

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

Committee Chair: Ms. Lonni Thompson. Committee Members: Mr. Gary Gann, Ms. LaShun James, Ms. Sandra Kotowske, and Dr. Arpana Verma. Guests (Open Session Only): Ms. Rebecca Stolberg, vice president, Allied Dental Education and Faculty Development, American Dental Education Association, attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Ms. Jamie Asher-Hernandez, manager, Allied Dental Education, and Ms. Peggy Soeldner, manager, Advanced Dental Education, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The meeting of the Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) was held on July 11, 2022 via a virtual meeting.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

**Informational Report on Frequency of Citings of Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs (p. 500)**: The Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) considered the annual report of the frequency of citings of Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs and noted the most frequently cited areas of non-compliance for site visits conducted between January 1, 2014 and October 31, 2021. During this time, 14 dental laboratory technology site visits were conducted. An analysis of the data indicated a total of 22 citings of non-compliance. Of these, 4 (18.2%) were related to Standard 1–Institutional Effectiveness; 9 (40.9%) were related to Standard 2–Educational Program; 6 (27.3%) were related to Standard 3–Administration, Faculty and Staff; 1 (4.5%) was related to Standard 4–Educational Support Services; and 2 (9.1%) were related to Standard 5–Health and Safety Provisions. Due to the limited number of site visits and citings of non-compliance, a trend in the data could not be identified. The Commission approved revised Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs at its February 12, 2021 meeting with an implementation date of January 1, 2022. Therefore, this report concludes the Frequency of Citings for the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs implemented January 2014.

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

**Consideration of Accreditation Standards Related to Institutional Accreditation (p. 501)**: The Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) considered the changes in the language used by the United States Department of Education (USDE) related to a parent institution’s accreditation changed from “regional” accreditation to “institutional” accreditation, as noted in regulation §602.3 (Definitions). It was noted that review of this topic occurred in Winter 2021, Summer 2021, and Winter 2022. Most recently, in Winter 2022, the Commission directed that the Review Committees on Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Dental

Laboratory Technology, and Predoctoral Dental Education review the Accreditation Standards within their purview and confirm the language and names of accrediting agencies included is accurate, complete and current, and to review and replace, where appropriate, regional/national accreditation with institutional accreditation, with a report to the Commission at its Summer 2022 meeting.

At this meeting, the DLT RC reviewed Standard 1-5 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs, related to the institutional accreditation requirement for dental laboratory technology education programs that are accredited by the Commission. Following discussion, the DLT RC believed that some institutional accreditors' names should be updated in CODA's Accreditation Standards. The editorial changes in institutional accreditor names are noted below (Underline indicates Addition; Strikethrough indicates Deletion).

**1-5 Programs must be sponsored by educational institutions that are responsible for postsecondary education and accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or an officially recognized state accrediting agency.**

**Intent:**

*Dental schools, four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, technical institutes, vocational schools, private schools, and recognized federal service training centers which offer appropriate fiscal, facility, faculty and curriculum resources are considered appropriate sponsors for the program.*

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

- Accreditation (or candidate status) from a recognized institutional (state, regional or national) accrediting agency.
- Examples of regional institutional accrediting agencies are: Middle States Commission on Higher Education~~Association of Colleges and Schools~~, New England Commission on Higher Education~~Association of Schools and Colleges~~, Higher Learning Commission~~North Central Association of Colleges and Schools~~, Northwest ~~Association of Schools and~~ Commission on Colleges and Universities, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, and WASC Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, ~~Western Association of Schools and Colleges~~.
- Examples of national institutional accrediting agencies are: Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools and Accrediting Commission for Career Schools and Colleges ~~of Technology~~.

The DLT RC also considered whether additional Accreditation Standards warrant revisions. Since Standard 1-5 is the only Standard that relates to institutional accreditation, the DLT RC believed no other revisions are warranted at this time. Due to the editorial nature of the proposed revisions to Standard 1-5, the DLT RC recommended that the Commission adopt and

immediately implement the proposed revisions in all applicable Dental Laboratory Technology Standards and related documents.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation adopt and direct immediate implementation of the proposed revisions, noted above, to Standard 1-5 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs and all related documents.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Dental Laboratory Technology Site Visitor Recruitment Report:** The Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) discussed the ongoing, urgent need for DLT site visitors and the process for receiving site visitor nominations, including the role of the National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL) in the process. In addition, the DLT RC discussed the Review Committee's role in reviewing site visitor nominations and making recommendations to the Commission. The DLT RC also reviewed the current criteria for selection of DLT site visitors and determined the criteria are appropriate and believed no changes to the criteria are warranted at this time.

The DLT RC also discussed ways to recruit additional DLT site visitors, noting that CODA staff has attended meetings of the DLT educators and discussed site visitor needs and the nomination process. In addition, the DLT RC discussed other site visitor recruitment efforts, including personalized correspondence to the chief executive officers, chief academic officers, and program directors of CODA-accredited DLT programs expressing the need for DLT site visitors.

As a result of lengthy discussion, the DLT RC recommended the Commission direct further outreach for DLT site visitors through CODA staff attendance, as appropriate, at meetings of the dental laboratory communities of interest and personalized correspondence to the chief executive officers, chief academic officers, and program directors of CODA-accredited DLT programs expressing the need for dental laboratory technology site visitors.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct further outreach for dental laboratory technology site visitors through CODA staff attendance, as appropriate, at meetings of the dental laboratory technology communities of interest. It is further recommended that the Commission direct personalized correspondence to the dental laboratory technology programs' chief executive officers, chief academic officers, and program directors of CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology programs to express the need for dental laboratory technology site visitors.

## 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 MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS**

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Lonni Thompson  
Chair, Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education