

POLICY STATEMENT ON ACCREDITATION OF OFF-CAMPUS SITES

The Commission on Dental Accreditation must be informed when a program accredited by the Commission plans to initiate an off-campus site (distance site and/or additional training site not located on the main campus). The Commission must be informed in writing site at least thirty (30) days prior to a regularly scheduled semi-annual Review Committee meeting. A program must receive Commission on Dental Accreditation approval of the off-campus site prior to initiating use of the site.

Generally, only programs without reporting requirements will be approved to initiate educational experiences at off-campus sites. The Commission must ensure that the necessary education as defined by the standards is available, and appropriate resources (adequate faculty and staff, availability of patient experiences, and distance learning provisions) are provided to all students/residents enrolled in an accredited program. When the Commission has received notification that an institution plans to offer its accredited program at an off-campus site, the Commission will conduct a special focused site visit to each off-campus location where a significant portion of each student's/resident's educational experience is provided, based on the specifics of the program, the accreditation standards, and Commission policies and procedures, or if other cause exists for such a visit as determined by the Commission. After the initial visit, each site will continue to be visited during the regularly scheduled site visit to the program.

The Commission recognizes that dental assisting and dental laboratory technology programs utilize numerous extramural dental offices and laboratories to provide students with clinical/laboratory practice experience. In this instance, the Commission will randomly select and visit several facilities during the site visit to a program.

Expansion of an existing dental hygiene program will only be considered after the program has demonstrated success by graduating the first class, measured outcomes of the academic program, and received approval without reporting requirements.

All programs accredited by the Commission pay an annual fee. Additional fees will be based on actual accreditation costs incurred during the visit to on and off-campus locations. The Commission office should be contacted for current information on fees.

Revised: 2/12, 8/10, 7/09, 7/07; Reaffirmed: 2/02, 1/06; Adopted: 07/98