



# Annual Report 2024

The report of the Commission on Dental Accreditation

**CODA**<sup>★</sup>

*Commission on Dental Accreditation*

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# Mission, Vision and Values

*The Commission's mission, vision and values were adopted August 6, 2021 in accordance with the development of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.*

## Mission

The Commission on Dental Accreditation 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

The Commission on Dental Accreditation is a globally recognized leader for accrediting educational programs in the dental professions.

## Values

The Commission is committed to:

- Collegiality
- Consistency
- Integrity
- Quality
- Transparency



**Scan or click to read**  
**the 2022-2026**  
**Strategic Plan**

# Introduction

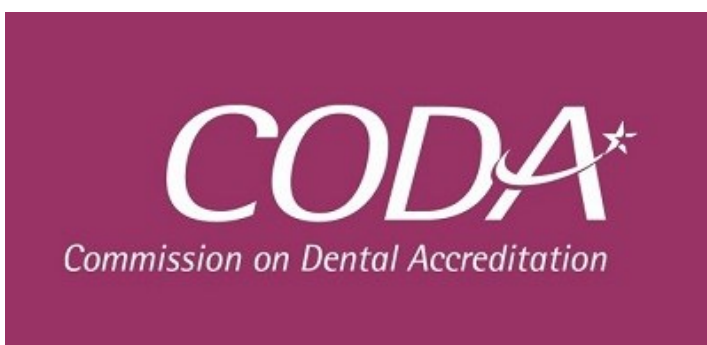
## Who We Are

From 1937 to 1974, prior to the formation of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Education (now known as the Council on Dental Education and Licensure) served as the accrediting agency for dental and dental-related education programs. In 1973, the House of Delegates of the American Dental Association approved the establishment of a Commission on Accreditation of Dental and Dental Auxiliary Educational Programs. The Commission began operating in 1975. Based on this action by the ADA, CODA will celebrate its 50th birthday in 2025. In 1979 this body's name was officially changed to the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Since 1952, the Commission on Dental Accreditation, and its predecessor, has been recognized by the Secretary of the [United States Department of Education \(USDE\)](#) as the sole agency to accredit dental and dental-related education programs conducted at the post-secondary level. CODA's mission is to serve the public and dental professions

by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. The general public and communities of interest have direct access to many important resources through CODA's [website](#). Many questions related to CODA's role and responsibility are answered in the [Questions and Answers about CODA](#). The Commission also makes available to the public its [Meeting Agenda and Materials](#) in an effort to demonstrate transparency to its communities of interest. Additionally, updated information about CODA's activities is available by reviewing information in [Accreditation Updates](#).

The Commission on Dental Accreditation accredits dental education programs, advanced dental education programs and allied dental education programs in the United States. The Commission also accredits fully-operational international dental education programs. The Commission functions independently and autonomously in all matters of developing and approving accreditation 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.



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# Commission Structure

## Site Visit Teams

The foundation of the accreditation process is the site visit, and the primary role of the Site Visit Team is to gather and evaluate data and facts. Members on each team can include those with expertise in the discipline, biomedical sciences, clinical sciences, curriculum, finance, and national licensure. To maintain accreditation, programs self-assess their compliance with CODA's accreditation standards and provide CODA with documented evidence through the Self-Study process. CODA's site visitors review such materials, visit programs to evaluate process, interview faculty and students/residents/fellows, tour facilities, and more in order to assess a program's compliance with CODA standards. The site visit team then clearly and comprehensively reports on its findings to the Review Committees and Commission. The Commission provides a number of resources to programs and site visitors throughout the [Site Visit Process](#).

## Review Committees

Review Committees meet twice per year, two to three weeks before each Commission Meeting, to review reports submitted by Site Visit teams as well as programmatic reports and requests, and to discuss policy and procedures related to the committee's discipline. As of publication, there are 17 Review Committees, each focused on one or more disciplines within dental education. These committees review and discuss the reports submitted by site visit teams and educational programs, and make recommendations to the Commission. The Review Committees also consider policy, some new and some annual recurring policy, which is applicable to the discipline. Note that the Review Committees **do not** make final accreditation or policy decisions – they instead make recommendations to the Commission, which then considers these recommendations at its Winter and Summer Meetings. In this regard, Review Committees are advisory to the Commission.

## Commission on Dental Accreditation

The Commission on Dental Accreditation makes the final decision to grant, continue or withdraw an accreditation status to a dental education program. The Commission bases its decision on the program's compliance with the Accreditation Standards and Commission Policies. In this regard, the Commission continuously evaluates and monitors educational programs for compliance with the Accreditation Standards.

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# Composition of CODA Board of Commissioners

Organization	Appointments
American Dental Association (dental practitioners)	4
American Association of Dental Boards (licensure community)	4
American Dental Education Association (dental educators)	4
American Dental Education Association and Special Care Dentistry Association— joint appointment (postdoctoral general dentistry)	1
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, American Academy of Oral Medicine, American Academy of Orofacial Pain, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Academy of Periodontology, American Association of Endodontists, American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, American Association of Orthodontists, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, American College of Prosthodontists, American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists (1 each representing the advanced dental disciplines)	12
American Dental Assistants Association (dental assistants)	1
American Dental Hygienists' Association (dental hygienists)	1
National Association of Dental Laboratories (dental laboratory technicians)	1
Public (consumers/public)	4
American Dental Education Association, American Student Dental Association— joint appointment (student)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>

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# Commission Structure

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The Commission also ensures Standards reflect the evolving practice of dentistry by formulating and adopting requirements and guidelines for the accreditation of dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs under its purview. The Commission seeks input from all of its broad communities of interest related to the development and periodic revision of Accreditation Standards through [Hearings and Comments](#), thus ensuring the Standards remain current and define the quality of dental education. CODA maintains continuous contact with those important communities through various mechanisms. The Commission also establishes [Policies and Guidelines](#) to guide the evaluation and decision making process to ensure fairness, consistency, and appropriate levels of due process.

## Appeal Board

The principal function of the Appeal Board is to hear and make judgments on adverse actions (i.e., withdrawal of accreditation or denial of accreditation), at the request of an educational program or institution. The Appeal Board will determine whether the Commission on Dental Accreditation, in arriving at a decision regarding the withdrawal or denial of accreditation for a given program, has properly applied the facts presented to it. In addition, the Commission's Rules stipulate that the Appeal Board shall provide the educational program filing the appeal the opportunity to be represented by legal counsel and shall give the program the opportunity to offer evidence and argument in writing and/or orally to try to refute or overcome the findings and decision of the Commission. The Appeal Board is an autonomous body, separate from the Commission. Appeal Board members are selected in accordance with the Rules of the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

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# The Year in Numbers

## 2024 February: Number of CODA-Accredited Programs

Discipline	Number of Programs	Approval without Reporting	Approval with Reporting*	Initial Accreditation	Approval without Reporting (teach out)	Approval with Reporting (teach out)	Initial Accreditation (teach out)
Predoctoral	73	62	4	7	0	0	0
Predoctoral International	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Dental Assisting	225	210	11	2	2	0	0
Dental Hygiene	339	300	25	13	1	0	0
Dental Laboratory Technology	11	9	1	0	1	0	0
Dental Therapy	3	2	0	1	0	0	0
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	95	89	1	3	2	0	0
General Practice Residency	168	160	5	1	1	1	0
Orofacial Pain	13	12	0	1	0	0	0
Dental Anesthesiology	9	7	1	1	0	0	0
Oral Medicine	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (and clinical fellowships)	113	107	4	2	0	0	0
Orthodontics (and clinical fellowships)	76	70	2	4	0	0	0
Endodontics	56	55	0	1	0	0	0
Periodontics	57	56	0	1	0	0	0
Pediatric Dentistry	87	79	1	7	0	0	0
Prosthodontics (all, including MxPros and combined programs)	57	55	0	2	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	15	14	0	1	0	0	0
Dental Public Health	15	13	1	1	0	0	0
Ortho/Periodontic	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

\*Includes programs on “Approval with Reporting Requirements,” with “intent to withdraw” and “required period of non-enrollment” statuses.

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# The Year in Numbers

## 2024 August: Number of CODA-Accredited Programs

Discipline	Number of Programs	Approval without Reporting	Approval with Reporting*	Initial Accreditation	Approval without Reporting (teach-out)	Approval with Reporting (teach-out)	Initial Accreditation (teach-out)
Predoctoral	75	60	6	9	0	0	0
Predoctoral International	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Dental Assisting	224	207	11	2	3	1	0
Dental Hygiene	339	309	20	10	0	0	0
Dental Laboratory Technology	11	9	1	0	1	0	0
Dental Therapy	3	2	0	1	0	0	0
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	94	91	2	1	0	0	0
General Practice Residency	166	163	3	0	0	0	0
Orofacial Pain	14	12	0	2	0	0	0
Dental Anesthesiology	9	8	0	1	0	0	0
Oral Medicine	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (and clinical fellowships)	115	109	3	3	0	0	0
Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (and clinical fellowships)	76	71	2	2	1	0	0
Endodontics	56	55	0	1	0	0	0
Periodontics	57	55	0	1	1	0	0
Pediatric Dentistry	87	83	0	4	0	0	0
Prosthodontics (all, including MxPros and combined programs)	56	55	0	1	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	15	15	0	0	0	0	0
Dental Public Health	15	14	0	1	0	0	0
Ortho/Periodontic	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>1335</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

\*Includes programs on “Approval with Reporting Requirements,” with “intent to withdraw” and “required period of non-enrollment” statuses.

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# The Year in Numbers

## Total Enrollment in Dental Education Programs

Dental Education Area	Enrollment (difference from prior year)	Year
Predoctoral	26,596 (+368)*	2022-2023
Advanced Education	7,413 (+9)	2022-2023
Dental Hygiene	16,416 (+617)	2022-2023
Dental Assisting	4,817 (-219)	2022-2023
DLT	373 (-24)	2022-2023
<b>All Programs</b>	<b>55,615 (+751)</b>	<b>Source: Surveys of Dental Education Programs</b>

\*Includes U.S. programs, only. Enrollment at King Abdulaziz University in Saudi Arabia is 799 students.

You will find current Enrollment and other data on the [Program Surveys](#) page of the CODA website. Updates will be made to this page as available.

## Programs, Volunteers, and Staff

- **1,430** CODA-accredited education programs in approximately 779 institutions
- More than **700** Volunteer Commissioners, Review Committee Members, and Site Visitors
- **Ten** Professional Staff (Senior Director and Managers)
- **One** Coordinator of Operations
- **Two** Site Visit Coordinators
- **One** Coordinator of Allied Program Reviews
- **Five** Support Staff

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# Accreditation Actions at the 2024 Winter and Summer Meetings

In 2024, the Commission reviewed accreditation reports and took **846 accreditation actions** on dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs and recorded **10 mail ballots** on dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs. A total of **18 new programs** were granted accreditation:

Educational Program	Number
Predoctoral Dental Education	3
International Predoctoral Dental Education	1
Dental Hygiene	7
Dental Assisting	2
Dental Anesthesiology	1
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (Clinical Fellowship– Pediatric Craniomaxillofacial Surgery)	1
Advanced Education in General Dentistry – 12 month	1
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (Residency)	1
Orofacial Pain	1

The Commission affirmed the reported voluntary discontinuance effective date or planned closure date of the following education programs, at the request of their respective sponsoring institutions:

Educational Program	Number
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	4
General Practice Residency	4
Dental Assisting	5
Dental Hygiene	3
Prosthodontics	1
Dental Laboratory Technology	2

The Commission currently accredits **1,430** education programs in twenty-one dental and allied dental disciplines.

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# Standards Revisions at the 2024 Winter and Summer Meetings

The Commission adopted revisions to the following:

## February 2024

- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health, with an implementation date of July 1, 2025.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Pediatric Dentistry (revised anesthesia standards), with an implementation date of January 1, 2025.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain, with an implementation date of July 1, 2024.

## August 2024

- Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs, related to Standard 4-8g (lead apron and cervical collar), with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in General Dentistry, General Practice Residency, Dental Public Health, Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (residency and fellowship), Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (residency and fellowship), Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, Dental Anesthesiology, Oral Medicine, and Orofacial Pain related to the Definition of Terms for Health Care Organization and to chartering and licensure to operate, with an implementation date of January 1, 2025.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics, related to Standard 2-1 (program director full-time status), with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology following a validity and reliability study, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral Medicine, following a validity and reliability study, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (residency), related to multiple standards, with an implementation date of July 1, 2025.

Unofficial Major Actions and Meeting Minutes are provided on the Commission's website at:

[POST MEETING ACTIONS](#)

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# 2024 Highlights

## CODA Accredits Second International Predoctoral Dental Education Program

The Commission on Dental Accreditation granted accreditation to the Yeditepe University (Istanbul, Turkey) dental education program on February 1, 2024. This is the second international predoctoral dental education program accredited by CODA, after King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on August 1, 2019.

Prior to applying for CODA accreditation through its [application process](#), a preliminary review and consultation process is involved for international programs seeking accreditation. CODA's Standing Committee on International Accreditation determines whether the program's educational model has the potential to prepare graduates with competencies consistent with requirements for practice in the U.S. Both the Standing Committee and CODA have adopted the policy that international programs will be evaluated and must comply with the same standards as all U.S. programs. [Learn more about international accreditation.](#)

Students who were enrolled in the program at the time accreditation was granted, and who successfully complete the program, will be considered graduates of a CODA-accredited program. Students who graduated from the program prior to the granting of accreditation will not be considered graduates of a CODA-accredited program.

## Professional Development and Mega Issues Committee explores AI and EPAs

In Winter 2024, the Commission reviewed the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development and Mega Issues and directed that the Ad Hoc Committee coordinate a Summer 2024 Mega Issue discussion on "Artificial Intelligence and Dental Education". After the Summer 2024 meeting, the Commission directed appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate/recommend integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into appropriate Accreditation Standards for dental education across the domains of curriculum development and administration, faculty development, institutional resources, clinical education and patient care, research, and continuous evaluation and feedback, with a future report to the Commission.

During the Summer 2024 meeting, the Commission reviewed the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development and Mega Issues and directed the Ad Hoc Committee to coordinate a Winter 2025 Mega Issue discussion on "Student Assessment and Evaluation in Dental Education," and invite speakers to provide information on the use of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) in predoctoral dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education.

## CODA seeks Department of Education Guidance on behalf of Programs

This past year, CODA staff sought guidance from the United States Department of Education Federal Student Aid (DOE-FSA) to provide clarity on potential concerns with upcoming changes in DOE-FSA regulations related to certification procedures for institutions participating in the Title IV, HEA programs.

In Fall 2023 and early 2024, CODA was contacted by a CODA-accredited allied dental education program regarding potential concerns. At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Commission instructed CODA staff to gather information on these changes and assess their potential impact on CODA-accredited allied dental education programs. In March 2024, CODA's Senior Director consulted with DOE-FSA staff to gather relevant information, which would assist in communicating the changes to Title IV funding. CODA staff then distributed the information in April 2024. This communication partnership ensures that CODA accredited programs receive accurate, timely, and clear information.

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# 2025 Looking Forward

## Financial Future

To ensure CODA's ongoing fiscally responsible operations, the Commission approved the following changes in fees for the 2025 year:

- Adopt a 2% increase in annual fees for all disciplines in 2025 to: \$8,550 for predoctoral dental education programs, \$2,150 for dental assisting, dental hygiene, dental therapy, and advanced dental education programs, and \$1,520 for dental laboratory technology programs.
- Adopt a 2% increase in the international predoctoral dental education annual accreditation fee to \$20,070 in 2025.
- Waive the CODA Administrative Fund fee of \$25 per program in 2025.

Find more details on the CODA website's [Fees page](#).

## Upcoming 2025 Validity and Reliability Studies

The Commission believes that a minimum time span should elapse between the adoption of new standards or implementation of standards that have undergone a comprehensive revision and the assessment of the validity and reliability of these standards. This minimum period of time is directly related to the academic length of the accredited programs in each discipline. The Commission believes this minimum period is essential in order to allow time for programs to implement the new standards and to gain experience in each year of the curriculum.

**In 2025, Dental Therapy and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinical Fellowship standards are due for their validity and reliability study. More information will be provided following the CODA's Winter 2025 meeting.**

## CODA Office Moving in 2025

In June 2024, the American Dental Association (ADA) announced the sale of its building at 211 E. Chicago Ave. As part of this transition, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) will also relocate alongside the ADA.

Beginning in the first quarter of 2025, CODA's new address will be located at 401 N. Michigan Ave. Additional details will be shared in the coming months.



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# Annual Call for Nominations

## Commission Appointments and Elections:

The Commission approved nominees to fill vacancies for discipline specific positions, public member positions and non-disciplines specific positions on its Review Committees and the Appeal Board beginning fall 2024. The Commission elected **Dr. Frank Licari as chair of the Commission** and **Dr. Cataldo Leone as vice-chair of the Commission**, during the 2024 - 2025 term.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation accepts nominations each year for volunteer Review Committee member and Site Visitor positions. The mission of CODA is to serve the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. Accreditation is a peer-reviewed process, and CODA volunteers are an integral part of that process. The Commission provides comprehensive training to all its volunteers, so each will be ready to serve when their term begins. In addition, CODA staff is available for support throughout the process.

The Commission takes into account a balance in geographic distribution as well as representation of the various types of educational settings and diversity, including underrepresented groups. Board certification and experience requirements may apply.

### The typical work of a **Review Committee member** includes the following:

- Become familiar with the CODA accreditation process, and participate in training.
- Review policy matters, site visit reports, progress reports and other reports on accredited or developing educational programs, which are submitted to the Commission for final action.
- Communicate by electronic mail and the Commission's web-based communication tools.
- Time commitment can vary depending on committee assignment; however, CODA asks that you are willing to commit ten (10) to twenty (20) days per year to Review Committee activities.

### The typical work of a **Site Visitor** includes the following:

- Attend training, conduct comprehensive review of print and electronically delivered materials, and learn and understand the requirements and guidelines for the accreditation of dental, advanced dental or allied dental educational programs.
- Objectively review materials, which programs submit as evidence of the program's compliance with accreditation requirements.
- Visit educational programs to evaluate process, interview faculty and students/residents/fellows, view facilities, and more in order to assess the program's compliance with CODA standards.
- Develop reports on findings through review of the program's materials and on-site.
- Time commitment can vary; however, site visits are typically 1-4 days in length and require approximately 10+ hours of preparation. You may be asked to serve on at least 1 or more visits per year.

Nominating yourself or a peer is very straightforward. For a list of upcoming vacancies, the nomination criteria and nomination forms, as well as deadlines for nominations in each category, visit [Call for Nominations](#), and then follow the instructions on that page.

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# Online Resources

The Commission's website, at [Commission on Dental Accreditation \(CODA\)](#), offers a wide variety of Commission reports, data, and valuable information:

- The [Hearing on Standards/Comments Due](#) page provides access to proposed revisions to Accreditation Standards and the electronic comment submission portal.
- Current, proposed, and recently revised Accreditation Standards are available under the [Standards](#) tab
- Search for CODA-accredited programs on the [Find a Program](#) page
- Visit the [Call for Nominations](#) page to learn about and submit Review Committee Member and Site Visitor nominations
- To see schedules of Site Visits, go to the [Site Visit Process](#) and [Site Visit Schedules](#) page
- Acquire a current copy of the [Policy & Procedure Manual](#) under the Policies/Guidelines tab

## Deadlines for Submission of Reports:

**May 1 (Summer CODA meeting review)**

**November 1 (Winter CODA meeting review)**

- Program changes that require CODA review and approval prior to implementation must be reported by May 1 or November 1.
- Program changes that do not require CODA review must be reported at least 30 days prior to the anticipated implementation of the change.
- Unexpected program changes must be reported no more than 30 days following the occurrence.

## Additional Online Resources for Educational Programs:

- [Program Change and Other Report Guidelines](#)
  - Reporting Program Changes
  - Reporting Distance Education
  - Reporting a Teach-Out
  - Reporting a Transfer of Sponsorship
- [Reporting Use of Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs](#)
- [Enrollment Increases](#)
- [Electronic Submission and CODA Portal](#)

For further information on topics in this Annual Report, please contact the [Commission office](#).