

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

Committee Chair: Ms. Martha McCaslin. Committee Members: Ms. Julie Bera, Ms. Kimberly Bland, Ms. Dorothea Cavallucci, Ms. Heather Ferris, Ms. Christy Ross, Dr. Preeti Sahasi, Dr. Debra Schneider, Ms. Melissa Siegel (attended a portion of the meeting), and Ms. Diana Williams. Guests (Open Session Only): Ms. Laura Skarnulis, chief executive officer, Dental Assisting National Board (DANB), and Mr. Aaron White, chief operating officer, DANB, 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, senior project assistant, Allied Dental Education, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Dr. Sherin Tooks, director, CODA, attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting of the Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education (DA RC) was held on January 12-13, 2023 via a virtual meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO DENTAL ASSISTING EDUCATION

Report on Dental Assisting Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Section (p. 300): The Dental Assisting Review Committee (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 2023. At this meeting, the DA RC considered its discipline-specific Annual Survey Curriculum Section (**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 2023.

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 2023.

Consideration of Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs Related to Faculty (p. 301): On August 11, 2022, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a request from Ms. Marcy Owens, dental assisting program director, Tennessee College of Applied Technology at Knoxville, to consider a proposed revision to Standard 3-6 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 301**). Ms. Owens believes that Standard 3-6 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs should be revised or repealed to eliminate the baccalaureate degree requirement for faculty providing didactic instruction. If not repealed, Ms. Owens believes Standard 3-6 should be revised to require that dental assisting faculty have three (3) years of chairside experience in the dental assisting field, a current state professional license as either a Dental Assistant, Dentist, or Dental Hygienist, and that dental assistants and dental hygienists teaching in dental assisting programs hold the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) credential through the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB).

The Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education (DA RC) discussed the difficulty that some dental assisting programs may have in recruiting, hiring, and retaining didactic faculty due to the baccalaureate degree requirement of Standard 3-6. Currently, Standard 3-6 requires that faculty providing didactic instruction have earned at least a baccalaureate degree. The Review Committee noted that many institutions require faculty to have degrees for employment or may offer professional development plans to allow the faculty to obtain the degree while employed. Nonetheless, finding qualified didactic faculty with baccalaureate degrees may be difficult for some programs.

The DA RC believed that Standard 3-6 warranted revision to require that faculty providing didactic instruction obtain a baccalaureate degree within two (2) years of the date of initial hire as a didactic faculty. The DA RC believed that there should be a defined period to obtain the degree, rather than an open-ended deadline to ensure that faculty obtain degrees within a reasonable timeframe. For example, a faculty who is initially hired as a clinical instructor and subsequently becomes a didactic instructor must obtain the baccalaureate degree within two (2) years of the date of initial re-assignment as a didactic instructor. Likewise, a faculty who is initially hired as a didactic instructor must have earned the baccalaureate degree within two (2) years of hire; further, if this faculty leaves and returns to a teaching position in the institution at a later time, the faculty must earn the baccalaureate degree within two (2) years from their initial appointment date as a didactic faculty at that institution.

Following discussion, the DA RC believed that the proposed revision to Dental Assisting Standard 3-6 should be circulated for a period of six (6) months to the Commission's communities of interest, with consideration of comments received during the Summer 2023 Commission meetings.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the circulation of the proposed revision to Standard 3-6 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs (**Appendix 1**) to the communities of interest for review and comment for a period of six (6) months, with Hearings in conjunction with the March 2023 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session, with comments reviewed at the Commission's Summer 2023 meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Dental Assisting Education Standards Regarding the Program Administrator and Faculty:

The Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education (DA RC) discussed topics related to program director and faculty requirements within the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs. The Committee noted its proposed revision to Dental Assisting Standard 3-6 which, if implemented, will allow up to two (2) years for a didactic instructor to obtain a baccalaureate degree. The DA RC believed that this revision may address workforce shortages for didactic faculty. Additionally, further discussion of the Standards related to faculty and program director requirements may be warranted at a future meeting.

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

The Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education considered site visitor appointments for 2023-2024. 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. Martha McCaslin
Chair, Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education

Commission on Dental Accreditation

Proposed Revisions to Standard 3-6

Additions are Underlined

~~Strikethroughs~~ indicate Deletions

Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs

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STANDARD 3 – ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty

3-6 Faculty providing didactic instruction must have earned at least a baccalaureate degree within two years of the date of initial hire as a didactic faculty.

Intent:

**Military program faculty with a rank of staff sergeant, E5, or non-commissioned officer are exempt.*

Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:

- Transcript(s)