

Guidance Document: Temporary Flexibility in Accreditation Standards to Address Interruption of Education Reporting Requirements Resulting From COVID-19 for the Class of 2021

Below is the *temporary flexibility* guidance on select Accreditation Standards. Only those Accreditation Standards which include *temporary flexibility* are included, all others have been retained as written in the current published Accreditation Standards document.

Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Anesthesiology

Alternative Assessment Methods (for example, patient vs simulation)

For the Class of 2021, while patient-based experiences are essential, alternative methods for training and assessment are allowed, in accordance with the *temporary flexibility guidance document*. Programs are encouraged to be innovative and consider multiple methods appropriate to the discipline. Alternative methods could include objective structured clinical examination (OSCE), portfolios, case presentations, procedural presentations, case studies, virtual cases, simulations, and use of virtual standardized patients, and other modes of assessment.

Modification/Reduction of Curriculum Content or Curriculum Requirements (for example, modification/reduction of program-dictated requirements, CODA competency requirements, and/or CODA quantitative numbers-based requirements)

For the Class of 2021, programs have the flexibility to modify program-dictated requirements, as long as the modifications continue to meet standards required by CODA and the program continues to confirm its graduates are competent upon completion of the program. Curriculum (program) length cannot be modified, but curriculum content changes that are necessary are permissible. The didactic curriculum should be continued without interruption, due to the flexibility allowed via the use of alternative methods of delivery for case studies, patient care conferences, treatment planning conferences, literature reviews, etc.

Program Length or Program Component Length (for example, rotations, services, etc.)

For the Class of 2021, the program length requirement will be maintained, since reducing the program length could impact the graduates' future licensing or board certification requirements, which are outside of CODA's purview. The use of distance education technology offers the programs flexibility in providing the required educational experiences. Modification of program components, such as rotations, is allowed as long as the specific rotation requirements are achieved.

**Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental
Anesthesiology**

Dent Anes Standard 2-5

The program must ensure the availability of adequate patient experiences in both number and variety that afford all residents the opportunity to achieve the program's stated goals and competency requirements in dental anesthesiology.

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is given at the discretion of the program director. The program is expected to ensure the program's stated goals and competency requirements are achieved and the competency of its graduates.

Dent Anes Standard 2-6

The following list represents the minimum clinical experiences that must be obtained by each resident in the program at the completion of training:

- a) **Eight hundred (800) total cases of deep sedation/general anesthesia to include the following:**
 - (1) **Three hundred (300) intubated general anesthetics of which at least fifty (50) are nasal intubations and twenty-five (25) incorporate advanced airway management techniques. No more than ten (10) of the twenty five (25) advanced airway technique requirements can be blind nasal intubations.**
 - (2) **One hundred and twenty five (125) children age seven (7) and under, and**
 - (3) **Seventy five (75) patients with special needs,**
- b) **Clinical experiences sufficient to meet the competency requirements (described in Standard 2-1 and 2-2) in managing ambulatory patients, geriatric patients, patients with physical status ASA III or greater, and patients requiring moderate sedation; and**
- c) **Exposure to the management of patients with chronic orofacial pain.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is given at the discretion of the program director. The program is expected to ensure the program's stated goals and competency requirements are achieved. The program is expected to ensure graduates are competent upon completion of the program

Dent Anes Standard 2-7

At a minimum, a total of twenty-four (24) months over a thirty-six (36) month period must be devoted exclusively to clinical training in anesthesiology, of which a minimum of six (6) months are devoted to dental anesthesiology.

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is given at the discretion of the program director. The program is expected to ensure graduates are competent upon completion of the program.

Dent Anes Standard 2-8

Residents must be assigned full-time for a minimum of twelve (12) months over a thirty six (36) month period to a hospital anesthesia service that provides trauma and/or emergency surgical care.

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is given at the discretion of the program director. The program is expected to ensure graduates are competent upon completion of the program.

Dent Anes Standard 2-9

At the completion of the program, each resident must have the following experiences in the administration of the full spectrum of anesthesia service for same-day surgery dental patients:

- 1. At least one hundred (100) cases of the experiences listed in Standard 2-6 in outpatient anesthesia for dentistry that are supervised by dentist anesthesiologists.**
- 2. Experience as the provider of supervised anesthesia care.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is given at the discretion of the program director. The program is expected to ensure graduates are competent upon completion of the program.

Dent Anes Standard 2-10

Residents must participate in at least four (4) months of clinical rotations from the following list. If more than one rotation is selected, each must be at least one month in length.

- a) Cardiology,**
- b) Emergency medicine,**
- c) General/internal medicine,**
- d) Intensive care,**
- e) Pain medicine,**
- f) Pediatrics,**
- g) Pre-anesthetic assessment clinic (max. one [1] month), and**
- h) Pulmonary medicine.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is given at the discretion of the program director as long rotations are selected from those listed in a-h. The program is expected to ensure graduates are competent upon completion of the program.

Dent Anes Standard 2-17

The duration of a dental anesthesiology program must be a minimum of thirty six (36) months of full-time formal training.

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, the program length requirement will not be modified. Temporary flexibility is provided through the use of alternative educational and assessment methods while ensuring competence of the program graduates.

Dent Anes Standard 2-19

The program's resident evaluation system must assure that, through the director and faculty, each program:

- a) **Periodically, but at least twice annually, evaluates and documents the resident's progress towards achieving the program's written competency requirements and minimum anesthesia case requirements using appropriate written criteria and procedures;**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is allowed through the use of alternative methods in conducting resident evaluations, including distance education technology.

Dent Anes Standard 6-1

Residents must engage in at least one (1) month of scholarly activity and present their results in a scientific/educational forum.

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is given at the discretion of the program director. The program is expected to ensure graduates are competent upon completion of the program.