

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

Committee Chair: Dr. Bruce Rotter. Committee Members: Dr. William Akey, Dr. Charles Berry, Mr. Drew Christianson, Dr. Chester Evans, Dr. Susan Long, Dr. Ana Karina Mascarenhas, Dr. Thomas McConnell, and Dr. Linda Wells. Guests (Open Session Only): Dr. Jeffery Stewart, senior vice president, Interprofessional and Global Collaboration, and acting chief, Office of Learning and Interprofessional Collaboration, American Dental Education Association attended the policy portion of the meeting. Mr. Mike Stein, accreditation group, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education attended a portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Dr. Sherin Tooks, director, and Ms. Marjorie Hooper, operations coordinator, CODA, attended the meeting. Ms. Peggy Soeldner, manager, Advanced Dental Education, CODA and Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, senior associate general counsel, CODA, attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting of the Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) was held on January 10, 2022 via a virtual meeting.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO PREDOCTORAL DENTAL EDUCATION AND DENTAL THERAPY EDUCATION**

**Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Accreditation Standards for Dental and Dental Therapy Education Programs (p. 100):** Validity and Reliability Study of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs: At its Summer 2021 meetings, the PREDOC RC and Commission considered the results of the Validity and Reliability study that was conducted on the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs in Spring 2021. The PREDOC RC recommended that an Ad Hoc Committee of its members be appointed by the Commission to further study the data and identify Accreditation Standards, if any, which warrant revision, with a report to the PREDOC RC and Commission at its Winter 2022 meetings. The Commission concurred with the PREDOC RC and directed the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee to review the accreditation standards for dental education programs.

Use of the Term “Should” Within the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs and the Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs: In a separate action at its Summer 2021 meeting, the Commission also directed review of the usage of “Should” within the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs and Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs by the Ad Hoc Committee, with a report to the Commission in Winter 2022.

Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs and Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs Related to Institutional Accreditation: Previously, in Winter 2021, the Commission directed all Review Committees to review and revise their Accreditation Standards, as applicable, to align with USDE terminology related to “institutional accreditation” and to ensure the Accreditation Standards clearly document the appropriate type of accreditor for the discipline, with a report to the Commission’s Summer 2021 meeting. In a separate action at

its Summer 2021 meeting, the PREDOC RC noted that the Dental Education Standards refer to “regional” accreditation agencies, while the Dental Therapy Education Standards refer to “institutional accrediting agency...regional or appropriate national accrediting agency.” The Review Committee noted that the term “institutional accreditor” alone could create confusion regarding the level of degree-granting authority that the institution has and its institutional accreditor’s USDE recognition authority. Recognizing that “regional” classification for accrediting agencies is no longer in use, the PREDOC RC believed that the Commission’s Standing Committee on Documentation and Policy Review should consider this matter and may wish to develop a general standard for disciplines that reference regional or national accrediting agencies. At the Summer 2021 meetings, the PREDOC RC recommended, and the Commission concurred, that the Standing Committee on Documentation and Policy Review be directed to consider the concept of “institutional accreditor” and develop standardized language for use in the Accreditation Standards of disciplines that currently cite national or regional accreditation.

Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs and Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs Related to Educational Activity Sites: Further, at its Summer 2021 meeting, the PREDOC RC considered the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs and the Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs for potential revision to address expectations related to the use of U.S.-based educational activity sites, as directed by the Commission. Following discussion, the PREDOC RC believed that further review and consideration of potential revision to the Accreditation Standards for dental and dental therapy education should occur in conjunction with the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to further study the results of the Validity and Reliability Study of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs, with a report to the Commission in Winter 2022. Following discussion by the Commission at its Summer 2021 meeting, the Commission directed that the Ad Hoc Committee further review the Accreditation Standards for dental and dental therapy education programs related to educational activity sites.

Proposed Revision to Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs Related to Patients With Special Needs: At the Summer 2021 meeting, the PREDOC RC considered a request from the American Dental Association’s Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) to consider revising the Accreditation Standards to require that graduates be competent in treating patients with special needs. The PREDOC RC noted the dental education Accreditation Standard that addresses patients with special needs is Standard 2-25. The Review Committee noted CDEL’s comment that the intent statement could be strengthened, although the PREDOC RC believed the intent statement as currently written appears clear and provides adequate guidance to programs and site visitors. Nonetheless, the PREDOC RC considered whether the portion of the intent statement that reads “as defined by the program” should be expanded to include the nationally accepted scope of the definition for patients with special needs. Following consideration by CODA at its Summer 2021 meeting, the Commission directed review of Standard 2-25 related to patients with special needs within the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs.

At this meeting, the Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Accreditation Standards for Dental and Dental Therapy Programs (**Policy Report p. 100**). The Review Committee noted that the Ad Hoc Committee, which is composed of Review Committee members, considered all of the topics noted above in regard to CODA's directives, and have identified Accreditation Standards that warrant further discussion and possible revision. The PREDOC RC noted that the Ad Hoc Committee's work would continue in spring 2022 in order to address each of the Commission's directives with a report to CODA in Summer 2022, including potential submission of proposed revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs and Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Accreditation Standards for Dental and Dental Therapy Education Programs continue its review of accreditation standards which may warrant revision, with a report to the Commission in Summer 2022.

**Consideration of Proposed Revision to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs Related to Patients With Special Needs (p. 101):** On December 7, 2021, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a request from Dr. Amid Ismail, dean, Temple University The Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry to consider a proposed revision to Standard 2-25 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 101**). The request recommended that Standard 2-25 of the Dental Education Standards be revised to change the term "special needs" to the term "disabled patients."

At this meeting, the Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) noted that the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Accreditation Standards for Dental and Dental Therapy Education Programs is currently reviewing Standard 2-25 in accordance with the Commission's Summer 2021 directive (see above). The Committee believed the proposed revision submitted by Dr. Ismail could be considered through the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Accreditation Standards for Dental and Dental Therapy Education Programs to consider the proposed revision to Dental Standard 2-25, with a report to the Commission in Summer 2022.

**Report of the Standing Committee on International Accreditation (p. 102):** The Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) reviewed the report of the Standing Committee on International Accreditation, without further comment.

**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  
PREDOCTORAL DENTAL EDUCATION AND DENTAL THERAPY EDUCATION**

The Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education considered site visitor appointments for 2022-2023. 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. Bruce Rotter  
Chair, Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education