

REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON ENDODONTICS EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chair: Dr. Fabricio Teixeira. Committee Members: Dr. Carolyn Brown, Dr. Linda Casser, Dr. Melissa Drum, Dr. Timothy Kirkpatrick, and Dr. Josanne O’Dell. Guests (Open Session Only, Virtual): Dr. Sheila Brear, chief learning officer, American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and Ms. Trina Andresen Coe, deputy executive director, American Association of Endodontists (AAE). Commission Staff: Dr. Yesenia Ruiz, manager, Advanced Dental Education; Ms. Peggy Soeldner, senior manager, Administration and Committees, and Ms. Shelby Burgus, senior project assistant, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Dr. Sherin Toops, senior director, CODA, attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting of the Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) was held on January 6, 2025, via a virtual meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ENDODONTICS EDUCATION

Informational Report on Endodontics Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Data (p. 700):

At its Winter 2015 meeting, the Commission directed that all Review Committees consider the informational report on aggregate data from the Curriculum Section of the Annual Survey in years when this data is available. At this meeting, the Endodontics RC reviewed the informational report on aggregate data from the Curriculum Section for the endodontics programs conducted in August/September 2024, without comment.

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

Consideration of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics Related to Administrative Oversight at Major Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs (p. 701):

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) directed an Ad Hoc or Standing Committee to investigate in-person, on-site work expectations for program directors to determine if changes are needed in the discipline-specific Accreditation Standards for dental education, advanced dental education, and allied dental education programs. As directed, in advance of the Summer 2024 CODA meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee, which was comprised of all current CODA Commissioners, reviewed the background materials, which included the Commission’s action leading to the Ad Hoc Committee, and the Standards for each discipline related to program director (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 701**). The Committee noted that while all CODA Standards have a requirement for clinical supervision at all educational activity sites, most Standards do not address overall administrative oversight of the program, by the program director or a designee, at all sites where a student spends a majority or all their time. The Committee discussed whether virtual oversight or assignment of a responsible individual would be appropriate at all educational sites. The Committee believed there must be consistency in the educational program at all program sites. Following consideration, the Ad Hoc Committee concluded that each Review Committee that does not currently have a Standard related to administrative oversight at major educational activity sites (e.g., off-campus sites where students spend a majority or all their time) should

review this topic and determine whether a Standard is needed to address the Commission's expectation for administrative oversight, for consideration by the Commission in Winter 2025. In considering this matter, the Commission noted that inclusion of Intent Statements, in conjunction with proposed Standards, could further clarify the flexibility permitted for programs to oversee educational sites in a variety of ways, while ensuring administrative oversight and consistency in the educational program across all sites. At its Summer 2024 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation concurred with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee.

At its Winter 2025 meeting, the Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) considered the endodontics Accreditation Standards (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 701**) related to administrative oversight at major educational activity sites (e.g., off-campus sites where students spend a majority or all their time) to determine whether revisions are needed to address the Commission's expectation for administrative oversight. The Review Committee noted that the majority of education and training in endodontics programs occurs at the primary site, with some programs using external sites for rotations. The assumption is that administrative oversight of the educational sites is included as part of the program director's responsibilities. Therefore, the Review Committee developed an intent statement to clarify that administrative oversight be present at all major sites where educational activity occurs.

Following consideration, the Review Committee determined that the Standards require modification to address overall administrative oversight of the program, by the program director, at all sites where a student/resident spends a majority or all their time. The proposed revision to the Endodontics Accreditation Standards is found in **Appendix 1**. The ENDO RC concluded that circulation to the communities of interest is not warranted since the proposed revision relates to an intent statement that helps clarify Standard 2-2. Therefore, the Review Committee proposes that the intent statement be implemented immediately.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation adopt the proposed revision to the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics (**Appendix 1**) related to administrative oversight at major sites where educational activity occurs with immediate implementation.

Consideration of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics Related to Diversity and Humanistic Culture and Learning Environment (p. 702): On December 1, 2023, the Commission received a letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (TNCDHE) (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 702**), which provided short-term and long-term suggestions to CODA to improve diversity in all academic dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education programs. In Winter 2024, each Review Committee of the Commission provided comment to CODA on TNCDHE letter. Following consideration of Review Committee Reports, the Commission directed establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee composed of all Commissioners who chair the discipline-specific Review Committees in dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education, and additional CODA Commissioners, to study the Accreditation Standards for possible revision related to the letter from TNCDHE.

In advance of the Commission's Summer 2024 meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee, which was comprised of all current CODA Commissioners, reviewed the background materials, which included the prior work of the Commission on this topic, the letters from TNCDHE, CODA Standards related to diversity and the humanistic culture including proposed revisions, Annual Survey data on dental programs related to diversity, and information from other accrediting agencies. The Committee noted that this is an important topic, but other considerations must also be acknowledged including differences among institutions related to missions, resources, funding, state and federal regulations, and legal considerations. It was noted that some states do not permit initiatives focused on diversity, and the Commission cannot impose Standards that would conflict with state or federal law. As such, the Committee noted the proposed predoctoral dental education Standard revision, which discusses diversity efforts, would be consistent with university policy and state law. At its Summer 2024 meeting, following consideration of the Ad Hoc Committee Report, the Commission directed that all Review Committees consider the proposed revisions for the Dental Standards 1-2 and 1-3 and revisions for the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Standards 1-11 and 2-1.7 (adopted Summer 2024), for possible inclusion of similar Standards within the Review Committee's own discipline(s) to address diversity and the humanistic culture, with a report to the Commission in Winter 2025.

At its Winter 2025 meeting, the Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) considered the endodontics Accreditation Standards, and reference materials including the proposed Dental Standards 1-2 and 1-3 and adopted revisions for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Standards 1-11 and 2-1.7 (**Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 702**) for possible inclusion of similar Standards to address diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment. The Review Committee noted that the endodontics Standards do not include language related to the humanistic culture or diversity. Nonetheless, the Review Committee noted the importance of this report and supported diversity and a humanistic culture and learning environment. Due to the variability in efforts permitted to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in several states, the Review Committee determined that while changes to the endodontics Accreditation Standards may be warranted, any proposed revisions to the endodontics Standards should be delayed for further consideration in Summer 2025 pending new federal and/or state laws.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct there be no revision at this time to the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics related to diversity and humanistic culture and learning environment.

It is further recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Endodontics Education Review Committee to further consider the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics related to diversity and humanistic culture and learning environment, with a report to the Commission in Summer 2025.

**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 SITE VISITOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE
COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION IN THE AREA OF ENDODONTICS
EDUCATION**

The Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) considered site visitor appointments for 2025-2026. The Committee's recommendations on the appointments of individuals 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,

Dr. Fabricio Teixeira
Chair, Review Committee on Endodontics Education

Commission on Dental Accreditation

Proposed Revision to Intent Statement of Standard 2-2

Additions are Underlined

Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics

1 **STANDARD 2 - PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND TEACHING STAFF**
2

3 The program **must** be administered by one director who is board certified in the respective advanced
4 dental education discipline of the program. (All program directors appointed after January 1, 1997,
5 who have not previously served as program directors, **must** be board certified.)
6

7 *Intent: The director of an advanced dental education program is to be certified by a nationally*
8 *accepted certifying board in the advanced dental education discipline. Board certification is to be*
9 *active. The board certification requirement of Standard 2 is also applicable to an interim/acting*
10 *program director. A program with a director who is not board certified but who has previous*
11 *experience as an interim/acting program director in a Commission-accredited program prior to 1997*
12 *is not considered in compliance with Standard 2.*
13

14 Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:

- 15
- 16 • For board certified directors: Copy of board certification certificate; letter from board attesting to
17 current/active board certification
 - 18
 - 19 • (For non-board certified directors who served prior to January 1, 1997: Current CV identifying
20 previous directorship in a Commission on Dental Accreditation- or Commission on Dental
21 Accreditation of Canada-accredited advanced dental education program in the respective
22 discipline; letter from the previous employing institution verifying service)
23

24 **The program director must be appointed to the sponsoring institution and have sufficient**
25 **authority and time to achieve the educational goals of the program and assess the program's**
26 **effectiveness in meeting its goals.**
27

28 **Documentation of all program activities must be ensured by the program director and available**
29 **for review.**
30

31 **2-1 The sponsoring institution must appoint a program director whose time**
32 **commitment is no less than twenty-four hours per week to the advanced dental**
33 **education program in endodontics.**
34

35 *Intent: To ensure that the program director has sufficient time to participate in all aspects of*
36 *the program including direct student/resident contact in didactic and clinical activities.*
37

38 **2-2 Responsibilities of the program director must include:**
39

- 40 **a. Development of mission, goals, and objectives for the program;**
- 41 **b. Development and implementation of a curriculum plan;**
- 42 **c. Planning for and operation of the facilities used in the endodontic**
43 **program;**

- d. Student/resident selection unless the program is sponsored by a federal service utilizing a centralized student/resident selection process;
- e. Ensuring ongoing evaluation of student/resident performance and faculty teaching performance;
- f. Evaluation of teaching program and faculty supervision in affiliated institutions;
- g. Maintenance of records related to the educational program, including written instructional objectives and course outlines;
- h. Overall continuity and quality of patient care as it relates to program;
- i. Ongoing planning, evaluation and improvement of the quality of the program;
- j. Preparation of graduates for certification by the American Board of Endodontics; and
- k. Ensuring formal (written) evaluation of faculty members at least annually to assess their performance in the educational program.

Intent: To ensure that the program director has complete authority to administer all aspects of the advanced education program and that all administrative records are maintained within the institution. The program director should ensure administrative oversight is present at any major site where educational activity occurs.

- 2-3 The number of faculty and the professional education and development of faculty must be sufficient to meet the program’s objectives and outcomes.**
- 2-4 There must be attending faculty responsible for all clinical activities.**
 - 2-4.1 Attending faculty must have specific and regularly scheduled clinic assignments to provide direct supervision appropriate to a student’s/resident’s level of training in all patient care.**
- 2-5 Program directors and full time faculty must be provided time and resources to engage in scholarly pursuits, which may include:**
 - a. Participation in continuing education in endodontics;
 - b. Participation in regional or national endodontic societies;
 - c. Participation in research; and
 - d. Presentation and publication of scientific/clinical studies.
- 2-6 All faculty, including those at major and minor educational activity sites, must be calibrated to ensure consistency in training and evaluation of students/residents that supports the goals and objectives of the program.**