

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

Committee Chair: Ms. Jill Day. Committee Members: Dr. Wil Abshier, Ms. Julie Bera, Dr. Martin Bloom, Dr. Jennifer Boyce, Ms. Heather Ferris, Dr. Christy Ross, Ms. Staci Schory, Ms. Heather Seghi, and Ms. Diana Williams. Guests (Open Session Only, Virtual): Ms. Ronda Lane, president, American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), Ms. Laura Skarnulis, chief executive officer, Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) and the DALE Foundation, Ms. Rebecca Stolberg, vice president, Allied Dental Education and Faculty Development, American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and Mr. Aaron White, chief operating officer, DANB and the DALE Foundation, attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, manager, Allied Dental Education, Ms. Katie Navickas, manager, Allied Dental Education, Mr. Daniel Sloyan, coordinator, Allied Program Reviews, and Ms. Zaira Limon Perez, senior project assistant, Allied Dental Education, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The meeting of the Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education (DA RC) was held on January 9-10, 2025 at the ADA Headquarters, Chicago, Illinois.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO DENTAL ASSISTING EDUCATION

Informational Report on Dental Assisting Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Section (p. 300): The Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education (DA RC) noted that the Annual Survey Curriculum Section is reviewed during the Winter Review Committee meeting in the year the survey will be distributed, which will next occur in August 2025. At this meeting, the DA RC considered its discipline-specific Annual Survey Curriculum Section instrument (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 300**). Following consideration, the DA RC determined that the Annual Survey Curriculum Section should be retained with no changes for use in August 2025.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Dental Assisting Annual Survey Curriculum Section (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 300**) be retained with no changes for use in August 2025.

Consideration of Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs Related to Administrative Oversight at Major Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs (p. 301): 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. 301**). 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 Dental Assisting Education (DA RC) considered the dental assisting Accreditation Standards (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 301**) 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 DA RC noted that the Ad Hoc Committee on Dental Assisting Standards has been charged to conduct a comprehensive review of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs in conjunction with the Validity and Reliability Study and should review the Dental Assisting Accreditation Standards 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.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Ad Hoc Committee on Dental Assisting Standards to review the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs to determine whether revisions are needed related to administrative oversight at major sites where educational activity occurs, in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Committee's continued review of the Validity and Reliability Study, with a future report to the Dental Assisting Review Committee and Commission.

Consideration of Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs Related to Diversity and Humanistic Culture and Learning Environment (p. 302): On December 1, 2023, the Commission received a letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (TNCDHE) (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 302**), 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 Dental Assisting Education (DA RC) considered the dental assisting 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. 302**) for possible inclusion of similar Standards to address diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment. The DA RC noted that the Ad Hoc Committee on Dental Assisting Standards has been charged to conduct a comprehensive review of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs in conjunction with the Validity and Reliability Study and should review the Dental Assisting Accreditation Standards related to diversity and humanistic culture and learning environment to determine whether revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs are warranted.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Ad Hoc Committee on Dental Assisting Standards to review the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs to determine whether revisions are needed related to diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment, in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Committee's continued review of the Validity and Reliability Study, with a future report to the Dental Assisting Review Committee and Commission.

**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
DENTAL ASSISTING EDUCATION**

The Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education (DA 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,

Ms. Jill Day
Chair, Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education