

## **REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION**

Committee Chair: Ms. Lonni Thompson. Committee Members: Ms. LaShun James, Ms. Sandra Kotowske, Mr. Steven Pigliacelli, and Dr. Arpana Verma. Guests (Open Session Only, Virtual): Mr. Bennett Napier, chief staff executive, National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL), and Ms. Rebecca Stolberg, vice president, Allied Dental Education and Faculty Development, American Dental Education Association (ADEA), attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, manager, Allied Dental Education, Ms. Katie Navickas, manager, Allied Dental Education, and Mr. Daniel Sloyan, coordinator, Allied Program Reviews, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The meeting of the Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) was held on July 8, 2024 via a virtual meeting.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

**Informational Report on Frequency of Citings of Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs (p. 500)**: The Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) considered the annual report of the frequency of citings of Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs and noted the most frequently cited areas of non-compliance for site visits conducted between January 1, 2022 and October 31, 2023. During this time, three (3) dental laboratory technology site visits were conducted. To ensure confidentiality, Frequency of Citings Reports will not be made available where a limited number (three or less) of programs have been site visited. Once there are four (4) or more dental laboratory technology education programs site visited, the non-compliance citings will be analyzed and summarized accordingly.

**Recommendation**: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.

**Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs (p. 501)**: The Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs (**Policy Report p. 501**).

The DLT RC recalled that at its Winter 2024 meeting, the Review Committee concluded that there was a need for an Ad Hoc Committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs and to discuss relevant issues affecting the dental laboratory technology profession and industry, and how these issues impact CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology education programs. The DLT RC determined that the Ad Hoc Committee members should include the DLT RC members, a

representative from the National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL), a representative from the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology (NBC), a dental laboratory technology educator and a dental laboratory technology site visitor.

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation concurred with the DLT RC recommendations and directed the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee of available members of the Dental Laboratory Technology Education Review Committee, and nominated representatives from the NADL, the NBC, a dental laboratory technology educator, and a dental laboratory technology site visitor to conduct a comprehensive review of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs, and to further discuss relevant issues affecting the dental laboratory technology profession and industry, and how these issues impact CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology education programs with a report for further consideration by the Dental Laboratory Technology Education Review Committee and Commission in Summer 2024.

May 13, 2024 and June 25, 2024 Meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee: The Ad Hoc Committee met on May 13, 2024 and also met on June 25, 2024. The Ad Hoc Committee initiated its first meeting with a review of its charge and discussed several overarching issues related to dental laboratory technology education. The Ad Hoc Committee agreed with the American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) and NADL that digital technology and digital workflow is the current norm within the dental laboratory technology industry. Therefore, graduates of CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology education programs must have a foundation in digital workflow to be marketable in the profession. The Committee also noted the decline in CODA-accredited programs and believed that the value placed on formally educated dental laboratory technicians has diminished. Additionally, the cost of equipment and materials to support digital workflow in academic settings can be a financial burden to educational programs and was a concern among the Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee also discussed the difficulty in finding faculty to support the educational program.

The Ad Hoc Committee began its review of the Standards with a discussion related to the length of dental laboratory technology programs, as well as the required degree conferred in accordance with CODA Standards. The Ad Hoc Committee noted that a two-year program may be too long; however, the scope and depth of content needed for a dental laboratory technician necessitates a two-year curriculum. The Ad Hoc Committee wondered whether a one-year program may allow for entry into the profession with basic knowledge of the profession, while a two-year program option could expand on the basic knowledge regarding complexity in certain areas of focus. It was noted that the Ad Hoc Committee will continue to consider this topic at future meetings. The Ad Hoc Committee also discussed the need for dental laboratory technology programs to partner with in-field laboratories to provide important experiences to the students.

The Ad Hoc Committee began a systematic review of the Standards, reviewing and discussing each Standard as it related to digital workflow. The Ad Hoc Committee focused initially on Standard 2-Educational Program and has initiated its review of Standard 3-Administration,

Faculty and Staff, which will continue at the next Ad Hoc Committee meeting to be held in Fall 2024.

Summer 2024 DLT RC Meeting: At its Summer 2024 meeting, the DLT RC agreed with the Summer 2024 Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs. In particular, the DLT RC acknowledged the need to incorporate digital technology and digital workflow into the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs. It was also noted that some of the CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology programs may not have access to or funding for digital technology and digital workflow; however, the DLT RC believed that programs will be given advanced notice of Standard revisions regarding digital technology and digital workflow which may allow the program time to acquire the necessary resources to support the educational requirements.

The DLT RC noted that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is ongoing. Following consideration of all Standards related to the charge of the Ad Hoc Committee, a report and recommendations will be provided to the Dental Laboratory Technology Review Committee and Commission for further consideration.

**Recommendation**: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATING TO MORE THAN ONE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Matters related to more than one review committee are included in a separate report.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS**

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Lonni Thompson  
Chair, Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education