

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

Committee Chair: Dr. Evanthia Anadioti. Committee Members: Dr. Linda Casser, Dr. Dean Morton, Dr. Philip Rinaudo, Dr. Ramtin Sadid-Zadeh, and Dr. Frank Tuminelli. Guests (Open Session Only, Virtual): Dr. Sheila Brear, chief learning officer, American Dental Education Association attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Ms. Taylor Weast, manager, Advanced Dental Education; Dr. Yesenia Ruiz, manager, Advanced Dental Education; and Ms. Michele Kendall, senior project assistant, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Dr. Sherin Tooks, senior director; Ms. Peggy Soeldner, senior manager, Administration and Committees; CODA, attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting of the Review Committee on Prosthodontics Education (PROS RC) was held on January 8, 2025 via a virtual meeting.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO PROSTHODONTICS EDUCATION**

**Informational Report on Prosthodontics Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Data (p. 1400)**: 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 Prosthodontics Review Committee (PROS RC) reviewed the informational report on aggregate data from the Curriculum Section for prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics programs conducted in August/September 2024, without comment.

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

**Consideration of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Prosthodontics Related to Administrative Oversight at Major Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs (p. 1401)**: 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. 1401**). 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 Prosthodontics Education (PROS RC) considered the prosthodontics Accreditation Standards (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 1401**) 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 Standard 1-2 requires that there must be an on-site clinical supervisor, and revisions to standards may not be warranted. The PROS RC discussed whether a clinical supervisor is responsible for administrative oversight and how these responsibilities may be outlined in agreements with major sites. The Committee also discussed calibration and the requirements of the program director to ensure faculty are calibrated across all sites, but it was not clear if this is the same as calibration of administrative responsibilities. The PROS RC agreed that although there have not been issues within prosthodontics regarding this expectation, it would be advisable to include language to clarify the expectation of administrative supervision at educational sites. The PROS RC agreed that the intent statement within Standard 1-2 could be modified to address administrative oversight. The PROS RC discussed that this would ensure that documentation activity, attendance, quality of work, and other administrative oversight is maintained at major activity sites.

Following consideration, the Review Committee determined that the Standards require modification to address overall administrative oversight of the program, by the program director or a designee, at all sites where a student/resident spends a majority or all their time. The proposed revision with the addition of an intent statement to Standard 1-2 within the prosthodontics Accreditation Standards is noted below. The Review Committee determined immediate implementation of this change is appropriate since this change to the intent statement of Standard 1-2 adds clarity to the Standard.

## Proposed Revision to the intent statement of Standard 1-2

Additions are Underlined.

### USE OF SITES WHERE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY OCCURS

1-2 For each site, including those at major and minor educational activity sites, there **must** be an on-site clinical supervisor who is an educationally qualified specialist in the curriculum areas for which he/she is responsible.

***Intent:** Students/Residents engaging in prosthodontic related experiences should be supervised by an educationally qualified prosthodontist. The on-site clinical supervisor provides administrative oversight and is responsible to the program director.*

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation adopt the proposed revision to the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Prosthodontics (noted above) related to an intent statement in Standard 1-2 and direct revision of all related documents, with immediate implementation.

### **Consideration of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Prosthodontics Related to Diversity and Humanistic Culture and Learning Environment**

**(p. 1402):** On December 1, 2023, the Commission received a letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (TNCDHE) (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 1402**), 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 Prosthodontics Education (PROS RC) considered the prosthodontics 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. 1402**) for possible inclusion of similar Standards to address diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment. The Review Committee noted that adding language to the Standards to address diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment could be worthwhile; however, there were concerns regarding state and federal guidance around language that addresses diversity or related topics. The PROS RC also discussed the current political environment, which may shape Standards language in the future. The Committee noted that prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics are very small disciplines and have a very limited pool of available students/residents and faculty. Additionally, the programs are sponsored by institutions that likely already have policies addressing non-discrimination and related topics.

Following consideration, the Review Committee determine that Standards already exist, which address diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment. The Committee identified that Standard 4-21 addresses ethical decision-making pertaining to academic, research, patient care, and practice environments, which is sufficient for the prosthodontics discipline. Therefore, no further revisions are warranted within the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Prosthodontics.

**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 Prosthodontics related to diversity and the humanistic culture and learning environment.

#### **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  
PROSTHODONTICS EDUCATION**

The Review Committee on Prosthodontics Education 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. Evanthia Anadioti  
Chair, Review Committee on Prosthodontics Education