
Annual Report 2021

The report of the Commission on Dental Accreditation



CODA★

Commission on Dental Accreditation

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This publication may be reprinted in its entirety, without additions, edits or deletions, for educational purposes only.

The Commission's mission, vision and values were adopted August 5, 2016 in accordance with the development of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan.

MISSION

The Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the public and profession by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs.

VISION

The Commission on Dental Accreditation is a globally recognized leader for accrediting educational programs in the dental professions.

VALUES

The Commission is committed to:

Integrity: The quality of being honest, accountable, and principled.

Collegiality: Working respectfully and collaboratively toward a common purpose.

Transparency: Being open about the process by which accreditation standards and policies are developed and implemented.

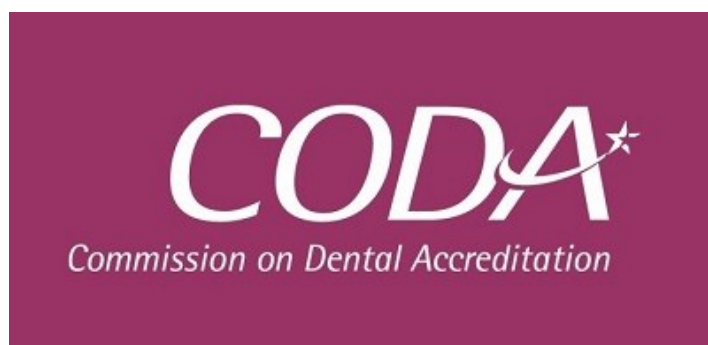
Consistency: Fairness, objectivity, and the reliability of outcomes.

Introduction

Who We Are

From 1937 to 1974, prior to the formation of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Education (now known as the Council on Dental Education and Licensure) served as the accrediting agency for dental and dental-related education programs. In 1973, the House of Delegates of the American Dental Association approved the establishment of a Commission on Accreditation of Dental and Dental Auxiliary Educational Programs. The Commission began operating in 1975, and in 1979 this body's name was officially changed to the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Since 1952, the Commission on Dental Accreditation, and its predecessor, has been recognized by the Secretary of the [United States Department of Education \(USDE\)](#) as the sole agency to accredit dental and dental-related education programs conducted at the post-secondary level. CODA's mission is to serve the public and profession by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. The general public and communities of interest have direct access to many important resources through CODA's [website](#). The Commission also makes available to the public its [Meeting Agenda and Materials](#) in an effort to demonstrate transparency to its communities of interest. Additionally, updated information about CODA's activities is available by reviewing information in [Accreditation Updates](#).



The Commission on Dental Accreditation accredits dental education programs, advanced dental education programs and allied dental education programs in the United States. The Commission also accredits fully-operational international dental education programs. The Commission functions independently and autonomously in all matters of developing and approving accreditation standards, making accreditation decisions on educational programs and developing and approving procedures that are used in the accreditation process. It is structured to include an appropriate representation of the communities of interest.

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Commission Structure

Site Visit Teams

The foundation of the accreditation process is the site visit, and the primary role of the Site Visit Team is to gather and evaluate data and facts. Members on each team can include those with expertise in the discipline, biomedical sciences, clinical sciences, curriculum, finance, or national licensure. To maintain accreditation, programs self-assess their compliance with CODA's accreditation standards and provide CODA with documented evidence through the Self-Study process. CODA's site visitors review such materials, visit programs to evaluate process, interview faculty and students/residents, tour facilities, and more in order to assess a program's compliance with CODA standards. The site visit team then clearly and comprehensively reports on its findings to the Review Committees and Commission.

Review Committees

Review Committees meet twice per year, two to three weeks before each Commission Meeting, to review reports submitted by Site Visit teams as well as programmatic reports and requests, and to discuss policy and procedures related to the committee's discipline. As of this publication, there are fourteen (14) Review Committees, each focused on one or more disciplines within dental education. Beginning January 1, 2022, there will be seventeen (17) Review Committees, with the establishment of Review Committees for dental anesthesiology, oral medicine, and orofacial pain. These committees review and discuss the reports submitted by site visit teams and educational programs, and make recommendations to the Commission. The Review Committees also consider policy, some new and some annual recurring policy, which is applicable to the discipline. Note that the Review Committees do **not** make final accreditation or policy decisions – they instead make recommendations to the Commission, which then considers these recommendations at its Winter and Summer Meetings. In this regard, Review Committees are advisory to the Commission.

Commission on Dental Accreditation

The Commission on Dental Accreditation makes the final decision to grant, continue or withdraw an accreditation status to a dental education program. The Commission bases its decision on the program's compliance with the Accreditation Standards and Commission Policies. In this regard, the Commission continuously evaluates and monitors educational programs for compliance with the Accreditation Standards. The Commission also ensures Standards reflect the

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Composition of CODA Board of Commissioners

Organization	Appointments
American Dental Association (dental practitioners)	4
American Association of Dental Boards (licensure community)	4
American Dental Education Association (dental educators)	4
American Dental Education Association, Special Care Dentistry Association, American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists, American Academy of Oral Medicine, American Academy of Orofacial Pain (joint appointment)	1
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Academy of Periodontology, American Association of Endodontists, American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, American Association of Orthodontists, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, American College of Prosthodontists (1 each)	9
American Dental Assistants Association (dental assistants)	1
American Dental Hygienists' Association (dental hygienists)	1
National Association of Dental Laboratories (dental laboratory technicians)	1
Public (consumers/public)	4
Student (American Dental Education Association, American Student Dental Association, joint appointment)	1
TOTAL	30

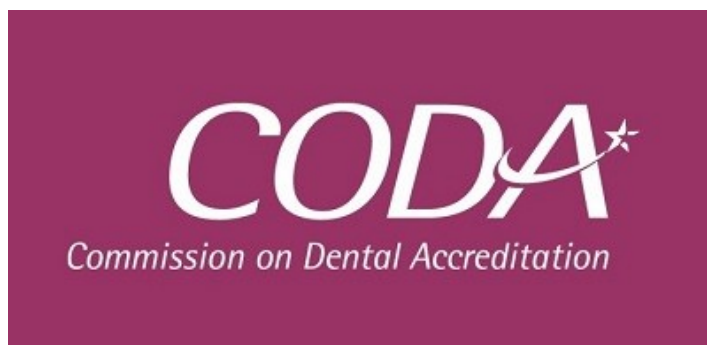
Note: Beginning January 1, 2022, the Commission will include Commissioners in the disciplines of dental anesthesiology (American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists), Oral Medicine (American Academy of Oral Medicine), and Orofacial Pain (American Academy of Orofacial Pain)

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broad communities of interest related to the development and periodic revision of Accreditation Standards, thus ensuring the Standards remain current and define the quality of dental education. CODA maintains continuous contact with those important communities through various mechanisms. The Commission also establishes policies and procedures to guide the evaluation and decision making process to ensure fairness, consistency, and appropriate levels of due process.

Appeal Board

The principal function of the Appeal Board is to hear and make judgments on withdrawal of accreditation or denial of accreditation, at the request of an educational program or institution. The Appeal Board will determine whether the Commission on Dental Accreditation, in arriving at a decision regarding the withdrawal or denial of accreditation for a given program, has properly applied the facts presented to it. In addition, the Commission's Rules stipulate that the Appeal Board shall provide the educational program filing the appeal the opportunity to be represented by legal counsel and shall give the program the opportunity to offer evidence and argument in writing and/or orally to try to refute or overcome the findings and decision of the Commission. The Appeal Board is an autonomous body, separate from the Commission. Appeal Board members are selected in accordance with the Rules of the Commission on Dental Accreditation.



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The Year in Numbers

2021 February: Number of CODA-Accredited Programs

Discipline	Number of Programs	Approval without Reporting	Approval with Reporting*	Initial Accreditation	Approval without Reporting (teach out)	Approval with Reporting (teach out)	Initial Accreditation (teach out)
Predoctoral	67	63	2	2	0	0	0
Predoctoral International	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dental Assisting	238	233	2	1	2	0	0
Dental Hygiene	325	309	8	5	3	0	0
Dental Laboratory Technology	13	12	1	0	0	0	0
Dental Therapy	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	92	87	0	4	1	0	0
General Practice Residency	178	173	3	2	0	0	0
Orofacial Pain	12	10	0	1	1	0	0
Dental Anesthesiology	8	7	0	1	0	0	0
Oral Medicine	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Oral Surgery (and clinical fellowships)	112	108	1	3	0	0	0
Orthodontics (and clinical fellowships)	73	72	0	0	1	0	0
Endodontics	55	54	0	1	0	0	0
Periodontics	56	54	1	1	0	0	0
Pediatric Dentistry	80	77	1	2	0	0	0
Prosthodontics (all, including MxPros and combined programs)	55	54	0	1	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	15	14	0	1	0	0	0
Dental Public Health	14	14	0	0	0	0	0
Ortho/Periodontic	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1411	1358	20	25	8	0	0

*Includes programs on "Approval with Reporting Requirements," with "intent to withdraw" and "required period of non-enrollment" statuses.

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The Year in Numbers

2021 August: Number of CODA-Accredited Programs

Discipline	Number of Programs	Approval without Reporting	Approval with Reporting*	Initial Accreditation	Approval without Reporting (teach-out)	Approval with Reporting (teach-out)	Initial Accreditation (teach-out)
Predoctoral	67	63	2	2	0	0	0
Predoctoral International	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dental Assisting	240	232	4	2	2	0	0
Dental Hygiene	327	308	13	5	1	0	0
Dental Laboratory Technology	13	12	1	0	0	0	0
Dental Therapy	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	93	91	0	2	0	0	0
General Practice Residency	175	168	5	2	0	0	0
Orofacial Pain	12	12	0	0	0	0	0
Dental Anesthesiology	8	7	0	1	0	0	0
Oral Medicine	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Oral Surgery (and clinical fellowships)	111	109	0	2	0	0	0
Orthodontics (and clinical fellowships)	73	72	0	1	0	0	0
Endodontics	55	53	1	1	0	0	0
Periodontics	56	55	1	0	0	0	0
Pediatric Dentistry	81	79	1	1	0	0	0
Prosthodontics (all, including MxPros and combined programs)	55	55	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	15	14	0	1	0	0	0
Dental Public Health	14	14	0	0	0	0	0
Ortho/Periodontic	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1413	1361	29	20	3	0	0

*Includes programs on “Approval with Reporting Requirements,” with “intent to withdraw” and “required period of non-enrollment” statuses.

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Total Enrollment in Dental Education Programs

Dental Education Area	Enrollment (difference from prior year)	Year
Predoctoral	25,995 (+188)	2020-2021
Advanced Education	7,343 (-12)	2020-2021
Dental Hygiene	16,178 (+44)	2019-2020
Dental Assisting	5,912 (-310)	2019-2020
DLT	470 (+5)	2019-2020
All Programs	55,898	Source: Surveys of Dental Education Programs

*Includes 638 students at King Abdulaziz University in Saudi Arabia.

You will find current Enrollment and other data on the [Program Surveys page](#) of the CODA website. Updates will be made to this page as available.

Programs, Volunteers, and Staff

- **1,413** CODA-accredited education programs in approximately 750+ institutions
- More than **600** Volunteer Commissioners, Site Visitors and Review Committee Members
- **Eight** Professional Staff
- **One** Coordinator of Operations
- **Two** Site Visit Coordinators
- **Four** Support Staff

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The Coronavirus Pandemic

In **2020**, as COVID-19 case rates rose and fell in every state, dental education programs and the Commission on Dental Accreditation had to manage the impact of the pandemic, while trying to balance and maintain the quality of educational programs.

The Commission conducted all of its work virtually, processing thousands of reports from CODA-accredited programs related to their response to the pandemic and their work to maintain the quality and efficacy of their educational programs. The Commission itself conducted all meetings virtually, including:

- More than 50 virtual Review Committee meetings
- Five virtual Commission meetings
- Five virtual webinars (with a grand total of almost 1,500 attendees)
- Four virtual public Hearings on Standards (with a grand total of more than 1,200 attendees)
- Digital versions of all Coronavirus-related announcements and guidance document
- Two days of virtual site visitor training
- Countless presentations to various audiences to provide updates
- Virtual Commission, Appeal Board, and Review Committee Member Orientations

Through the work of the Commission, following its July 9, 2020 special meeting, CODA staff deliver more than 1,400 digital accreditation letters related to temporary flexibility for the Class of 2020.

In **2021**, as the pandemic continued, the Commission and CODA staff remained committed to the Commission's mission of developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs.

The Commission launched its Electronic Accreditation portal to accept applications and self-study documents beginning in early February 2021. With the launch of the electronic portal, the Commission initiated its application review process through the E-Portal.

The Commission conducted a special meeting April 26, 2021 to consider temporary flexibility for the Class of 2021, and again CODA staff deliver more than 1,400 digital accreditation letters related to temporary flexibility. Flexibility for the Class of 2021 had previously been adopted by CODA in October 2020.

Following consideration of the report of its **Ad Hoc Committee on Alternative Site Visit Methods**, the Commission adopted the Policy on Temporary Use of Alternative Site Visit Methods, along with Site Visitor and Program Manuals on Alternative Site Visits to assist programs and CODA site visitors in preparing for the conduct of virtual or hybrid site visits. Webinars were offered to inform site visitors and programs of CODA's expectations.

The Commission began conducting virtual site visits in March 2021 and transitioned to hybrid and on-site visits, as appropriate, beginning in August 2021.



2021 Highlights

CODA Adopts 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

The Commission engaged in a Closed Mega Issue Discussion on August 4, 2021 for the purpose of developing its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. Following the Mega Issue Discussion, the Commission reviewed the report of the Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning and adopted the proposed 2022-2026 CODA Mission, Vision and Values statements and 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, with implementation January 1, 2022.

The 2022-2026 Strategic Plan can be found at [Mission Vision and Values](#)

Finances

For 2021, the Commission:

- Adopted a 0% increase in annual accreditation fees for all domestic disciplines
- Maintained International fees
- Assessed the CODA Administrative Fund Fee of \$25 per program in 2022

Find more details on the CODA website's [Fees page](#).

Communication and Technology

The Commission has directed a review of the Communication Plan in 2022-2023 to ensure that the next communication plan addresses the Commission's strategic needs, as well as ongoing communication and technology needs of the Commission, including an electronic accreditation tool.

The Commission also continues its work to identify, secure, and develop a long-term solution for its electronic accreditation platform needs.

Submission of Petition for Re-recognition to the United States Department of Education

The Commission was informed by the United States Department of Education (USDE) that the re-recognition process would begin in Fall 2020. All agencies undergoing review by the USDE for recognition are expected to respond to all applicable criteria in their petitions. In mid-September 2020, Commission staff submitted CODA's petition to the USDE. As it reviews the Commission's petition, the USDE will send a representative to attend various Commission meetings and training sessions as an observer. The Commission's re-recognition process continued in 2021 with a file review conducted by the USDE. The Commission expects to complete the re-recognition evaluation by fall 2022.

2021 Highlights

Ad Hoc Committees and their Progress

Ad Hoc Committee on Review Committee and Commission Structure and Function: Following review of the Standing Committee's report in Winter 2021, the Commission took several actions, including: 1) establishing separate review Committees for Dental Anesthesiology, Oral Medicine and Orofacial Pain; 2) directing appointment of three Commissioners, one for each area; 3) directing appointment of three Appeal Board members, one for each area; 4) updating CODA's Evaluation and Operational Policies and Procedures Manual; and 4) operationalizing the changes. The Commission also directed further review of CODA policies and procedures on CODA structure by the appropriate ad hoc or standing committee, which may include development of policies to initiate a discipline's oversight within the appropriate existing Review Committee, and require a minimum number of accredited programs and assurance of sufficient volunteers in the discipline, to warrant establishment of a separate Review Committee and additional Commissioner. Discussion of this topic occurred at the Strategic Planning Mega Issue Discussion.

Ad Hoc Committee on Educational Activity Sites: Following review of the Standing Committee's report in Winter 2021, the Commission took several actions, including:

- 1) directing the CODA Annual Surveys for dental and advanced dental education program be clarified related to questions on educational activity site usage;
- 2) directing all Review Committees to consider the Standards under their purview for potential revision to address expectations related to use of U.S.-based educational activity sites including, but not limited to: a) consideration of time away from the program and b) program use of best practices and quality assurance review systems to ensure calibration of faculty, and student/resident/fellow training and evaluation (formative and summative) comparable to the program's on-site clinic facility, with a report to the Commission in Summer 2021;
- 3) directing the use of international educational activity sites not be permitted until the Commission reviews, revises, adopts, and implements changes to its Accreditation Standards to address quality assurance and other expectations for the disciplines under CODA's purview, as noted above, related to use of domestic educational activity sites; and
- 4) directing that after Accreditation Standards are developed and implemented for the use of U.S.-based educational activity sites, the Commission review and revise its Policy Statement on Reporting and Approval of Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs to permit use of internationally located educational activity sites, as permitted by the discipline-specific Standards, and reported, approved and monitored by the Commission through its policies and procedures.

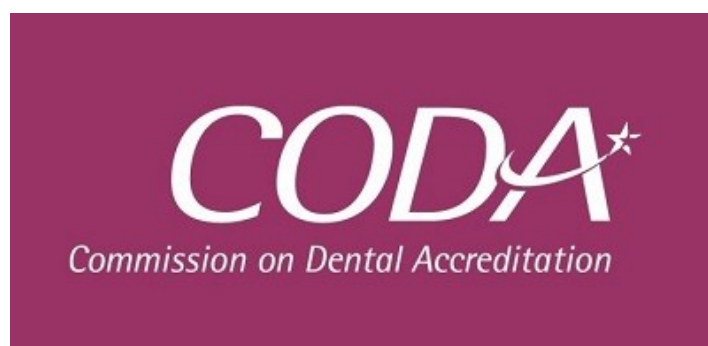
2021 Highlights

Ad Hoc Committee on Oral Medicine Reciprocity: Following consideration of a request from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDA), the Commission, at its February 2021 meeting, directed appointment of a Joint CODA-CDAC Ad Hoc Committee to examine the potential inclusion of Oral Medicine in the Reciprocity Agreement between the Commission on Dental Accreditation and Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.

Validity and Reliability Studies

Validity and Reliability Studies to occur in 2022 include the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in General Practice Residency, Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health, and Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain.

The Commission's Policy on Assessing the Validity and Reliability of the Accreditation Standards states that the Commission believes that a minimum time span should elapse between the adoption of new standards or implementation of standards that have undergone a comprehensive revision and the assessment of validity and reliability of these standards. When considering a comprehensive revision to standards, the validity and reliability of those standards will be assessed after they have been in effect for a period of time equal to the minimum academic length of the accredited program plus three years. When the Commission revises policies or standards, it provides programs and the public with advance notice and a schedule for implementation.



Annual Call for Nominations

The Commission on Dental Accreditation accepts nominations each year for volunteer Review Committee member and Site Visitor positions.

The mission of CODA is to serve the public and profession by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. Accreditation is a peer-reviewed process, and CODA volunteers are an integral part of that process. The Commission provides comprehensive training to all its volunteers, so each will be ready to serve when their term begins. In addition, CODA staff is available for support throughout the process.

The Commission takes into account a balance in geographic distribution as well as representation of the various types of educational settings and diversity, including underrepresented groups. Board certification and experience requirements may apply.

The typical work of a Review Committee member includes the following:

- Review and become familiar with the CODA accreditation process, and participate in training at CODA headquarters.
 - Review policy matters, site visit reports, progress reports and other reports on accredited or developing educational programs, which are submitted to the Commission for final action.
 - Communicate by fax, electronic mail and the Commission's web-based communication tools.
- Time commitment can vary depending on committee assignment; however, CODA asks that you are willing to commit ten (10) to twenty (20) days per year to Review Committee activities.

The typical work of a Site Visitor includes the following:

- Attend training, conduct comprehensive review of print and electronically delivered materials and travel to Commission headquarters to learn and understand the requirements and guidelines for the accreditation of dental, advanced dental or allied dental educational programs.
- Objectively review materials which programs submit as evidence of the program's compliance with accreditation requirements.
- Visit educational programs to evaluate process, interview faculty and students/residents, view facilities, and more in order to assess the program's compliance with CODA standards.
- Develop reports on findings through review of the program's materials and on-site.
- Time commitment can vary; however, site visits are typically 1-4 days in length and require approximately 10+ hours of preparation. You may be asked to serve on at least 1 or more visits per year.

Nominating yourself or a peer is very straightforward. For a list of upcoming vacancies, the nomination criteria and nomination forms, as well as deadlines for nominations in each category, visit [Call for Nominations](#), and then follow the instructions on that page.

Accreditation Actions at the Winter and Summer 2021 Meetings

In 2021, the Commission reviewed accreditation reports and took **572 accreditation actions** on dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs and recorded **7 mail ballots** on dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs. A total of **11 new programs** were granted accreditation in August 2021:

Educational Program	Number
Predoctoral Dental Education	1
Dental Assisting Education	2
Dental Hygiene Education	4
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	2
Clinical Fellowship in Craniofacial and Special Care Orthodontics	1
Pediatric Dentistry	1

The Commission affirmed the reported voluntary discontinuance effective date or planned closure date of the following education programs, at the request of their respective sponsoring institutions:

Educational Program	Number
Dental Assisting	2
Dental Hygiene	2
Dental Laboratory Technology	1
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	1
General Practice Residency	2
Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics	1

Standards Revisions at the Winter and Summer 2021 Meetings

The Commission adopted revisions to the following Accreditation Standards:

February 2021

- Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs, specifically intent statements of Standards 3-3 and 3-7, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs, with an implementation date of July 1, 2022.
- Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs, with an implementation date of January 1, 2022.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics, with an implementation date of July 1, 2022.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Clinical Fellowship Training Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, with an implementation date of January 1, 2022.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, with an implementation date of July 1, 2022.

August 2021

- Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs, revision to the term “Should” within the Definition of Terms, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs, revision to the term “Should” within the Definition of Terms, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, as a result of the 2021 Validity and Reliability Study, with immediate implementation.

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Online Resources

The Commission's website, at [Commission on Dental Accreditation \(CODA\)](#), offers a wide variety of Commission reports, data, and valuable information:

- Accreditation Standards are available under the [Standards](#) tab
- Search for CODA-accredited programs on the [Find a Program](#) page
- Visit the [Call for Nominations](#) page to learn about and submit Review Committee Member and Site Visitor nominations
- To see schedules of Site Visits, go to the [Site Visit Process and Schedule](#) page
- Acquire a current copy of the [Policy & Procedure Manual](#) under the Policies/Guidelines tab

Additional Online Resources for Educational Programs:

- [Program Change and Other Report Guidelines](#)
 - Reporting Program Changes
 - Reporting Distance Education
 - Reporting a Teach-Out
 - Reporting a Transfer of Sponsorship
 - Reporting Use of Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs

And More....

For further information on topics in this Annual Report, please contact the Commission office.