

**Commission on Dental Accreditation  
Unofficial Report of Major Actions  
SPECIAL CLOSED MEETING  
April 2, 2020**

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) conducted a special, closed meeting on April 2, 2020 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on dental and dental-related education programs. The Commission considered the temporary flexibility that may exist related to interruption of education based on guidance CODA obtained from the United States Department of Education. The Commission also considered the impact of COVID-19 on CODA’s operations related to accreditation site visits. The items noted below highlight the major actions taken by the Commission.

Interruption of Education: The Commission on Dental Accreditation understands that dental education programs have implemented innovative approaches to maintain the quality of dental education for students, residents, and fellows, including but not limited to the use of distance education, enhanced simulation activities, and other valid and reliable educational modalities.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation also recognizes that all CODA-accredited dental and dental related education programs have an obligation and responsibility to ensure the competence of the program’s graduates, including the Class of 2020, in accordance with the requirements of CODA’s Accreditation Standards, policies, and procedures.

- The Commission directed that all CODA-accredited programs must submit a report on the use of distance education to confirm either no changes, no use, or to provide information on *temporary* use of distance education and compliance with student/resident/fellow identity verification, in response to COVID-19.
- The Commission directed each discipline-specific Review Committee to consider the potential, **temporary flexibility** to discipline-specific Accreditation Standards for the Class of 2020 that may be applied related to: 1) Alternative Assessment Methods (for example, patient vs simulation), 2) Modification/Reduction of Curriculum Content or Curriculum Requirements (for example, modification/reduction of program-dictated requirements, CODA competency requirements, and/or CODA quantitative numbers-based requirements), and 3) Program Length or Program Component Length (for example, rotations, services, etc.), with a report to the Commission on specific Accreditation Standards that may be **temporarily flexible** to address circumstances surrounding Class of 2020 student/resident/fellow completion of educational programs due to COVID-19.

Accreditation Site Visits: The Commission took the actions below recognizing that the circumstances related to travel and the short- and long-term institutional impact as a result of COVID-19 are evolving. Additionally, CODA-accredited dental and dental related education programs have been significantly affected by COVID-19 and will require time to reinstate pre-COVID-19 curricular and clinical operations and prepare for CODA accreditation site visits.

- The Commission directed that all postponed and remaining site visits through 2020 be canceled and rescheduled in 2021. The Commission further directed that programs that submitted a site visit fee (doubling of annual fee) in 2020 and did not undergo a “regular/reaccreditation” site visit receive a refund on the fee, and be reassessed the fee in the year that the site visit will occur.
- Related to “regular/reaccreditation” site visits:
  - The Commission directed that the next “regular/reaccreditation” site visit of every CODA-accredited program, excluding the programs already site visited in spring 2020, be shifted forward by one (1) year. The Commission further directed that each “regular/reaccreditation” site visit in subsequent years also be shifted forward by one year.
  - The Commission further directed that the current status of CODA accreditation held by the educational programs be retained, pending the conduct of the program’s rescheduled “regular/reaccreditation” site visit, so long as the program continues to fully comply with the Commission’s Accreditation Standards, policies and procedures during the interim period.
- Related to “special focused” site visits:
  - The Commission directed that special focused site visits be postponed until the earliest opportunity to conduct the visit.
  - The Commission further directed that a CODA-accredited dental and dental related education program scheduled for a special focused site visit in 2020 that has been postponed, will retain the current status of CODA accreditation held by the program, pending the conduct of the program’s special focused site visit, so long as the program continues to fully comply with the Commission’s Accreditation Standards, policies and procedures during the interim period.
  - The Commission further directed that any program scheduled for a special focused site visit as a result of a potential or identified area(s) of non-compliance must submit a report to the Commission on the area of potential concern, for consideration at the Commission’s Summer 2020 meeting.
- Related to application site visits:
  - The Commission directed that previously scheduled site visits to programs applying for initial accreditation (pre-enrollment and fully operational programs) be postponed until the earliest opportunity to conduct the visit.
- The Commission directed that virtual site visits will not be used at this time.

Commission Members: Dr. John Agar, Dr. Joel Berg, Dr. Linda Casser, Dr. Eladio DeLeon, Dr. Scott DeVito, Dr. Steven Friedrichsen, Dr. Christopher Hasty, Dr. Kevin Haubrick, Dr. Monica Hebl, Dr. John Hellstein, Dr. Jeffery Hicks (vice chair), Dr. Adolphus Jackson, Dr. Arthur Chen-Shu Jee (chair), Dr. Bradford Johnson, Dr. Susan Kass, Dr. James Katancik, Dr. Barbara Krieg-Menning, Dr. Steven Levy, Dr. Sanjay Mallya, Mr. Charles McClemens, Dr. William Nelson, Dr. Marsha Pyle, Dr. Bruce Rotter, Dr. Timmothy Schwartz, Dr. Marybeth Shaffer, Ms. Ambika Srivastava, Dr. Alan Stein, Ms. Deanna Stentiford, Dr. Marshall Titus, and Dr. Lawrence Wolinsky.