

# **Commission on Dental Accreditation**

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## **Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology**

# **Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology**

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Commission on Dental Accreditation

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Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Standards

# **Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology**

## **Document Revision History**

| <b>Date</b>     | <b>Item</b>                                                                                            | <b>Action</b>           |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| August 6, 2021  | Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology     | Adopted and Implemented |
| August 11, 2023 | Revised Accreditation Status Definitions                                                               | Adopted and Implemented |
| August 9, 2024  | Revised Definitions of Terms and Standard 1 related to Sponsoring Institution and Authority to Operate | Adopted                 |
| January 1, 2025 | Revised Definitions of Terms and Standard 1 related to Sponsoring Institution and Authority to Operate | Implemented             |

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# **Mission Statement of the Commission on Dental Accreditation**

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.

Commission on Dental Accreditation  
Adopted: August 5, 2016

# Accreditation Status Definitions

## **Programs That Are Fully Operational**

**Approval (*without reporting requirements*):** An accreditation classification granted to an educational program indicating that the program achieves or exceeds the basic requirements for accreditation.

**Approval (*with reporting requirements*):** An accreditation classification granted to an educational program indicating that specific deficiencies or weaknesses exist in one or more areas of the program. Evidence of compliance with the cited standards or policies must be demonstrated within a timeframe not to exceed eighteen (18) months if the program is between one and two years in length or two years if the program is at least two years in length. If the deficiencies are not corrected within the specified time period, accreditation will be withdrawn, unless the Commission extends the period for achieving compliance for good cause. Identification of new deficiencies during the reporting time period will not result in a modification of the specified deadline for compliance with prior deficiencies.

Circumstances under which an extension for good cause would be granted include, but are not limited to:

- sudden changes in institutional commitment;
  - natural disaster which affects affiliated agreements between institutions; faculty support; or facilities;
  - changes in institutional accreditation;
  - interruption of an educational program due to unforeseen circumstances that take faculty, administrators or students away from the program.
- Revised: 8/17; 2/16; 5/12; 1/99; Reaffirmed: 8/23; 8/18; 8/13; 8/10, 7/05; Adopted: 1/98

## **Programs That Are Not Fully Operational**

A program which has not enrolled and graduated at least one class of students/residents and does not have students/residents enrolled in each year of the program is defined by the Commission as not fully operational. The accreditation classification granted by the Commission on Dental Accreditation to programs which are not fully operational is “initial accreditation.” When initial accreditation status is granted to a developing education program, it is in effect through the projected enrollment date. However, if enrollment of the first class is delayed for two consecutive years following the projected enrollment date, the program’s accreditation will be discontinued, and the institution must reapply for initial accreditation and update pertinent information on program development. Following this, the Commission will reconsider granting initial accreditation status. The developing education program must not enroll students/residents/fellows with advanced standing beyond its regularly enrolled cohort, while holding the accreditation status of “initial accreditation.”

**Initial Accreditation** is the accreditation classification granted to any dental, advanced dental or allied dental education program which is not yet fully operational. This accreditation classification provides evidence to educational institutions, licensing bodies, government or other granting agencies that, at the time of initial evaluation(s), the developing education program has the potential for meeting the standards set forth in the requirements for an accredited educational program for the specific occupational area. The classification “initial accreditation” is granted based upon one or more site evaluation visit(s).

Revised: 8/23; 7/08; Reaffirmed: 8/18; 8/13; 8/10; Adopted: 2/02

# Preface

Maintaining and improving the quality of advanced dental education programs is a primary aim of the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is recognized by the public, the profession, and the United States Department of Education as the specialized accrediting agency in dentistry.

Accreditation of advanced dental education programs is a voluntary effort of all parties involved. The process of accreditation assures students/residents, the dental profession, specialty boards and the public that accredited training programs are in compliance with published standards.

Accreditation is extended to institutions offering acceptable programs in the following disciplines of advanced dental education: dental public health, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, advanced education in general dentistry, general practice residency, dental anesthesiology, oral medicine, and orofacial pain. Program accreditation will be withdrawn when the training program no longer conforms to the standards as specified in this document, when all first-year positions remain vacant for a period of two years or when a program fails to respond to requests for program information. Exceptions for non-enrollment may be made by the Commission for programs with “approval without reporting requirements” status upon receipt of a formal request from an institution stating reasons why the status of the program should not be withdrawn.

Advanced dental education may be offered on either a certificate-only or certificate and degree-granting basis.

Accreditation actions by the Commission on Dental Accreditation are based upon information gained through written submissions by program directors and evaluations made on site by assigned site visitors. The Commission has established review committees to review site visit and progress reports and make recommendations to the Commission. Review committees are composed of representatives nominated by dental organizations and nationally accepted certifying boards. The Commission has the ultimate responsibility for determining a program’s accreditation status. The Commission is also responsible for adjudication of appeals of adverse decisions and has established policies and procedures for appeal. A copy of policies and procedures may be obtained from the Director, Commission on Dental Accreditation, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 3300, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

This document constitutes the standards by which the Commission on Dental Accreditation and its site visitors will evaluate advanced dental education programs in each discipline for accreditation purposes. The Commission on Dental Accreditation establishes general standards which are common to all disciplines of advanced dental education, institution and programs. Each discipline develops discipline-specific standards for education programs in its discipline. The general and discipline-specific standards, subsequent to approval by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, set forth the standards for the education content, instructional activities, patient care responsibilities, supervision and facilities that should be provided by programs in the particular discipline.

As a learned profession entrusted by the public to provide for its oral health and general well-being, the profession provides care without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, status with respect to public assistance or marital status.

The profession has a duty to consider patients' preferences, and their social, economic and emotional circumstances when providing care, as well as to attend to patients whose medical, physical and psychological or social situation make it necessary to modify normal dental routines in order to provide dental treatment. These individuals include, but are not limited to, people with developmental disabilities, cognitive impairments, complex medical problems, significant physical limitations, and the vulnerable elderly. The Standards reconfirm and emphasize the importance of educational processes and goals for comprehensive patient care and encourage patient-centered approaches in teaching, research and oral health care delivery.

The profession adheres to ethical principles of honesty, compassion, kindness, respect, integrity, fairness and charity, as exemplified in the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct and the ADEA Statement on Professionalism in Dental Education.

General standards are identified by the use of a single numerical listing (e.g., 1). Discipline-specific standards are identified by the use of multiple numerical listings (e.g. 1-1, 1-1.2, 1-2).

# Definitions of Terms Used in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Accreditation Standards

The terms used in this document (i.e. shall, **must**, should, can and may) were selected carefully and indicate the relative weight that the Commission attaches to each statement. The definitions of these words used in the Standards are as follows:

**Must or Shall:** Indicates an imperative need and/or duty; an essential or indispensable item; mandatory.

**Intent:** Intent statements are presented to provide clarification to the advanced dental education programs in oral and maxillofacial pathology in the application of and in connection with compliance with the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. The statements of intent set forth some of the reasons and purposes for the particular Standards. As such, these statements are not exclusive or exhaustive. Other purposes may apply.

**Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance include:** Desirable condition, practice or documentation indicating the freedom or liberty to follow a suggested alternative.

**Should:** Indicates a method to achieve the standards.

**May or Could:** Indicates freedom or liberty to follow a suggested alternative.

Graduates of discipline-specific advanced dental education programs provide unique services to the public. While there is some commonality with services provided by specialists and general dentists, as well as commonalities among the specialties, the educational standards developed to prepare graduates of discipline-specific advanced dental education programs for independent practice should not be viewed as a continuum from general dentistry. Each discipline defines the educational experience best suited to prepare its graduates to provide that unique specialty service.

**Competencies:** Statements in the advanced dental education standards describing the knowledge, skills and values expected of graduates of discipline-specific advanced dental education programs.

**Competent:** Having the knowledge, skills and values required of the graduates to begin independent, unsupervised discipline-specific practice.

**In-depth:** Characterized by thorough knowledge of concepts and theories for the purpose of critical analysis and synthesis.

**Understanding:** Knowledge and recognition of the principles and procedures involved in a particular concept or activity.

Other Terms:

Institution (or organizational unit of an institution): a dental, medical or public health school, patient care facility, or other entity that engages in advanced dental education.

Sponsoring institution: primary responsibility for advanced dental education programs.

Affiliated institution: support responsibility for advanced dental education programs.

Health Care Organization: A Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Indian Health Service (IHS), Veterans Health Administration system (VA), or academic health center/medical center/ambulatory care center (both public and private) that is accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, accredited by an accreditation organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), or receiving regular on-site inspections through the Health Resources and Services Administration Operational Site Visit (HRSA-OSV).

Advanced dental education student/resident: a student/resident enrolled in an accredited advanced dental education program.

A degree-granting program is a planned sequence of advanced courses leading to a master's or doctoral degree granted by a recognized and accredited educational institution.

A certificate program is a planned sequence of advanced courses that leads to a certificate of completion in an advanced dental education program.

Student/Resident: The individual enrolled in an accredited advanced dental education program.

International Dental School: A dental school located outside the United States and Canada.

Evidence-based dentistry: Evidence-based dentistry is an approach to oral health care that requires the judicious integration of systematic assessments of clinically relevant scientific evidence, relating to the patient's oral and medical condition and history, with the dentist's clinical expertise and the patient's treatment needs and preferences.

Formative Assessment\*: guiding future learning, providing reassurance, promoting reflection, and shaping values; providing benchmarks to orient the learner who is approaching a relatively unstructured body of knowledge; and reinforcing students' intrinsic motivation to learn and inspire them to set higher standards for themselves.

Summative Assessment\*: making an overall judgment about competence, fitness to practice, or qualification for advancement to higher levels of responsibility; and providing professional self-regulation and accountability.

*\*Epstein, R. M. (2007). Assessment in Medical Education. The New England Journal of Medicine, 387-96.*

## STANDARD 1 - INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT/PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

The program **must** develop clearly stated goals and objectives appropriate to advanced dental education, addressing education, patient care, research and service. Planning for, evaluation of and improvement of educational quality for the program **must** be broad-based, systematic, continuous and designed to promote achievement of program goals related to education, patient care, research and service.

The program **must** document its effectiveness using a formal and ongoing outcomes assessment process to include measures of advanced dental education student/resident achievement.

***Intent:** The Commission on Dental Accreditation expects each program to define its own goals and objectives for preparing individuals for the practice of oral and maxillofacial pathology and that one of the program goals is to comprehensively prepare competent individuals to initially practice oral and maxillofacial pathology. The outcomes process includes steps to: (a) develop clear, measurable goals and objectives consistent with the program's purpose/mission; (b) develop procedures for evaluating the extent to which the goals and objectives are met; (c) collect and maintain data in an ongoing and systematic manner; (d) analyze the data collected and share the results with appropriate audiences; (e) identify and implement corrective actions to strengthen the program; and (f) review the assessment plan, revise as appropriate, and continue the cyclical process.*

The financial resources **must** be sufficient to support the program's stated goals and objectives.

***Intent:** The institution should have the financial resources required to develop and sustain the program on a continuing basis. The program should have the ability to employ an adequate number of full-time faculty, purchase and maintain equipment, procure supplies, reference material and teaching aids as reflected in annual budget appropriations. Financial allocations should ensure that the program will be in a competitive position to recruit and retain qualified faculty. Annual appropriations should provide for innovations and changes necessary to reflect current concepts of education in the advanced dental education discipline. The Commission will assess the adequacy of financial support on the basis of current appropriations and the stability of sources of funding for the program.*

The sponsoring institution **must** ensure that support from entities outside of the institution does not compromise the teaching, clinical and research components of the program.

Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:

- Written agreement(s)
- Contract(s)/Agreement(s) between the institution/program and sponsor(s) related to facilities, funding, and faculty financial support

Hospitals that sponsor advanced dental education programs **must** be accredited by an accreditation organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Educational institutions that sponsor advanced dental education programs **must** be accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. Health care organizations that sponsor advanced dental education programs **must** be accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or accredited by an accreditation organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or receive regular on-site inspections through the Health Resources and Services Administration Operational Site Visit (HRSA-OSV) process. The bylaws, rules and regulations of hospitals or health care organizations that sponsor or provide a substantial portion of advanced dental education programs **must** assure that dentists are eligible for medical staff membership and privileges including the right to vote, hold office, serve on medical staff committees and admit, manage and discharge patients.

United States military programs not sponsored or co-sponsored by military medical treatment facilities, United States-based educational institutions, hospitals or health care organizations accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or accredited by an accreditation organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) **must** demonstrate successful achievement of Service-specific organizational inspection criteria.

**Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:**

- Accreditation certificate or current official listing of accredited institutions from a United States Department of Education recognized accreditation organization.
- Evidence of successful achievement of Service-specific organizational inspection criteria.
- Accreditation certificate or current official listing of accredited institution from an accreditation organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). For example: Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC); Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. (ACHC); American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF); American Osteopathic Association Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (AOA/HFAP); Center for Improvement in Healthcare Quality (CIHQ); Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP); DNV GL-Healthcare (DNV GL); National Dialysis Accreditation Commission (NDAC); The Compliance Team (TCT); The Joint Commission (JC).
- Evidence of successful achievement of regular on-site inspections through the Health Resources and Services Administration Operational Site Visit (HRSA-OSV) process.

Advanced dental education programs conferring a certificate **must** have state or federal approval to operate and, as applicable, to confer a certificate. Advanced dental education programs conferring a degree **must** have institutional accreditation and authority to confer a degree.

***Intent:*** The educational program demonstrates either: a) documentation of receipt of federal aid as evidence to operate, or b) documentation of a state business license as evidence to operate. Additionally, as required by the state, the program demonstrates authority through an appropriate state agency when issuing a certificate of completion. If conferring a degree, the program demonstrates authorization from its institutional accrediting agency.

**Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:**

- State license or federal authority documenting the institution's approval to operate and confer a credential
- Institutional accreditation indicating approval to confer a degree

The authority and final responsibility for curriculum development and approval, student/resident selection, faculty selection and administrative matters **must** rest within the sponsoring institution.

The institution/program **must** have a formal system of quality assurance for programs that provide patient care.

The position of the program in the administrative structure **must** be consistent with that of other parallel programs within the institution and the program director **must** have the authority, responsibility, and privileges necessary to manage the program.

**1-1 Those portions of advanced oral and maxillofacial pathology training in anatomic pathology and laboratory medicine must be in programs approved and accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).**

**1-2 A program in oral and maxillofacial pathology must include organized teaching experience with formal evaluation. The time devoted to this activity must be carefully evaluated and not disproportionate in relation to the overall program.**

***Intent:** Because the practice of oral and maxillofacial pathology often involves formal teaching, programs should provide students/residents with teaching experience.*

**USE OF SITES WHERE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY OCCURS**

The primary sponsor of the educational program **must** accept full responsibility for the quality of education provided in all sites where educational activity occurs.

**1-3 All arrangements with sites not owned by the sponsoring institution where educational activity occurs must be formalized by means of current written agreements that clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved. The following items must be covered in such inter-institutional agreements:**

- a. Designation of a single program director;
- b. The teaching staff;
- c. The educational objectives of the program;
- d. The period of assignment of students/residents; and
- e. Each institution's financial commitment.

***Intent:** The items that are covered in inter-institutional agreements do not have to be contained in a single document. They may be included in multiple agreements, both formal and informal (e.g., addenda and letters of mutual understanding).*

- 1-4 For each site where educational activity occurs, there must be an on-site clinical supervisor who is qualified by education and/or clinical experience in the curriculum areas for which he/she is responsible.**

If the program utilizes educational activity sites for clinical experiences or didactic instruction, please review the Commission's Policy on Reporting and Approval of Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs in the Evaluation and Operational Policies and Procedures manual (EOPP).

## STANDARD 2 - PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND TEACHING STAFF

The program **must** be administered by one director who is board certified in the respective advanced dental education discipline of the program. (All program directors appointed after January 1, 1997, who have not previously served as program directors, must be board certified.)

***Intent:** The director of an advanced dental education program is to be certified by a nationally recognized certifying board in the advanced dental education discipline. Board certification is to be active. The board certification requirement of Standard 2 is also applicable to an interim/acting program director. A program with a director who is not board certified but who has previous experience as an interim/acting program director in a Commission-accredited program prior to 1997 is not considered in compliance with Standard 2.*

Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:

For board certified directors: Copy of board certification certificate; letter from board attesting to current/active board certification

For non-board certified directors who served prior to January 1, 1997: Current CV identifying previous directorship in a Commission on Dental Accreditation- or Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada-accredited advanced dental education program in the respective discipline; letter from the previous employing institution verifying service.

The program director **must** be appointed to the sponsoring institution and have sufficient authority and time to achieve the educational goals of the program and assess the program's effectiveness in meeting its goals.

Documentation of all program activities **must** be ensured by the program director and available for review.

**2-1** The program **must** be directed by a single individual who has a full-time appointment to the sponsoring institution.

**2-1.1** The program director and faculty of an advanced oral and maxillofacial pathology program **must** demonstrate a commitment to teaching and supervision that is uncompromised by additional responsibilities.

**2-2** The program **must** show evidence of an ongoing faculty development process.

***Intent:** Ongoing faculty development is a requirement to improve teaching and learning, to foster curricular change, to enhance retention and job satisfaction of faculty, and to maintain the vitality of academic dentistry as the wellspring of a learned profession.*

**Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:**

Participation in development activities related to teaching, learning, and assessment

Attendance at regional and national meetings that address contemporary issues in education and patient care

Mentored experiences for new faculty

Scholarly productivity

Presentations at regional and national meetings

Examples of curriculum innovation

Maintenance of existing and development of new and/or emerging clinical skills

Documented understanding of relevant aspects of teaching methodology

Curriculum design and development

Curriculum evaluation

Student/Resident assessment

Cultural Competency

Ability to work with students/residents of varying ages and backgrounds

Use of technology in didactic and clinical components of the curriculum

Evidence of participation in continuing education activities

- 2-3 All faculty, including those at major and minor educational activity sites, **must** be calibrated to ensure consistency in training and evaluation of students/residents that supports the goals and objectives of the program

### STANDARD 3 - FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Institutional facilities and resources **must** be adequate to provide the educational experiences and opportunities required to fulfill the needs of the educational program as specified in these Standards. Equipment and supplies for use in managing medical emergencies **must** be readily accessible and functional.

***Intent:** The facilities and resources (e.g.; support/secretarial staff, allied personnel and/or technical staff) should permit the attainment of program goals and objectives. To ensure health and safety for patients, students/residents, faculty and staff, the physical facilities and equipment should effectively accommodate the clinic and/or laboratory schedule.*

The program **must** document its compliance with the institution's policy and applicable regulations of local, state and federal agencies, including but not limited to radiation hygiene and protection, ionizing radiation, hazardous materials, and bloodborne and infectious diseases. Policies **must** be provided to all students/residents, faculty and appropriate support staff and continuously monitored for compliance. Additionally, policies on bloodborne and infectious diseases **must** be made available to applicants for admission and patients.

***Intent:** The program may document compliance by including the applicable program policies. The program demonstrates how the policies are provided to the students/residents, faculty and appropriate support staff and who is responsible for monitoring compliance. Applicable policy states how it is made available to applicants for admission and patients should a request to review the policy be made.*

Students/Residents, faculty and appropriate support staff **must** be encouraged to be immunized against and/or tested for infectious diseases, such as mumps, measles, rubella and hepatitis B, prior to contact with patients and/or infectious objects or materials, in an effort to minimize the risk to patients and dental personnel.

***Intent:** The program should have written policy that encourages (e.g., delineates the advantages of) immunization of students/residents, faculty and appropriate support staff.*

All students/residents, faculty and support staff involved in the direct provision of patient care **must** be continuously recognized/certified in basic life support procedures, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

***Intent:** Continuously recognized/certified in basic life support procedures means the appropriate individuals are currently recognized/certified.*

The use of private office facilities as a means of providing clinical experiences in advanced dental education is only approved when the discipline has included language that defines the use of such facilities in its discipline-specific standards.

***Intent:** Required clinical experiences do not occur in private office facilities. Practice management and elective experiences may be undertaken in private office facilities.*

- 3-1** An advanced oral and maxillofacial pathology training program **must** provide access for the student/resident to an active and well-organized radiographic imaging facility.
- 3-2** An advanced oral and maxillofacial pathology training program **must** provide access to a licensed, active and well-organized diagnostic biopsy service.
- 3-2.1** The director of the diagnostic biopsy service **must** be board certified and registered by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.
- 3-2.2** The oral and maxillofacial pathology training program **must** maintain adequate files, reports and an index system of diagnosed materials so that cases may be retrieved and studied.
- 3-3** The oral and maxillofacial pathology biopsy service **must** have sufficient space and equipment, adequate desk space, a microscope and some degree of privacy for the student/resident.
- 3-4** There **must** be sufficient technical and support personnel so that the service will function efficiently.
- 3-5** An advanced oral and maxillofacial pathology training program **must** have an active clinical facility. The student/resident **must** have access to the facility with adequate supervision for the comprehensive examination and management of patients.
- Intent:** The facility should not be a traditional screening clinic for predoctoral dental patients, but a specialized clinic which focuses on the evaluation and management of patients with diseases affecting the oral and maxillofacial region.*
- 3-6** An advanced oral and maxillofacial pathology training program **must** provide access to an active and well-organized research facility.
- Intent:** The student/resident should have exposure to clinical research methodology as well as specific laboratory research techniques.*
- 3-7** Although the student/resident should not function as a technician, the student/resident **must** become familiar with the routine and special procedures performed in the oral and maxillofacial pathology laboratory.

## STANDARD 4 – CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DURATION

The advanced dental education program **must** be designed to provide special knowledge and skills beyond the D.D.S. or D.M.D. training and be oriented to the accepted standards of the discipline's practice as set forth in specific standards contained in this document.

***Intent:** The intent is to ensure that the didactic rigor and extent of clinical experience exceeds pre-doctoral, entry level dental training or continuing education requirements and the material and experience satisfies standards for the discipline.*

Advanced dental education programs **must** include instruction or learning experiences in evidence-based practice. Evidence-based dentistry is an approach to oral health care that requires the judicious integration of systematic assessments of clinically relevant scientific evidence, relating to the patient's oral and medical condition and history, with the dentist's clinical expertise and the patient's treatment needs and preferences.

Examples of Evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:

- Formal instruction (a module/lecture materials or course syllabi) in evidence-based practice
- Didactic Program course syllabi, course content outlines, or lecture materials that integrate aspects of evidence-based practice
- Literature review seminar(s)
- Multidisciplinary Grand Rounds to illustrate evidence-based practice
- Projects/portfolios that include critical reviews of the literature using evidence-based practice principles (or "searching publication databases and appraisal of the evidence")
- Assignments that include publication database searches and literature appraisal for best evidence to answer patient-focused clinical questions.

The level of discipline-specific instruction in certificate and degree-granting programs **must** be comparable.

***Intent:** The intent is to ensure that the students/residents of these programs receive the same educational requirements as set forth in these Standards.*

Documentation of all program activities **must** be ensured by the program director and available for review.

If an institution and/or program enrolls part-time students/residents, the institution/program **must** have guidelines regarding enrollment of part-time students/residents. Part-time students/residents **must** start and complete the program within a single institution, except when the program is discontinued. The director of an accredited program who enrolls students/residents on a part-time basis **must** ensure that: (1) the educational experiences, including the clinical experiences and responsibilities, are the same as required by full-time students/residents; and (2) there are an equivalent number of months spent in the program.

#### **4-1 The program must provide training in application to the medical sciences.**

Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:

- Formal courses taken for University credit; and
- Courses, seminars, conferences, reading assignments, hospital rounds and assignment in the laboratories which are carefully organized; the objectives and content should be carefully planned or reviewed by the program director to avoid deficiencies and unnecessary repetition.

##### **4-1.1 Instruction must provide comprehensive understanding of pathology as well as understanding and application of the biomedical and clinical sciences, as these relate to patient care.**

*Intent: Instruction in other areas such as research and teaching methodologies, experimental design, quality assurance, and laboratory information systems is also important.*

##### **4-1.2 A program must not contain a preponderance of didactic course work.**

*Intent: The amount of time devoted to didactic course work should be carefully evaluated in relation to the total program.*

#### **4-2 SURGICAL ORAL PATHOLOGY**

##### **4-2.1 Students/Residents must study and assume initial major responsibility for reports and diagnosis on an adequate volume of surgical specimens of sufficient variety to obtain competence in surgical oral and maxillofacial pathology.**

*Intent: Surgical oral and maxillofacial pathology comprises an essential and important aspect of an advanced dental education program in oral and maxillofacial pathology. Competence in this area can be accomplished in only an active, professional, licensed and quality-oriented laboratory service that processes a volume of human material that assures student/resident exposure to the spectrum of diseases encountered in the oral regions.*

##### **4-2.2 Although quality of education is stressed, the laboratory must receive at least 2000 oral and maxillofacial pathology accessions of adequate variety annually.**

##### **4-2.3 Students/residents must have adequate exposure to sufficient seminar materials, special collections, exchange slides and file materials to gain experience with diagnosis of unusual and difficult lesions.**

**4-2.4 Surgical oral and maxillofacial pathology case conferences must be held at least weekly, but daily conferences are recommended.**

**4-2.5** Students/residents **must** become familiar with administrative and licensing procedures associated with directorship of laboratories.

### **4-3 ORAL CYTOLOGY**

**4-3.1 Training in diagnostic oral cytopathology must be provided to the students/residents**

***Intent:** The training should be provided by either an oral and maxillofacial pathologist, pathologist, or licensed cytotechnologist experienced in oral cytopathology and related diagnostic methods and procedures. This training can be a component of the required training in anatomic pathology and be accomplished during the minimum 6-months -anatomic pathology rotation.*

### **4-4 EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS**

**4-4.1 The program must provide adequate training in the clinical manifestations of oral and systemic diseases.**

***Intent:** Experience in the clinical manifestations of oral and systemic diseases is an important facet of the training and practice of oral and maxillofacial pathology. This should be obtained by active participation in appropriate clinics. The program should provide for a portion of the clinical training in a hospital or medical center.*

**4-4.2 Training must include attendance at tumor boards, clinical assessment of patients, selection of appropriate laboratory studies and their interpretation, evaluation of medical and drug status, administration of systemic and local medications, and participation in multi-disciplinary treatment planning.**

***Intent:** Students/Residents should have the opportunity to manage patients with interesting and unusual diseases. Students/residents should be urged to maintain a log, either photographic and/or written, for cases in which they have had some responsibility. Program directors should periodically evaluate the extent of the students'/residents' clinical experience. Regular conferences and seminars should be scheduled to broaden clinical experience and fill in deficiencies with past clinical teaching cases. A wide variety of clinical situations should also be discussed in regularly scheduled literature reviews or journal clubs.*

**4-4.3 Oral and maxillofacial pathology students/residents must not spend a significant portion of their clinical training in the routine activities of a screening/emergency clinic.**

## 4-5 ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

- 4-5.1 An acceptable program must provide for a substantial period, of at least six (6) months duration, of residency-level training in anatomic pathology as part of an active, hospital-based pathology department or other laboratory facility in a program accredited and approved by the ACGME.**

*Intent:* The practice of oral and maxillofacial pathology calls for the association, cooperation and frequent consultation with medical pathologists. A high level of competence in the broad scope of pathology is of major importance. Competency in utilization of diagnostic techniques shared by oral and maxillofacial pathology and pathology is the broad objective of this training.

- 4-5.2 Students/Residents must obtain experience with autopsy pathology on at least ten (10) cases, which may be satisfied by review of archival autopsy material.**

- 4-5.3 Trainees must actively participate in the gross and microscopic examination of surgical and necropsy specimens and must attend and participate in other conferences and activities of the pathology department or laboratory. Experience in both surgical pathology and dermatopathology must be provided.**

*Intent:* When assigned to pathology departments, students/residents should perform as pathology students/residents, if legally permissible.

## 4-6 LABORATORY MEDICINE

- 4-6.1 A program must provide for training in a laboratory medicine program accredited by the ACGME.**

*Intent:* This training can be a component of the required minimum six (6) months hospital rotation. Experiences in clinical chemistry, microbiology, immunology, hematology, and molecular pathology are recommended.

## 4-7 RADIOLOGY

- 4-7.1 A program must provide training in interpretation of diagnostic imaging, including plain film, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT). Students/Residents must have the opportunity to interpret an adequate volume of material to obtain competence in identifying the imaged features of disease.**

*Intent:* Access to archival images to enhance knowledge and experience is recommended.

#### **4-8 ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM**

- 4-8.1 Graduates must have an understanding of the principles of ethical reasoning, ethical decision making and professional responsibility as they pertain to the academic environment, research, patient care, and practice management.**

***Intent:** Graduates should know how to draw on a range of resources such as professional codes, regulatory law, and ethical theories to guide judgment and action for issues that are complex, novel, ethically arguable, divisive, or of public concern.*

#### **4-9 PROGRAM DURATION**

- 4-9.1 An advanced oral and maxillofacial pathology program must be a minimum of 36 months. Students/Residents enrolled on a part-time basis must be continuously enrolled and must complete the total curriculum in a period of time not to exceed 72 months.**

## STANDARD 5 – ADVANCED DENTAL EDUCATION STUDENTS/RESIDENTS

### ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

Eligible applicants to advanced dental education programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation **must** be graduates from:

- a. Predoctoral dental programs in the U.S. accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation; or
- b. Predoctoral dental programs in Canada accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada; or
- c. International dental schools that provide equivalent educational background and standing as determined by the program.

Specific written criteria, policies and procedures **must** be followed when admitting students/residents.

**Intent:** *Written non-discriminatory policies are to be followed in selecting students/residents. These policies should make clear the methods and criteria used in recruiting and selecting students/residents and how applicants are informed of their status throughout the selection process.*

Admission of students/residents with advanced standing **must** be based on the same standards of achievement required by students/residents regularly enrolled in the program. Students/Residents with advanced standing **must** receive an appropriate curriculum that results in the same standards of competence required by students/residents regularly enrolled in the program.

Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:

- Policies and procedures on advanced standing
- Results of appropriate qualifying examinations
- Course equivalency or other measures to demonstrate equal scope and level of knowledge

**Intent:** *Advanced standing refers to applicants that may be considered for admission to a training program whose curriculum has been modified after taking into account the applicant's past experience. Examples include transfer from a similar program at another institution, completion of training at a non-CODA accredited program, or documented practice experience in the given discipline. Acceptance of advanced standing students/residents will not result in an increase of the program's approved number of enrollees. Applicants for advanced standing are expected to fulfill all of the admission requirements mandated for students/residents in the conventional program and be held to the same academic standards. Advanced standing students/residents, to be certified for completion, are expected to demonstrate the same standards of competence as those in the conventional program.*

## EVALUATION

A system of ongoing evaluation and advancement **must** ensure that, through the director and faculty, each program:

- a. Periodically, but at least semiannually, assesses the progress toward (formative assessment) and achievement of (summative assessment) the competencies for the discipline using formal evaluation methods;
- b. Provides to students/residents an assessment of their performance, at least semiannually;
- c. Advances students/residents to positions of higher responsibility only on the basis of an evaluation of their readiness for advancement; and
- d. Maintains a personal record of evaluation for each student/resident which is accessible to the student/resident and available for review during site visits.

**Intent:** (a) *The evaluation of competence is an ongoing process that requires a variety of assessments that can measure the acquisition of knowledge, skills and values necessary for discipline-specific level practice. It is expected that programs develop and periodically review evaluation methods that include both formative and summative assessments.*

(b) *Student/Resident evaluations should be recorded and available in written form.*

(c) *Deficiencies should be identified in order to institute corrective measures.*

(d) *Student/Resident evaluation is documented in writing and is shared with the student/resident.*

## DUE PROCESS

There **must** be specific written due process policies and procedures for adjudication of academic and disciplinary complaints, which parallel those established by the sponsoring institution.

## RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

At the time of enrollment, the advanced dental education students/resident **must** be apprised in writing of the educational experience to be provided, including the nature of assignments to other departments or institutions and teaching commitments. Additionally, all advanced dental education students/residents **must** be provided with written information which affirms their obligations and responsibilities to the institution, the program and program faculty.

**Intent:** *Adjudication procedures should include institutional policy which provides due process for all individuals who may potentially be involved when actions are contemplated or initiated which could result in disciplinary actions, including dismissal of a student/resident (for academic or disciplinary reasons). In addition to information on the program, students/residents should also be provided with written information which affirms their obligations and responsibilities to the institution, the program, and the faculty. The program information provided to the students/residents should include, but not necessarily be limited to, information about tuition, stipend or other compensation; vacation and sick leave; practice privileges and other activity outside the educational program; professional liability coverage; and due process policy and current accreditation status of the program.*

## STANDARD 6 - RESEARCH

Advanced dental education students/residents **must** engage in scholarly activity.

**6-1 Students/Residents must engage in an investigative project utilizing available laboratory or clinical facilities.**

***Intent:** Advanced dental education students/residents should have the opportunity to assume the role of primary investigator in a clinical or laboratory research activity. They should develop a research protocol, review necessary literature, develop the experimental methodology, organize and interpret the results.*