

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON FREQUENCY OF CITINGS OF  
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**Background:** The Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs were approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation at its February 12, 2021 meeting and were implemented on January 1, 2022. Since that date, three (3) dental laboratory technology site visits have been conducted by visiting committees of the Commission utilizing the January 2022 Standards. At the time of this report, the Standards include 62 “must” statements that address 161 required areas of compliance. This report presents the number of times areas of non-compliance were cited by visiting committees conducting site visits January 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023. If special (focused or comprehensive), pre-enrollment, or pre-graduation site visits were conducted during this period, citings from those visits are also included.

**Analysis:** The distribution of citings is presented in **Appendix 1**. 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.

**Summary:** The Commission will continue to receive reports annually summarizing the updated data on the frequency of citings of individual Standards.

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

**ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS  
(January 2022 Standards)**

**Frequency of Citings Based on Required Areas of Compliance**

Total Number of Programs Evaluated: 3  
January 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023

**To ensure confidentiality, Frequency of Citings Reports will not be made available in disciplines where a limited number (three or less) of programs have been site visited.**

STANDARD 1- INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS – 11 Required Areas of Compliance

STANDARD 2- EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS – 92 Required Areas of Compliance

STANDARD 3- FACULTY AND STAFF – 19 Required Areas of Compliance

STANDARD 4- EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES – 20 Required Areas of Compliance

STANDARD 5- HEALTH AND SAFETY PROVISIONS – 7 Required Areas of Compliance

**REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE  
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR DENTAL LABORATORY  
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**Background:** On July 27, 2023, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a letter from Dr. James Nickman, chair, American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL), requesting that the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) engage the communities of interest and consider pursuing a comprehensive review and possible revision of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs.

During its June 19, 2023 meeting, the CDEL and National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL) discussed the impact digital workflow has had on the materials and technology used by dental laboratory technicians. The CDEL and NADL noted that the pace of change in the market is so rapid that by the time revisions to Accreditation Standards are presented and adopted, the standard is likely already outdated. The CDEL believed that a significant number of current accreditation standards may be misaligned with market need as they are directly related to digital workflow. CDEL recognized that recent revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs were adopted in 2008 and 2021 but concluded that a comprehensive review of the entire Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs may be appropriate at this time.

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) reviewed and discussed the letter from CDEL. The Committee discussed the need for a comprehensive review of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs specifically due to the need to address digital workflow. There was also discussion about issues related to non-CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology education programs and concerns about several CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology programs teaching out and discontinuing, including a discussion regarding how this affects the dental laboratory technology community. Additionally, Review Committee members discussed that the industry of dental laboratory technology may not be supporting the CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology programs and the education of dental laboratory technology technicians. The Committee also discussed the need to educate dentists on the role of a trained dental laboratory technician and the need for support of dental laboratory technicians from dentists.

Following discussions, the DLT RC concluded that there is 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 Committee determined that the Ad Hoc Committee members should include the DLT RC members, a representative from 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:** An Ad Hoc Committee was formed with the following members: Ms. Lonni Thompson (Ad Hoc Chair, DLT RC Chair, and Commissioner), Ms. LaShun James (DLT RC Member and Commissioner), Mr. Gary Johnson (DLT Educator, CODA Appointee), Ms. Sandra Kotowske (DLT RC Member), Ms. Jennifer Ludwig (NADL Nominee), Ms. Colleen Painter (NBC Nominee), Mr. Steven Pigliacelli (DLT RC Member), Mr. Robert Riggs (DLT Site Visitor, CODA Appointee), and Dr. Arpana Verma (DLT RC Member).

The Ad Hoc Committee met on May 13, 2024, and all members were present except Dr. Verma. The Committee also met on June 25, 2024 and all members were present, with Mr. Pigliacelli and Mr. Riggs attending a portion of the meeting. Dr. Sherin Took, senior director, CODA, attended both meetings; Ms. Peggy Soeldner, manager, Advanced Dental Education, CODA, and Ms. Samara Schwartz, senior associate general counsel, CODA, attended the meeting on May 13, 2024; and Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, manager, Allied Dental Education, CODA, attended the meeting 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 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 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 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. The Committee will continue to consider this topic at future meetings. The 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 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 meeting. Following consideration of all Standards related to the charge of the Ad Hoc Committee, a report will be provided to the Dental Laboratory Technology Review Committee and Commission.

**Summary:** At this meeting, the Dental Laboratory Technology Review Committee and Commission are requested to review the update report provided by the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Accreditation Standard for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs.

**Recommendation:**