

## **REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON POSTDOCTORAL GENERAL DENTISTRY EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION**

Committee Chair: Dr. Miriam Robbins. Committee Members: Dr. Robert Hollowell, Dr. Jayson Huber, Dr. Edward O'Connor, Dr. Cornelius Pitts, Dr. Sally Jo Placa, Dr. Steven Rhodes, Dr. Eric Sung, and Dr. Michelle Ziegler. 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. Peggy Soeldner, manager, Advanced Dental Education and Ms. Bridget Blackwood, senior project assistant, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Dr. Sherin Took, senior director, CODA, and Ms. Samara Schwartz, senior associate general counsel, CODA, attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting of the Review Committee on Postdoctoral General Dentistry Education (PGD RC) was held on January 11, 2024 at the ADA Headquarters, Chicago, Illinois.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO POSTDOCTORAL GENERAL DENTISTRY EDUCATION**

**Report on Advanced Education in General Dentistry Programs and General Practice Residency Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Section (p. 200):** The Review Committee on Postdoctoral General Dentistry Education (PGD 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/September 2024. The PGD RC considered its discipline-specific Annual Survey Curriculum Sections (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 200**).

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the PGD RC reviewed each question on the Annual Survey Curriculum Section and determined that the questions on the Curriculum Section for advanced education in general dentistry and general practice residency programs were appropriate in relation to the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Advanced Education in General Dentistry and Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in General Practice Residency.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Advanced Education in General Dentistry and General Practice Residency Annual Survey Curriculum Section (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 200**) be retained with no changes for use in Fall 2024.

**Consideration of the Accreditation Standards Related to the Optional Second Year for Advanced Education in General Dentistry and General Practice Residency Programs (p. 201):** At its Summer 2023 meeting, the Review Committee on Postdoctoral General Dentistry Education (PGD RC) briefly discussed the optional second year that may be offered by advanced education in general dentistry and general practice residency programs, and noted the primary requirement is that the written goals and objectives or competencies for resident didactic and clinical training in the optional second year of training must be at a higher level than those of the first year of the program. Through discussion it was noted that some programs have designed

the curriculum in the optional second year to focus on gaining additional experience in advanced general dentistry procedures beyond that gained through the first year of the program. The PGD RC also noted that some programs have designed the curriculum of the optional second year to focus on gaining training and experience in specific areas of dentistry, such as endodontics or oral and maxillofacial surgery as well as additional experiences in treating a select population of patients, such as patients with special needs or geriatric patients. However, these programs have minimal expectations that residents also gain additional experiences in other advanced general dentistry treatment. No matter the specific focus, the PGD RC believed the optional second year should include experience in all areas of advanced general dentistry and may additionally include more focused training and experience in specific areas of dentistry or in treating select populations. Therefore, the PGD RC believed the Accreditation Standards related to the optional second year should be reviewed for possible revision to clarify the intent and expectations of the optional second year.

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Review Committee on Postdoctoral General Dentistry Education reviewed the Accreditation Standards related to the optional second year for Advanced Education in General Dentistry programs (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 201**) and General Practice Residency programs (**Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 201**) for possible revision.

The Committee began the discussion by reviewing the different accreditation options for general practice residency and advanced education in general dentistry programs, noting programs can be 12 months, 12 months with an optional second year, or mandatory 24 months in length.

Following lengthy discussion, the PGD RC concluded that the Accreditation Standards related to the optional second year should be revised to clarify that the optional second year must include experience in all areas of advanced general dentistry and may additionally include more focused training in specific areas of dentistry or in treating select populations. The PGD RC discussed the most effective way to provide the clarification, including revision to GPR and AEGD Standard 2-2 which lists the areas of dentistry that must be included in the program's curriculum or revision to the Standards that specifically address the optional second year in the AEGD Standards (Standard 2-13) and GPR Standards (Standard 2-17). Following discussion, the PGD RC concluded the revisions should be made to AEGD Standard 2-13 and GPR Standard 2-17, as noted in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**, respectively.

The PGD RC also discussed whether the proposed revisions should be circulated to the communities of interest and concluded circulation to the communities of interest for a period of six (6) months is warranted and sufficient because the revisions are more clarifying in nature rather than a substantial requirement change. Therefore, the PGD RC recommended the revisions found in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** be circulated to the communities of interest for review and comment for a period of six (6) months with a Hearing conducted in conjunction with the March 2024 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session, with comments reviewed at the Commission's Summer 2024 meetings.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct circulation of the proposed revisions found in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**, to the communities of interest for review and comment for a period of six (6) months with a Hearing conducted in conjunction with the March 2024 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session, with comments reviewed at the Commission's Summer 2024 meetings.

**Consideration of Proposed Revisions to Improve Diversity in Dental and Dental Related Education Programs (p. 202):** On December 1, 2023, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (TNCDHE). The request is found in **Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 202**. In its letter, TNCDHE provides short-term and long-term suggestions to CODA to improve diversity in all academic dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education programs.

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Review Committee on Postdoctoral General Dentistry Education (PGD RC) reviewed the letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity and noted the short-term and long-term suggestions provided. The PGD RC discussed that most sponsoring institutions have policies related to diversity and that educational programs are expected to follow them. Additionally, the PGD RC discussed the difficulty and challenges in implementing discipline-specific Standards related to diversity at the postgraduate level since generally these are smaller programs resulting in challenges in recruiting qualified candidates. The PGD RC noted that the Accreditation Standards for General Practice Residency and Advanced Education in General Dentistry currently have a goal related to cultural diversity and discussed whether strengthening this and other goals might be warranted to address the suggestions to improve diversity.

The PGD RC also discussed the short-term suggestion related to ensuring site visit teams are diverse and noted the current difficulty and challenges in recruiting qualified volunteers to serve as site visitors. The PGD RC agreed that while diversity in educational programs and site visit teams should be encouraged, it is important that individual state laws and regulations be considered before proposing modifications or additions to the Accreditation Standards related to diversity.

Following discussion, the PGD RC concluded that revisions to the Accreditation Standards may be warranted and believed further study and possible revisions to the Accreditation Standards should be coordinated with other advanced dental education disciplines. Since some of the Standards are common across advanced dental disciplines, coordinated review would ensure consistency in revisions, if warranted. Therefore, the PGD RC recommended establishing an Ad Hoc Committee of all advanced dental education Commissioners for this purpose.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee composed of all advanced dental education Commissioners to study the Accreditation Standards for possible revision related to the letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity.

**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  
POSTDOCTORAL GENERAL DENTISTRY EDUCATION**

The Review Committee on Postdoctoral General Dentistry Education considered site visitor appointments for 2024-2025. 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. Miriam Robbins  
Chair, Review Committee on Postdoctoral General Dentistry Education

# Commission on Dental Accreditation

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Proposed Revision to Standard 2-13

Additions are Underlined  
~~Strikethroughs~~ indicate Deletions

## Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Advanced Education in General Dentistry

## STANDARD 2 - EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- 2-11** Programs **must** be designed as either a one-year program, a one-year program with an optional second year or a mandatory two-year program.

**Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:**

Written second year goals and objectives or competencies for resident training  
Written curriculum plan  
Schedules

- 2-12** Residents enrolled in the optional second year of training **must** have completed an accredited first year of Advanced Education in General Dentistry or General Practice Residency training at this or another institution.

**Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:**

Resident records or certificate

- 2-13** The program **must** have written goals and objectives or competencies for resident didactic and clinical training in the optional second year of training that are at a higher level than those of the first year of the program. The optional second year **must** include experience in all areas of advanced general dentistry, in addition to more focused training and experience in other areas of dentistry or in treating select populations.

**Intent:** The optional second year will have continuing experiences in the areas of dentistry in Standard 2-2.

**Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:**

Written second year goals and objectives or competencies for resident didactic and clinical training  
Written curriculum plan

# Commission on Dental Accreditation

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Proposed Revision to Standard 2-17

Additions are Underlined  
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## Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in General Practice Residency

## STANDARD 2 - EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- 2-15** Programs **must** be designed as either a one-year program, a one-year program with an optional second year or a mandatory two-year program.

**Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:**

Written second year goals and objectives or competencies for resident training  
Written curriculum plan  
Schedules

- 2-16** Residents enrolled in the optional second year of training **must** have completed an accredited first year of a General Practice Residency or Advanced Education in General Dentistry training at this or another institution.

**Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:**

Resident records or certificate

- 2-17** The program **must** have written goals and objectives or competencies for resident didactic and clinical training in the optional second year of training that are at a higher level than those of the first year of the program. The optional second year **must** include experience in all areas of advanced general dentistry, in addition to more focused training and experience in other areas of dentistry or in treating select populations.

**Intent:** The optional second year will have continuing experiences in the areas of dentistry in Standard 2-2.

**Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:**

Written second year goals and objectives or competencies for resident didactic and clinical training  
Written curriculum plan