

## **REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON ENDODONTICS EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION**

Committee Chair: Dr. Garry Myers. Committee Members: Dr. Carolyn Brown, Dr. Linda Casser, Dr. Gerald Glickman, Dr. Timothy Kirkpatrick, and Dr. Josanne O'Dell. Guests (Open Session Only, Virtual): Dr. Sheila Brear, chief learning officer, American Dental Education Association, and Ms. Trina Andresen Coe, deputy executive director, American Association of Endodontists (AAE) attended the policy portion of the meeting. Commission Staff: Ms. Yesenia Ruiz, manager, Advanced Dental Education, and Ms. Peggy Soeldner, manager, Advanced Dental Education, , Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The meeting of the Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) was held on January 8, 2024, via a virtual meeting.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ENDODONTICS EDUCATION**

**Report on Endodontics Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Section (p. 700)**: The Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) noted that the Annual Survey Curriculum Section is reviewed during the Winter Review Committee meeting in the year the survey will be distributed, which will next occur in August/September 2024.

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the ENDO RC reviewed each question on the Annual Survey Curriculum Section (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 700**) and determined that the questions on the Curriculum Section for endodontics programs were appropriate in relation to the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics. Therefore, the ENDO RC recommended that the Curriculum Section for endodontics programs be retained with no changes.

**Recommendation**: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Endodontics Annual Survey Curriculum Section for endodontics programs (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 700**) be retained with no changes for use in Fall 2024.

**Consideration of Proposed Revision to Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics Related to Program Director Full-Time Status (p. 701)**: On September 25, 2023, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a request from Dr. Brian Bergeron, professor and program director of the endodontics program at the Dental College of Georgia, Augusta University, to consider a proposed revision to Standard 2-1 of the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics. The request is found in **Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 701**.

Dr. Bergeron believes that Standard 2-1 of the Endodontics Standards should be revised to eliminate the “full-time” designation and instead use a designated time commitment for program directors to dedicate to advanced dental education programs in endodontics.

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Committee noted the definition of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) status varies based on the institution, and this creates challenges when hiring a new program director. The ENDO RC believed that eliminating the full-time requirement for program director but maintaining the time commitment requirement will expand the candidate pool of program directors for endodontics programs. Following discussion, the ENDO RC believed that the proposed revision to Standard 2-1 of the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics (**Appendix 1**) should be circulated to the communities of interest for review and comment for a period of six (6) months, with a Hearing in conjunction with the March 2024 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session, with comments reviewed at the Commission's Summer 2024 meetings.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the proposed revision to Standard 2-1 of the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics (**Appendix 1**) be circulated to the communities of interest for review and comment for a period of six (6) months, with a Hearing in conjunction with the March 2024 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session, with comments reviewed at the Commission's Summer 2024 meetings.

**Consideration of Proposed Revisions to Improve Diversity in Dental and Dental Related Education Programs (p. 702):** On December 1, 2023, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (TNCDHE). The request is found in **Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 702**. In its letter, TNCDHE provides short-term and long-term suggestions to CODA to improve diversity in all academic dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education programs.

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) reviewed the letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity. The Committee discussed that the definition of diversity varies based on the institution. Further, some states have limitations on diversity and have been forced to eliminate language in policies. The Committee noted that the short-term suggestions involve CODA, but the long-term suggestions are outside the Commission's purview. Additionally, the Committee noted no diversity statement or requirements are part of the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics.

Following discussion, the ENDO RC concluded that the Commission should review the letter sent by TNCDHE through an Ad Hoc Committee composed of all advanced dental education Commissioners to consider possible revisions and, if revised to ensure consistency in any changes, to advanced dental education Standards, since this topic impacts all the advanced dental education programs.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee composed of all advanced dental education Commissioners to consider possible revisions and, if revised to ensure consistency in any

changes, to advanced dental education Standards related to the letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATING TO MORE THAN  
ONE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Matters related to more than one review committee are included in a separate report.

**CONSIDERATION OF SITE VISITOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE  
COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION IN THE AREA OF ENDODONTICS  
EDUCATION**

The Review Committee on Endodontics Education (ENDO RC) considered site visitor appointments for 2024-2025. The Committee's recommendations on the appointments of individuals are included in a separate report.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS**

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Garry Myers  
Chair, Review Committee on Endodontics Education

# Commission on Dental Accreditation

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Proposed Revisions to Standard 2-1

Additions are Underlined  
~~Strikethroughs~~ indicate Deletions

## Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics

1                   **STANDARD 2 - PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND TEACHING STAFF**  
2

3 The program **must** be administered by one director who is board certified in the respective  
4 advanced dental education discipline of the program. (All program directors appointed after  
5 January 1, 1997, who have not previously served as program directors, **must** be board certified.)  
6

7 *Intent: The director of an advanced dental education program is to be certified by a nationally*  
8 *accepted certifying board in the advanced dental education discipline. Board certification is to*  
9 *be active. The board certification requirement of Standard 2 is also applicable to an*  
10 *interim/acting program director. A program with a director who is not board certified but who*  
11 *has previous experience as an interim/acting program director in a Commission-accredited*  
12 *program prior to 1997 is not considered in compliance with Standard 2.*  
13

14 Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:  
15

- 16 • For board certified directors: Copy of board certification certificate; letter from board  
17 attesting to current/active board certification  
18
- 19 • (For non-board certified directors who served prior to January 1, 1997: Current CV  
20 identifying previous directorship in a Commission on Dental Accreditation- or Commission  
21 on Dental Accreditation of Canada-accredited advanced dental education program in the  
22 respective discipline; letter from the previous employing institution verifying service)  
23

24 **The program director must be appointed to the sponsoring institution and have sufficient**  
25 **authority and time to achieve the educational goals of the program and assess the**  
26 **program’s effectiveness in meeting its goals.**  
27

28 **Documentation of all program activities must be ensured by the program director and**  
29 **available for review.**  
30

31           **2-1     The sponsoring institution must appoint a program director ~~who: a) is a full-~~**  
32           **~~time faculty member and b)~~ whose time commitment is no less than twenty-**  
33           **four hours per week to the advanced dental education program in**  
34           **endodontics.**  
35

36           *Intent: To ensure that the program director has sufficient time to participate in all*  
37           *aspects of the program including direct student/resident contact in didactic and clinical*  
38           *activities.*  
39