior Director, Dr. Kathleen J. Hinshaw

Dear CODA Community,

It is an honor to join CODA as Senior Director. My journey began as a CODA volunteer while I was a dual dental assisting and hygiene program director. This led to my 19 year career with the Department of Testing Services at the American Dental Association. These experiences shaped my deep appreciation for CODA's mission and the dedication of our volunteers, staff, and programs.

Stepping into this role, I am deeply mindful of CODA's longstanding commitment to excellence in dental education. This past year has been one of both progress and reflection for CODA. Long-term staff members whose contributions helped shape CODA's legacy concluded their tenure with the Commission. We also began our USDE re-recognition process in 2025, reaffirming our commitment to transparency and accountability.

We look forward to the evolution of CODA in 2026 to meet the emerging needs of future providers, patients, and communities, while maintaining our strong foundation.

In 2026, we are looking to leverage technology to better our processes. We will build upon our new training platform, Maple, implemented in 2025, to connect all our stakeholders to vital training, available on demand. We will also be testing and launching Armature/Fabric, our new accreditation platform, thoughtfully designed to make the accreditation process more efficient and accessible.

Alongside this, we are updating key documents to provide clearer guidance and streamlined resources, ensuring that programs and volunteers can navigate requirements with greater ease. These improvements reflect our commitment to supporting our communities in meeting the standards of dental education while reducing administrative burden.

As Senior Director, I am eager to continue to work alongside our dedicated commissioners, staff, volunteers, and programs to advance our shared mission. We all have a deep commitment to dental education. I extend my gratitude to all who contribute to CODA's work: educators, institutions, practitioners, and the public. Your partnership is essential to ensuring that dental education remains a cornerstone of oral health excellence. I know we will be even stronger in 2026.

With deep appreciation,



**Kathleen J. Hinshaw, Ed.D., LDH, FADHA**  
Senior Director, CODA & USDE Compliance

# **CODA 2025: Year in Numbers**

## **Accreditation Actions**

**843**

accreditation  
actions taken  
by CODA

**23**

new programs  
granted  
accreditation

## **Site Visits**

**308**

programs  
evaluated

**182**

site visits  
conducted

## **Volunteers**

**213**

volunteers  
trained

## **Standards**

**10**

adopted accreditation  
standards updates

Read all post-meeting actions at <https://coda.ada.org/accreditation/meeting-materials>.

**Enrollment Numbers in Dental Education Programs, 2024-2025**

Dental Education Area	Total Enrollment	Enrollment change from 2023-2024	Number of accredited programs
<b>Predoctoral</b>	<b>27,920</b>	<b>+838</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>International</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>+364</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Advanced Education</b>	<b>7,492</b>	<b>+85</b>	<b>772</b>
<i>Advanced Education in General Dentistry</i>	968	+42	94
<i>Dental Anesthesiology</i>	85	+2	9
<i>Dental Public Health</i>	47	-7	15
<i>Endodontics</i>	490	+10	56
<i>General Practice Residency</i>	1,141	-14	166
<i>Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology</i>	46	-3	15
<i>Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology</i>	55	+2	9
<i>Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</i>	1,285	+20	101
<i>Clinical Fellowship in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</i>	14	-1	11
<i>Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics</i>	1,161	+15	68
<i>Clinical Fellowship in Orthodontics</i>	9	-1	7
<i>Oral Medicine</i>	33	-5	6
<i>Orofacial Pain</i>	61	+6	14
<i>Pediatric Dentistry</i>	1,011	+7	87
<i>Periodontics</i>	588	+6	57
<i>Prosthodontics</i>	475	+5	47
<i>Maxillofacial Prosthetics</i>	18	+2	8
<i>Combined Prosthodontics/Maxillofacial Prosthetics</i>	2	0	1
<i>Combined Orthodontics/Periodontics</i>	3	-1	1
<b>Allied Education</b>	<b>22,921</b>	<b>+833</b>	<b>573</b>
<i>Dental Hygiene</i>	17,717	+660	339
<i>Dental Assisting</i>	4,831	+186	223
<i>Dental Laboratory Technology</i>	373	-13	11
<i>Dental Therapy</i>	N/A	N/A	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,391</b>	<b>+2,120</b>	<b>1,420</b>

Note: CODA does not report dental therapy program data due to the small number of programs.

Source: American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute

## 2025 Highlights

### Leadership Changes

CODA elected Dr. Cataldo Leone as chair and Dr. Keith Mays as vice chair for the 2025–2026 term.

### Office Relocation

In 2025, CODA, alongside the ADA, relocated to 401 North Michigan Avenue. This move followed the sale of ADA's longtime headquarters at 211 East Chicago Avenue. The new location provides modernized facilities, enhanced amenities, expanded conference space, and stunning 360 views of the city of Chicago.

### USDE Re-Recognition

In 2025, CODA formally began the process of re-recognition by the USDE, ensuring CODA continues to meet federal standards for accrediting agencies. By initiating this re-recognition process, CODA underscored its commitment to maintaining rigorous educational standards and safeguarding the public's trust in dental education.

### CODA Launches Maple LMS system

CODA has officially launched its new Maple Learning Management System (LMS) with a pilot group of volunteers, marking a significant step forward in how the organization supports volunteers and programs.

The Maple LMS is designed to provide flexible, on-demand training opportunities, allowing volunteers and program participants to access materials at their own pace and on their own schedule. This innovation ensures that training is not limited to fixed sessions, making it easier for individuals to be engaged and prepared regardless of time constraints.

Beyond convenience, Maple empowers CODA to deploy tailored training quickly, updating modules as needed. This means CODA stakeholders can receive the most relevant information and gain access to continuous learning opportunities.

CODA will expand access to this platform more broadly in 2026. By embracing this modern approach to training, CODA is reinforcing its commitment to equipping volunteers and programs with the tools they need to succeed.

### CODA Counters Program Closures with New Public Education Pamphlet

CODA developed a new pamphlet and infographic in direct response to growing concerns about the closure of dental assisting and dental laboratory technology programs and the future of accreditation. Recognizing challenges such as limited funding and varying state practice requirements, CODA created this resource to emphasize the value of CODA-accredited programs.

Designed for both the public and academic institutions, the pamphlet highlights accredited training as the recognized entry point into the profession, outlines the benefits of CODA accreditation, including quality standards, student success, and workforce strength, and aims to raise awareness, counter misconceptions, and encourage enrollment in accredited programs. The pamphlet and infographic is available on [CODA's homepage under "Accreditation Resources"](#).

## Looking Forward to 2026

### Financial and Fee Updates

To ensure CODA's ongoing fiscally responsible operations, CODA approved fee increases for 2026 in annual fees and application fees. Find the fee schedule at [coda.ada.org/site-visitor-resources/coda-fee-schedule](https://www.coda.ada.org/site-visitor-resources/coda-fee-schedule).

### Volunteer Engagement Needed

Each year, CODA requests nominations for volunteer Review Committee members and Site Visitors. These dedicated professionals play a vital role in CODA's peer-reviewed accreditation process, ensuring the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. CODA provides comprehensive training and ongoing staff support to prepare volunteers for their service.

- Review Committee members contribute by evaluating policy matters, site visit reports, and progress reports, dedicating multiple days per year to committee activities.
- Site Visitors conduct program evaluations through document review, interviews, and physical visits, typically committing multiple days per visit plus preparation time.

Learn more and find materials at [coda.ada.org/accreditation/call-for-nominations](https://www.coda.ada.org/accreditation/call-for-nominations).

### 2026 Dates to Remember

- **American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Conference:** CODA staff will participate in the ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition, held March 21–24, 2026, in Montreal, Canada. In addition to attending the conference, CODA staff will host presentations, and a volunteer reception to engage with colleagues across dental education.
- **Program Report Deadline:** May 1 for Summer CODA meeting review and November 1 for Winter CODA meeting Review.
  - *Program changes requiring CODA review and approval must be submitted by May 1 or November 1 prior to implementation.*
  - *Program changes not requiring CODA review should be reported at least 30 days before the anticipated implementation date.*
  - *Unexpected program changes must be reported within 30 days of their occurrence.*
- **Call for Comments:** The deadline for submitting written comments on proposed revisions to certain accreditation standards is June 1. Following CODA's February 2026 meeting, additional standards may be introduced for public comment, ensuring stakeholders can provide input on newly considered revisions. Learn more at [coda.ada.org/accreditation/open-hearings-comments-due](https://www.coda.ada.org/accreditation/open-hearings-comments-due).
- **Upcoming Trainings:** CODA will provide training opportunities for programs with upcoming site visits, program directors, new and returning site visitors, and updates on standard and policy changes in the new Maple LMS system. Please contact [Shawn Morrison](#), manager, training, and assessment with questions.