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

Committee Chair: Dr. Susan Kass. Committee Members: Ms. Tami Grzesikowski, Ms. Carrie Hobbs, Dr. Lorie Holt, Dr. Tariq Javed, Ms. Betty Kabel, Dr. Barbara Krieg-Menning, Dr. Nancy Rosenthal, Ms. Laura Scully, Dr. Suzanne Thomas, and Dr. Sheila Vandenbush. Guests (Open Session Only): Dr. JoAnn Gurenlian, director, Education and Research, American Dental Hygienists’ Association, and Ms. Rebecca Stolberg, vice president, Allied Dental Education and Faculty Development, 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 Tookes, director, Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, manager, Allied Dental Education, and Mr. Daniel Sloyan, senior project assistant, Allied Dental Education, CODA. Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, senior associate general counsel, CODA, attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting of the Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education (DH RC) was held on January 11-12, 2022 via a virtual meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION

Informational Report on Dental Hygiene Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Data (p. 400): At its Winter 2015 meeting, the Commission directed that each Review Committee review a draft of its discipline-specific Annual Survey Curriculum Data during the Winter meeting in the year the Survey will be distributed. The Commission further directed that each Review Committee review aggregate data of its discipline-specific Annual Survey Curriculum Section, as an informational report, when the materials are available following data collection and analysis. The Commission noted that all survey data is considered confidential at the programmatic level.

The Curriculum Section of the Commission’s Annual Survey is conducted for dental hygiene education in alternate years. The most recent Curriculum Section was conducted in September/October 2021. Aggregate data of the most recent Curriculum Section for review by the Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education is provided as an informational report in Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 400.

At this meeting, the Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education (DH RC) reviewed the Annual Survey Curriculum Section data. The Committee noted that program responses indicate variability in the curriculum content hours delivered among CODA-accredited dental hygiene education programs.

Recommendation: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.
Consideration of Proposed Revisions to Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs Related to Standards 2-14 and 3-7 (p. 401): On November 12, 2021, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a request from Ms. Margaret Lemaster, adjunct professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, to consider proposed revisions to Standards 2-14 and 3-7 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 401). The proposed revision to Dental Hygiene Standard 2-14 suggested the Commission modify the Standard to require that graduates “be competent in providing dental hygiene care for all stages and grades of periodontal disease.” The proposed revision to Dental Hygiene Standard 3-7 suggested that the Commission require all full-time faculty to possess a master’s degree or be in the process of obtaining a master’s degree. Currently, Standard 3-7 requires that “full time faculty of a dental hygiene program must possess a baccalaureate or higher degree.”

At this meeting, the Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education (DH RC) began its discussion by noting that revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs were recently approved by the Commission on February 12, 2021 for implementation July 1, 2022. The DH RC based its review of the Standards and recommendations for revisions below on the Standards that will be implemented July 1, 2022.

The DH RC began with a review of Standard 2-14. The Review Committee noted that periodontal disease classifications have changed and the new classifications (i.e., stages and grades) should be reflected in the dental hygiene Standards. The Committee discussed the difficulty that some dental hygiene programs may have in obtaining experiences for all students in the Stage IV periodontal disease classification. However, the Review Committee noted that the dental hygiene process of care includes recognizing when referral of dental hygiene care is indicated.

The Review Committee also considered the proposed revision to Dental Hygiene Standard 3-7 of the current Accreditation Standards (Standard 3-6 of the Accreditation Standards to be implemented July 1, 2022), related to the qualifications of full-time faculty. The DH RC noted that the elevation of the faculty degree requirement is aligned with the American Dental Education Association and American Dental Hygienists’ Association recommendations for the profession. The Review Committee believed that elevating the degree requirement held by full-time faculty from a baccalaureate or higher degree to a master’s or higher degree would ensure that faculty are better prepared to support the academic rigor of dental hygiene programs. Additionally, the proposed change requiring a master’s or higher degree for full-time faculty will allow for the development of future leaders within dental hygiene educational programs.

Although the Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs adopted by CODA on February 12, 2021 for implementation July 1, 2022 are not yet implemented, the DH RC believed that the current proposed revisions to Standards 2-14 and 3-6 are warranted. The Review Committee’s proposed revisions to Standards 2-14 and 3-6 are noted within the recently adopted Dental Hygiene Standards, which will be implemented July 1, 2022 (Appendix 1).
Following discussion, the DH RC believed that the proposed revisions found in Appendix 1 should 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 2022 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session, with comments reviewed at the Commission’s Summer 2022 meetings.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct circulation of the proposed revisions to Standards 2-14 and 3-6 of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs found in Appendix 1 to the communities of interest for review and comment for a period of six (6) months, including a hearing conducted in conjunction with the March 2022 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session, with comments reviewed at the Commission’s Summer 2022 meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Request for Addition of a Dental Hygiene Educator on the Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education:** At this meeting, the Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education (DH RC) discussed the large workload of the Committee, noting a significant number of agenda items that require lengthy consideration and deliberation. The DH RC believed that the addition of a dental hygiene educator to the Review Committee could help to address the workload of the Committee. Additionally, the Committee noted that its meetings may benefit from the addition of a half-day, as needed, to ensure appropriate planning by the Committee members and ample time to address the workload.

The Dental Hygiene Review Committee noted that the Commission’s policy on Review Committees and Review Committee Meetings, subsection on Structure, states: *As a committee’s workload increases, additional members will be appointed while maintaining the balance between the number of content experts and non-content experts. Committees may formally request an additional member through New Business at Review Committee/Commission meetings. If an additional member is approved, this member must be a joint nomination from the professional organization and certifying board, as applicable.*

The addition of one (1) dental hygiene educator would result in an annual increase of $3,000 (budget $1,500 per trip) to the Commission’s volunteer travel budget for two (2) in-person meetings annually. Additionally, the extension of the DH RC meetings by one-half day, as needed, could result in an annual increase of $4,500 (budget $300 for hotel and $75 for stipend per person) to the Commission’s volunteer travel budget for 12 (11 current and one new) DH RC members for two (2) in-person meetings annually. Alternately, if the additional half-day is planned for the DH RC members’ travel day of arrival, with the meeting beginning that afternoon, there may be little to no (0) increase in expenses to the Commission.
Following discussion, the Dental Hygiene Review Committee recommended the addition of one (1) dental hygiene educator to be selected by the Commission through self-nomination of qualified applicants, with implementation on the Dental Hygiene Review Committee in Winter 2023. The DH RC also recommended that the Commission approve the extension of the Dental Hygiene Review Committee meetings by one-half day, as needed, based upon the Committee’s planned workload for each meeting.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the appointment of one (1) dental hygiene educator, through self-nomination of qualified nominees, to the Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education, effective Winter 2023.

It is further recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education meetings be extended by one-half day, as needed, based upon the committee’s workload needs, effective immediately.

**Consideration of the Commission on Dental Accreditation Biosketch for Allied Dental Education Programs:** The Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education (DH RC) discussed the Commission’s Allied Biosketch Template that is provided to dental hygiene education programs for use when reporting information on faculty, including changes in the program director. The DH RC noted that information is often incomplete and/or outdated, which results in questions pertaining to a program’s compliance with CODA’s Accreditation Standards related to faculty qualifications. The DH RC believed that an Ad Hoc Committee should review the Allied Biosketch to ensure clarity regarding the expectations for submission of current, complete, and accurate information by programs. It was also noted that the Teaching Schedule table within the Biosketch should be reviewed to ensure current and complete program director and full-time faculty duties are clearly documented by programs. The DH RC believed that the Ad Hoc Committee would benefit from inclusion of Dental Assisting Review Committee members, as the Biosketch template affects both disciplines.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee of dental hygiene and dental assisting Review Committee members to review the Allied Biosketch template, with a report to the Commission in Summer 2022.

**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 HYGIENE EDUCATION

The Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education considered site visitor appointments for 2021-2022. 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. Susan Kass
Chair, Review Committee on Dental Hygiene Education
Commission on Dental Accreditation

Proposed Revisions to Standards 2-14 and 3-6
Additions are Underlined
Strikethroughs indicate Deletions

(The proposed revisions below are presented within the Standards adopted by CODA February 12, 2021 for implementation July 1, 2022)

Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs
Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs

Commission on Dental Accreditation
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312/440-4653
www.ada.org/coda

Effective July 1, 2022
STANDARD 2 - EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Patient Care Competencies

2-14 Graduates must be competent in providing dental hygiene care for all stages and grades of periodontal disease, types of classifications of periodontal diseases including patients who exhibit moderate to severe periodontal disease.

Intent:
The total number and type of patients for whom each student provides dental hygiene care should be sufficient to ensure competency in all components of dental hygiene practice. A patient pool should be available to provide patient experiences in all stages and grades of periodontal disease, classifications of periodontal patients, including both maintenance and those newly diagnosed. These experiences should be monitored to ensure equal opportunity for each enrolled student.

Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:
- program criteria for stages and grades of periodontal disease classification of periodontal disease
- program clinical and radiographic experiences
- patient tracking data for enrolled and past students
- policies regarding selection of patients, and assignment of procedures, and referrals
- monitoring or tracking system protocols
- clinical evaluation mechanism demonstrating student competence
STANDARD 3 - ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty

3-6 Full-time faculty of a dental hygiene program must possess a master’s or higher degree, or be enrolled in a master’s degree program, and part-time faculty of a dental hygiene program must possess a baccalaureate or higher degree. All full-time and part-time dental hygiene clinical and dental science laboratory faculty appointed prior to January 1, 2023 July 1, 2022 are exempt from the degree requirement.

All dental hygiene program faculty members must have:

a) current knowledge of the specific subjects they are teaching.
b) documented background in current educational methodology concepts consistent with teaching assignments.
c) faculty who are dental hygienists or dentists must be graduates of programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. A dentist who was appointed as a faculty prior to July 1, 2022 is exempt from the graduation requirement.
d) evidence of faculty calibration for clinical evaluation.

Intent:
Faculty should have background in current education theory and practice, concepts relative to the specific subjects they are teaching, clinical practice experience and, if applicable, distance education techniques and delivery. These criteria apply to dentists and dental hygienists who supervise students’ clinical procedures should have qualifications which comply with the state dental or dental hygiene practice act. Individuals who teach and supervise dental hygiene students in clinical enrichment experiences should have qualifications comparable to faculty who teach in the dental hygiene clinic and are familiar with the program’s objectives, content, instructional methods and evaluation procedures.

Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:

- faculty curriculum vitae with recent professional development activities listed
- evidence of participation in workshops, in-service training, self-study courses, on-line and credited courses
- attendance at regional and national meetings that address education
- mentored experiences for new faculty
- scholarly productivity
- maintenance of existing and development of new and/or emerging clinical skills