C. DUE PROCESS RELATED TO REVIEW COMMITTEE SPECIAL APPEARANCES

If the Commission, at its prior meeting, granted the status of “approval with reporting requirements,” “approval with reporting requirements, intent to withdraw,” or denied a requested program change, and the program submits a subsequent program change report, the program may request a special appearance (hearing) at the next meeting of the Review Committee in order to supplement the written information which has already been provided to the appropriate Review Committee. A representative of the institution would be permitted to appear in person before the Review Committee to present this additional information. Generally, such appearances occur prior to the Review Committee’s consideration of the program’s accreditation classification. When such a special appearance is desired, a written request must be made to the Director of the Commission thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. The Chair and Director of the Commission will determine the disposition of the request and inform the requestor of the date, hour and amount of time that will be allocated for the appearance.

If the requestor wishes to submit additional written materials, copies for each Review Committee member these materials should be provided by the requestor to the Commission office at least one (1) week prior to the meeting, absent documented extraordinary circumstances.

The Commission and its Review Committees permit special appearances using the following guidelines:

• The Review Committee will discuss the report of the program/institution prior to the appearance of the representative(s).
• The Review Committee Chair will introduce members of the Review Committee to the program/institutional representative.
• The Chair will restate to the representative(s) the amount of time allocated for the hearing.
• The representative is invited to make an opening statement.
• Following the presentation by the representative, the Chair allows members of the Review Committee to ask questions. Although primary and secondary reviewers are assigned primary responsibility for questioning, all Review Committee members have the opportunity to participate in the discussion.
• The Chair thanks the representative for appearing before the Review Committee and the representative leaves.
• The Review Committee discusses the recommended action.
• The Review Committee Chair and Commission staff notifies the representative of the Review Committee’s recommendation. If the Review Committee’s recommendation is to deny or withdraw accreditation, the institution’s representation has the opportunity to have a hearing with the Commission on a subsequent day.
• In general, special appearances before the Commission also follow the process listed above.

Revised: 8/21; 2/18; 8/16; 7/06, 1/00, 5/93, 1991, 1983; Reaffirmed: 8/10; Adopted: 1977
B. INTERNATIONAL PREDOCTORAL DENTAL EDUCATION SITE VISITS

Three types of site visits may be conducted to international dental education programs.

FOCUSED CONSULTATION VISIT: Focused, fee-based programmatic consultation services are available for programs requesting less than comprehensive consultation services or for programs that the Standing Committee has determined would benefit from a focused consultation. Trained content experts will provide the consultation services.

In preparation for the consultation visit, the international dental school will prepare a written document describing its policies and procedures related to the focused topics. The written material will be submitted ninety (90) days prior to an on-site focused consultation visit. All documents and communications will be in English.

Two site visitors (Commission staff and/or volunteers) selected for their expertise in the focused topic areas will make up the visiting committee that provides the focused consultation services and carries out the visit. The trip may be seven days in length, allowing ample time for the committee to adjust to any time change and to access lower airfares. The program will receive a written report summarizing the review and recommendations within sixty (60) days.

COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTATION VISIT: A comprehensive, fee-based site visit with programmatic consultation by trained content experts regarding topics such as:

- Institutional effectiveness/outcomes assessment
- Curriculum content and scope
- Competency-based curriculum
- Faculty and staff qualifications and numbers
- Type and adequacy of facilities
- Patient care services and policies
- Student policies and services
- Research for both faculty and staff
- Readiness for accreditation
- Quality assurance
- Comprehensive patient care
- Relationship of dental school to the university and government
- Standards of care

In preparation for a comprehensive consultative site visit, the international dental schools will prepare a written document describing its policies and procedures related to the above topics. All documents and communications will be in English. Four site visitors (curriculum specialist, basic science specialist, clinician educator, and clinician practitioner representing the American Dental Association) and one Commission staff will make up the visiting committee that will conduct the PACV.
The visit will involve several interviews with the identified stakeholders of the international dental education program and the institution’s administration. Interviews will be conducted with the appropriate administrators, faculty, staff, and students. The visiting committee will also provide consultation regarding the facilities. A written report summarizing the evaluation will be provided to the program within sixty (60) days.

ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT: The Commission’s accreditation service for international dental education programs is the same as the process and procedures of the accreditation program for U.S.-based dental education programs. The application process for accreditation of fully-operational international programs will not be modified. For fully-operational programs, one site visit would occur upon application and, if successful, subsequent visits would occur on the usual seven-year cycle established for U.S. predoctoral dental education programs.

Programs that are successful in the PACV may submit an application for accreditation and an application fee for accreditation. The program will also be responsible for all site visit expenses (actual expenses) for all site visits during the application process and regular site visit schedule. International programs will pay an administrative fee of 25% of the total site visit cost to the program for coordination of each site visit. Accredited programs also pay an annual fee. All fees must be paid in advance in United States dollars and include any bank or other transaction fees. See CODA Policy on Fees and contact the Commission office for current fee schedule.

Commission site visitors will then be selected to evaluate the written application and determine whether the application is complete and the program is ready for an accreditation site visit. Once the Commission determines that the program has submitted sufficient information to determine the program’s potential for complying with the accreditation standards, a site visit will be scheduled.

A visiting committee consists of six (6) Commission trained volunteer site visitors and one Commission staff. The committee includes a chair, basic scientist, curriculum site visitor, clinical science site visitor, finance site visitor, and a national licensure site visitor.

The accreditation visit, following the process established for U.S.-based programs, will involve several interviews with the identified stakeholders of the international dental program and the institution’s administration. Interviews are conducted with the appropriate administrators, faculty, staff, and students. The accreditation site visit committee also verifies that the written application accurately represents the program through multiple interviews, observations, on-site documentation review and facility inspection.

Following the site visit, the visiting committee writes a preliminary draft site visit report that will be considered by the Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education and the Commission. The Commission then determines whether to grant the program the appropriate accreditation status.

Revised: 8/21; 8/16; 2/16; 8/14; 1/14; Reaffirmed: 8/10; Adopted: 7/06
J. SITE VISITORS

The Commission uses site visitors with education and practice expertise in the discipline or areas being evaluated to conduct its accreditation program. Nominations for site visitors are requested from national dental and dental-related organizations representing the areas affected by the accreditation process. Self-nominations are accepted. Site visitors are appointed by the Commission annually and may be re-appointed.

During the term of service as a Review Committee member, these individuals should not serve as site visitors for an actual accreditation site visit to an accredited or developing program, unless deemed necessary. Two instances when a review committee member could serve on a site visit include: 1) an inability to find a site visitor from the comprehensive site visitor list, or 2) when the review committee believes a member should attend a visit for consistency in the review process. This applies only to site visits that would be considered by the same review committee on which the site visitor is serving. Review committee members are prohibited from serving as independent consultants for mock accreditation purposes. These policies help avoid conflict of interest in the decision making process and minimize the need for recusals.

During the term of service as a commissioner, these individuals may not independently consult with a CODA-accredited program or a program applying for CODA accreditation. In addition, site visitors serving on the Commission may not serve on a site visit team during their terms.

All other active site visitors who independently consult with educational programs accredited by CODA or applying for accreditation must identify all consulting roles to the Commission and must file with the Commission a letter of conflict acknowledgement signed by themselves and the institution/program with whom they consulted. All conflict of interest policies as noted elsewhere in this document apply. Contact the CODA office for the appropriate conflict of interest declaration form.

Prior to a site visit, a list of site visitors and other participants is reviewed by the institution/program for conflict of interest or any other potential problem. The program/institution being site visited will be permitted to remove individuals from the list if a conflict of interest, as described in the Commission’s Conflict of Interest Policy, can be demonstrated. Information concerning the conflict of interest must be provided in writing clearly stating the specifics of the conflict.

Site visitors are appointed by the Chair and approved by the institution’s administration, i.e. dental school dean or program director. The visiting committee conducts the site visit and prepares the report of the site visit findings for Commission action. The size and composition of a visiting committee varies with the number and kinds of educational programs offered by the institution. All visiting committees will include at least one person who is not a member of a Review Committee of the Commission or a Commission staff member. Two dental hygiene site
visitors shall be assigned to dental school-sponsored dental hygiene site visits.

When appropriate, a generalist representative from a regional accrediting agency may be invited by the chief executive officer of an institution to participate in the site visit with the Commission’s visiting committee. A generalist advises, consults and participates fully in committee activities during a site visit. The generalist’s expenses are reimbursed by the institution. The generalist can help to ensure that the overall institutional perspective is considered while the specific programs are being reviewed.

The institution is encouraged to invite the state board of dentistry to send a current member to participate in the site visit. If invited, the current member of the state board receives the same background materials as other site visit committee members and participates in all site visit conferences and executive sessions. The state board of dentistry reimburses its member for expenses incurred during the site visit.

In addition to other participants, Commission staff member may participate on the visiting committee for training purposes. It is emphasized that site visitors are fact-finders, who report committee findings to the Commission. Only the Commission is authorized to take action affecting the accreditation status.

Revised: 8/19; 2/16; 8/14; 1/14; 1/03, 1/00, 7/97; Reaffirmed: 8/10, 7/09, 7/07, 7/06, 7/01; CODA: 07/96:10, 12/83:4

1. Appointments: All site visitor appointments are made annually for one year terms for a maximum of six consecutive years. Following the maximum appointment period of six consecutive years, the site visitor may reapply for appointment after one year. In exceptional circumstances the Review Committee may recommend that the Commission alter an individual’s term limits. Site visitors assist the Commission in a number of ways, including: developing accreditation standards, serving on special committees, and serving as site visitors on visits to predoctoral, advanced dental and allied dental education programs.

The Commission reviews nominations received from its communities of interest, including discipline-specific sponsoring organizations and certifying boards. Individuals may also self-nominate. In addition to the mandatory subject expertise, the Commission always requests nominations of potentially under-represented ethnic groups and women, and makes every effort to achieve a pool of site visitors with broad geographic diversity to help reduce site visit travel expenses.

Site visitors are appointed/reappointed annually and required to sign the Commission’s Conflict of Interest Statement, the Agreement of Confidentiality, the Copyright Assignment, Licensure Attestation, and the ADA’s Professional Conduct Policy and Prohibition Against Harassment. Site visitors must also complete annual training and will receive periodic updates on the Commission’s policies and procedures related to the Health Insurance Portability and
Accountability Act (HIPAA). The Commission office stores these forms for seven (7) years. In addition, site visitors must comply with training requirements, the ADA’s travel policy and other CODA Rules and Regulations. The Commission may remove a site visitor for failing to comply with the Commission’s policies and procedures, continued, gross or willful neglect of the duties of a site visitor, or other just cause as determined by the Commission.

Subsequent to appointment/reappointment by the Commission, site visitors receive an appointment letter explaining the process for appointment, training, and scheduling of Commission site visitors.

2. Criteria For Nomination Of Site Visitors: For predoctoral dental education programs, the Commission solicits nominations for site visitors from the American Dental Education Association to serve in five of six roles on dental education program site visits. The site visitor roles are Chair, Basic Science, Clinical Science, Curriculum, and Finance. Nominations for the sixth role, national licensure site visitor, are solicited from the American Association of Dental Boards. For advanced dental education programs, the Commission solicits nominations for site visitors from the discipline-specific sponsoring organizations and their certifying boards.

For allied dental education programs, the American Dental Education Association is an additional source of nominations that augments, not supersedes, the nominations from the Commission’s other participating organizations, American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) and National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL)

The Commission requests all agencies nominating site visitors to consider regional distribution, gender and minority representation and previous experience as a site visitor. Although site visitors are nominated by a variety of sources, the Commission carefully reviews the nominations and appoints site visitors on the basis of need in particular areas of expertise. The pool of site visitors is utilized for on-site evaluations, for special consultations and for special or Review Committees.

All site visitors are appointed for a one-year term and may be re-appointed annually for a total of six consecutive years. Appointments are made at the Winter (January/February) Commission meeting and become effective with the close of the ADA annual session in the Fall.

A. Predoctoral Dental Education: The accreditation of predoctoral dental education programs is conducted through the mechanism of a visiting committee. Membership on such visiting
committees is general dentistry oriented rather than discipline or subject matter area oriented. The composition of such committees shall be comprised, insofar as possible, of site visitors having broad expertise in dental curriculum, basic sciences, clinical sciences, finance, national licensure (practitioner) and one Commission staff member. The evaluation visit is oriented to an assessment of the educational program’s success in training competent general practitioners.

Although a basic science or clinical science site visitor may have training in a specific basic science or discipline-specific advanced dental education area, it is expected that when serving as a member of the core committee evaluating the predoctoral program, the site visitor serves as a general dentist. Further, it is expected that all findings, conclusions or recommendations that are to be included in the report must have the concurrence of the visiting committee team members to ensure that the report reflects the judgment of the entire visiting committee.

In appointing site visitors, the Commission takes into account a balance in geographic distribution as well as representation of the various types of educational settings and diversity. Because the Commission views the accreditation process as one of peer review, predoctoral dental education site visitors, with the exception of the national licensure site visitor, are affiliated with dental education programs.

The following are criteria for the six roles of predoctoral dental education site visitors:

Chair:
• Must be a current dean of a dental school or have served as dean within the previous three (3) years.
• Should have accreditation experience through an affiliation with a dental education program accredited by the Commission and as a previous site visitor.

Basic Science:
• Must be an individual who currently teaches one or more biomedical science courses to dental education students or has done so within the previous three (3) years.
• Should have accreditation experience through an affiliation with a dental education program accredited by the Commission or as a previous site visitor.

Clinical Science:
• Must be a current clinical dean or an individual with extensive knowledge of and experience with the quality assurance process and overall clinic operations.
• Has served in the above capacity within the previous three (3) years.
• Should have accreditation experience through an affiliation with a dental education program accredited by the Commission or as a previous site visitor.

Curriculum:
• Must be a current academic affairs dean or an individual with extensive knowledge and
experience in curriculum management.

- Has served in the above capacity within the previous three (3) years.
- Should have accreditation experience through an affiliation with a dental education program accredited by the Commission or as a previous site visitor.

Finance:

- Must be a current financial officer of a dental school or an individual with extensive knowledge of and experience with the business, finance and administration of a dental school.
- Has served in the above capacity within the previous three (3) years.
- Should have accreditation experience through an affiliation with a dental education program accredited by the Commission or as a previous site visitor.

National Licensure:

- Should be a current clinical board examiner or have served in that capacity within the previous three (3) years.
- Should have an interest in the accreditation process.

Revised: 8/18; 2/18; 2/16; 8/14; 1/99; Reaffirmed: 8/19; 8/10, 7/07, 7/01; CODA: 07/05, 05/77:

B. Advanced Dental Education: In the disciplines of dental public health, dental anesthesiology, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral medicine, orofacial pain, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics and prosthodontics, sponsoring organizations are advised that candidates recommended to serve as site visitors be board certified and/or have completed or participated in a CODA-accredited advanced dental education program in the discipline and must have experience in advanced dental education as teachers or administrators. Each applicable Review Committee will determine if board certification is required. Some sponsoring organizations have established additional criteria for their nominations to the Commission.

C. Allied Dental Education in Dental Hygiene: In appointing site visitors, the Commission takes into account a balance in geographic distribution, representation of the various types of educational settings, and diversity. Because the Commission views the accreditation process as one of peer review, the dental hygiene education site visitors are affiliated with dental hygiene education programs.

The following are criteria for selection of dental hygiene site visitors:

- a full-time or part-time appointment with a dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation;
- a baccalaureate or higher degree;
- background in educational methodology;
- accreditation experience through an affiliation with a dental hygiene education program that has completed a site visit; and
• accreditation experience within the previous three (3) years.

Revised: 8/21; 8/18; 8/16; 8/14; Reaffirmed: 8/19; 8/10; Adopted: 7/09

D. Allied Dental Education in Dental Assisting: The following are criteria for selection of dental assisting site visitors:

• certification by the Dental Assisting National Board as a dental assistant;
• full-time or part-time appointment with a dental assisting program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation;
• equivalent of three (3) years full-time dental assisting teaching experience;
• baccalaureate or higher degree;
• demonstrated knowledge of accreditation; and
• current background in educational methodology.

Revised: 8/18; 8/16; 8/14; 2/13, 1/08, 1/98, 2/02; Reaffirmed: 8/19; 8/10, 7/08; CODA: 07/95:5

E. Allied Dental Education in Dental Laboratory Technology: The following are criteria for selection of dental laboratory technology site visitors:

• background in all five (5) dental laboratory technology specialty areas: complete dentures, removable dentures, crown and bridge, dental ceramics, and orthodontics;
• background in educational methodology
• knowledge of the accreditation process and the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs;
• Certified Dental Technician (CDT) credential through the National Board of Certification (NBC); and
• full or part-time appointment with a dental laboratory technology education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or previous experience as a Commission on Dental Accreditation site visitor.

Revised: 8/18; 8/14; Reaffirmed: 8/19; 8/10; Adopted: 07/09

F. Allied Dental Education in Dental Therapy: The following are criteria for selection of dental therapy site visitors:

• a full-time or part-time appointment with a predoctoral dental or allied dental education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or an accredited (or recognized) dental therapy program;
• a baccalaureate or higher degree;
• background in educational methodology;
• accreditation experience through an affiliation with a dental therapy, allied, or predoctoral dental program that has completed a site visit;*
• accreditation experience within the previous three (3) years;*
• must either be a licensed dentist educator (general dentist) or licensed dental therapist educator; and
• the “licensed dentist educator” may be predoctoral dental educator site visitors (i.e., a general dentist educator who serves as curriculum or clinical predoctoral site visitor) or allied dental educator site visitors.
  *temporarily waived for dental therapist educator position until after CODA accredits a minimum of three (3) dental therapy education programs.

Dental therapy site visit team consist of three (3) members as follows: one (1) dental therapist educator, one (1) predoctoral dentist educator (curriculum or clinical site visitor), and one (1) additional site visitor that could be either a second dental therapist educator, second predoctoral dentist educator, or an allied dentist educator. If needed due to lack of dental therapy educator availability, such that if a dental therapy educator cannot be identified in accordance with Commission policy then the three-person site visit team may be composed of predoctoral educators and allied dentists, three (3) people total in any combination.

Revised: 2/21; 8/18; 8/16; Reaffirmed: 8/19; Adopted: 02/16

C. REPORTING PROGRAM CHANGES IN ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

The Commission on Dental Accreditation recognizes that education and accreditation are dynamic, not static, processes. Ongoing review and evaluation often lead to changes in an educational program. The Commission views change as part of a healthy educational process and encourages programs to make them as part of their normal operating procedures.

At times, however, more significant changes occur in a program. Changes have a direct and significant impact on the program’s potential ability to comply with the accreditation standards. These changes tend to occur in the areas of finances, program administration, enrollment, curriculum and clinical/laboratory facilities, but may also occur in other areas.

All program changes that could affect the ability of the program to comply with the Accreditation Standards must be reported to the Commission. When a change is planned, Commission staff should be consulted to determine reporting requirements. Reporting program changes in the Annual Survey does not preclude the requirement to report changes directly to the Commission. Failure to report and receive approval in advance of implementing the change, using the Guidelines for Reporting Program Change, may result in review by the Commission, a special site visit, and may jeopardize the program’s accreditation status.

Advanced dental education programs must adhere to the Policy on Enrollment Increases in Advanced Dental Education Programs. In addition, programs adding off-campus sites must adhere to the Policy on Reporting and Approval of Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs. Guidelines for Reporting and Approval of Sites where Educational Activity Occurs are available from the Commission office. Guidelines for Requesting an Increase in Enrollment in a
Predoctoral Dental Education Program and Guidelines for Reporting Enrollment Increases in Advanced Dental Education Programs are available from the Commission office.

On occasion, the Commission may learn of program changes which may impact the program’s ability to comply with accreditation standards or policy. In these situations, CODA will contact the sponsoring institution and program to determine whether reporting may be necessary. Failure to report and receive approval prior to the program change may result in further review by the Commission and/or a special site visit, and may jeopardize the program’s accreditation status.

The Commission’s Policy on Integrity also applies to the reporting of changes. If the Commission determines that an intentional breach of integrity has occurred, the Commission will immediately notify the chief executive officer of the institution of its intent to withdraw the accreditation of the program(s) at its next scheduled meeting.

A Report of Program Change must document how the program will continue to meet accreditation standards. The Commission’s Guidelines for Reporting Program Changes are available on the Commission’s website and may clarify what constitutes a change and provide guidance in adequately explaining and documenting such changes.

The following examples illustrate, but are not limited to, changes that must be reported by June 1 or December 1 and must be reviewed by the appropriate Review Committee and approved by the Commission prior to the implementation to ensure that the program continues to meet the accreditation standards:

- Establishment of Off-Campus Sites not owned by the sponsoring institution used to meet accreditation standards or program requirements (See Guidelines on Reporting and Approval of Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs);
- Changes to Off-Campus Sites not owned by the sponsoring institution that impacts the use of the site (e.g. minor site to major site, or termination of enrollment at or discontinued use of major site);
- Transfer of sponsorship from one institution to another;
- Changes in institutional accreditor or pending or final adverse actions. (See Policy on Regard For Decisions of States and Other Accrediting Agencies);
- Moving a program from one geographic site to another, including but not limited to geographic moves within the same institution;
- Program director qualifications not in compliance with the standards. In lieu of a CV, a copy of the new or acting program director’s completed BioSketch must be provided to Commission staff. Contact Commission Staff for the BioSketch template.
- Substantial increase in program enrollment as determined by preliminary review by the discipline-specific Review Committee Chair.
Requests for retroactive permanent increases in enrollment will not be considered. Requests for retroactive temporary increases in enrollment may be considered due to special circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Programs are reminded that resources must be maintained even when the full complement of students/residents is not enrolled in the program. (see Policy on Enrollment Increases In Advanced Dental Education Programs and Predoctoral programs see Guidelines for Requesting an Increase in Enrollment in a Predoctoral Dental Education Program);

- Change in the nature of the program’s financial support that could affect the ability of the program to meet the standards;
- Curriculum changes that could affect the ability of the program to meet the standards;
- Reduction in faculty or support staff time commitment that could affect the ability of the program to meet the standards;
- Change in the required length of the program;
- Reduction of program dental facilities that could affect the ability of the program to meet the standards;
- Addition of advanced standing opportunity, part-time track or multi-degree track, or other track offerings; and/or
- Expansion of a developing dental hygiene or assisting program which will only be considered after the program has demonstrated success by graduating the first class, measured outcomes of the academic program, and received approval without reporting requirements.

- Implementation of changes in the use of distance education that could affect the ability of the program to meet the standards (see reporting requirements found in the Policy on Distance Education).

The Commission recognizes that unexpected changes may occur. If an unexpected change occurs, it must be reported no more than 30 days following the occurrence. Unexpected changes may be the result of sudden changes in institutional commitment, affiliated agreements between institutions, faculty support, or facility compromise resulting from natural disaster (See Policy/Guidelines on Interruption of Education). Failure to proactively plan for change will not be considered an unexpected change. Depending upon the timing and nature of the change, appropriate investigative procedures including a site visit may be warranted.

The following examples illustrate, but are not limited to, additional program changes that must be reported in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the anticipated implementation of the change and are not reviewed by the Review Committee and the Commission but are reviewed at the next site visit:

- Establishment of Off-Campus Sites owned by the sponsoring institution used to meet accreditation standards or program requirements;
- Expansion or relocation of dental facilities within the same building;
• Change in program director. In lieu of a CV, a copy of the new or acting program director’s completed BioSketch must be provided to Commission staff. Contact Commission Staff for the BioSketch template.

• First-year non-enrollment. See Policy on Non Enrollment of First Year Students/Residents.

• Addition of distance education methods (see reporting requirements found in the Policy on Distance Education).

The Commission recognizes that unexpected changes may occur. If an unexpected change occurs, it **must be reported no more than 30 days following the occurrence.** Unexpected changes may be the result of sudden changes in institutional commitment, affiliated agreements between institutions, faculty support, or facility compromise resulting from natural disaster (See Policy/Guidelines on Interruption of Education). Failure to proactively plan for change will not be considered an unexpected change. Depending upon the timing and nature of the change, appropriate investigative procedures including a site visit may be warranted.

The Commission uses the following process when considering reports of program changes. Program administrators have the option of consulting with Commission staff at any time during this process.

1. A program administrator submits the report by **June 1 or December 1.**

2. Commission staff reviews the report to assess its completeness and to determine whether the change could impact the program’s potential ability to comply with the accreditation standards. If this is the case, the report is reviewed by the appropriate Review Committee for the discipline and by the Commission.

3. Receipt of the report and accompanying documentation is acknowledged in one of the following ways:

   a. The program administrator is informed that the report will be reviewed by the appropriate Review Committee and by the Commission at their next regularly scheduled meeting. Additional information may be requested prior to this review if the change is not well-documented; or

   b. The program administrator is informed that the reported change will be reviewed during the next site visit.

4. If the report will be considered by a Review Committee and by the Commission, the report is added to the appropriate agendas. The program administrator receives notice of the results of the Commission’s review.

The following alternatives may be recommended by Review Committees and/or be taken by the Commission in relation to the review of reports of program changes received from accredited educational programs.

• **Approve the report of program change:** If the Review Committee or Commission does not identify any concerns regarding the program’s continued compliance with the accreditation standards, the transmittal letter should advise the institution that the change(s) have been
noted and will be reviewed at the next regularly-scheduled site visit to the program.

- **Approve the report of program change and request additional information:** If the Review Committees or Commission does not identify any concerns regarding the program’s compliance with the accreditation standards, but believes follow up reporting is required to ensure continued compliance with accreditation standards, additional information will be requested for review by the Commission. Additional information could occur through a supplemental report or a focused site visit.

- **Postpone action and continue the program’s accreditation status, but request additional information:** The transmittal letter will inform the institution that the report of program change has been considered, but that concerns regarding continued compliance with the accreditation standards have been identified. Additional specific information regarding the identified concerns will be requested for review by the Commission. The institution will be further advised that, if the additional information submitted does not satisfy the Commission regarding the identified concerns, the Commission reserves the right to request additional documentation, conduct a special focused site visit of the program, or deny the request.

- **Postpone action and continue the program’s accreditation status pending conduct of a special site visit:** If the information submitted with the initial request is insufficient to provide reasonable assurance that the accreditation standards will continue to be met, and the Commission believes that the necessary information can only be obtained on-site, a special focused site visit will be conducted.

- **Deny the request:** If the submitted information does not indicate that the program will continue to comply with the accreditation standards, the Commission will deny the request for a program change. The institution will be advised that they may re-submit the request of program change with additional information if they choose. If the program change was submitted retroactively, and non-compliance is identified, the program’s accreditation status will be changed. The transmittal letter will inform the institution that the report of program change has been considered, but an area of non-compliance with the accreditation standards has been identified. The program’s accreditation status is changed and additional specific information regarding the identified area(s) of non-compliance will be requested for review by the Commission.

Revised: 8/21; 2/21; 8/20; 1/20; 8/18; 2/18; 8/17; 8/16; 2/16; 8/15; 2/15; 8/13 2/12, 8/11, 8/10, 7/09, 7/07, 8/02, 7/97; Reaffirmed: 7/07, 7/01, 5/90; CODA: 05/91:11

**T. POLICY ON DISTANCE EDUCATION**

The Commission’s accreditation standards have been stated, purposefully, in terms which allow flexibility, innovation and experimentation. Regardless of the method(s) used to provide instruction, the Commission expects that each accredited program will comply with the accreditation standards.
Distance education means education that uses one or more of the technologies listed below to deliver instruction to students/residents/fellows who are separated from the instructor or instructors and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students/residents/fellows and the instructor or instructors, either synchronously or asynchronously. The technologies may include:

- the internet;
- one-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communications devices;
- audio conferencing; and/or
- Other media video cassettes, DVDs, and CD-ROMs, if the cassettes, DVDs, or CD-ROMs are used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed above.

For purposes of this definition, an instructor is an individual responsible for delivering course content and who meets the qualifications for instruction established by an institution’s or program’s accrediting agency.

For purposes of this definition, substantive interaction is engaging students/residents/fellows in teaching, learning, and assessment, consistent with the content under discussion, and also includes at least two of the following:

- Providing direct instruction;
- Assessing or providing feedback on a student’s/residents’s/fellow’s coursework;
- Providing information or responding to questions about the content of a course or competency;
- Facilitating a group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency; or
- Other instructional activities approved by the institution’s or program’s accrediting agency.

An institution ensures regular interaction between a student/resident/fellow and an instructor or instructors by, prior to the student’s/residents’s/fellow’s completion of a course or competency:

- Providing the opportunity for substantive interactions with the student/resident/fellow on a predictable and scheduled basis commensurate with the length of time and the amount of content in the course or competency; and
- Monitoring the student’s/residents’s/fellow’s academic engagement and success and ensuring that an instructor is responsible for promptly and proactively engaging in substantive interaction with the student/resident/fellow when needed on the basis of such monitoring, or upon request by the student/resident/fellow.

A program that is planning to implement the use of distance education methods must submit a report of program change (See Policy on Reporting Program Changes in Accredited Programs)
Standing Committee on Documentation and Policy
Commission Only
CODA Summer 2021

and include evidence of the program’s compliance with the Student/Resident/Fellow Identity Verification noted below. Upon review and Commission acknowledgement that the program has addressed all Student/Resident/Fellow Identity Verification requirements, the use of distance education and the program’s compliance with the below noted items will be further reviewed at the time of the program’s next site visit.

Revised: 8/21; 8/20; 8/10; Reaffirmed: 8/15

1. **Student/Resident/Fellow Identity Verification Requirement For Programs That Have Offer Distance Education Sites:**

Programs that offer distance education must:

- have a process in place through which the program establishes that the student/resident/fellow who registers in a distance education course or program is the same student/resident/fellow who participates in and completes the course or program and receives the academic credit;
- verify the identity of a student/resident/fellow who participates in class or coursework by using, at the option of the program, methods such as a secure login and pass code; proctored examinations; and/or new or other technologies and practices that are effective in verifying student/resident/fellow identity;
- make clear in writing that processes are used that protect student/resident/fellow privacy;
- notify students/residents/fellows of any projected additional student/resident/fellow charges associated with the verification of student/resident/fellow identity at the time of registration or enrollment.

Revised: 8/21; 8/20; Reaffirmed: 8/15; Adopted: 8/10