



# A New Dentist's Guide to ADA Membership

Your starting point to life as a new dentist.

**ADA** American Dental Association®

America's leading advocate for oral health

# Welcome!

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## **Welcome. We are in this together.**

You've chosen a profession that is well-respected, provides a good lifestyle and makes the world a better, healthier place. And you've chosen a profession that has a tremendously strong organization standing behind it – the American Dental Association. Founded in 1859, the ADA is the oldest and largest national dental society in the world. Since then, the ADA has grown to become the leading source of oral health related information for dentists and their patients.

The ADA is America's leading advocate for oral health! We help dentists succeed and advance the oral health of the public. We are established do-gooders and we're not going anywhere. And we need you!

## **You are the new face of dentistry and your voice is important.**

The ADA represents more than 157,000 dentist members, plus more than 18,000 dental student members. When we advocate on the issues that impact dentistry, we send the powerful message that seven out of 10 dentists stand behind the ADA. That's why it's so important for those newest to the profession to be represented. After all, you will shape the future of this profession and the ADA.

# Organized Dentistry Works Together for You

“As I travel around the country, I sense a growing feeling of optimism and energy from our membership. There’s a new spirit in the air, one that promises great things for organized dentistry.”

Dr. William Calnon, D.D.S.  
2011-2012 ADA President



## ASDA and ADA

The ADA works closely with the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) to support students. ASDA is the voice of the dental student and the ADA Office of Student Affairs develops resources to help students succeed in school and transition to practice.

We can connect you with the people and information you need across the organization and have a wealth of resources for students, too. Have a question? Not sure where to turn? Start with us.

**ADA Office of Student Affairs**  
312.440.7470  
[studentaffairs@ada.org](mailto:studentaffairs@ada.org)  
[ADA.org/student](http://ADA.org/student)

## The ADA and the State and Local Dental Societies

While retaining their autonomy as dental associations, the ADA, the state (constituent) and local (component) organizations work together for members. This three-tiered system is known as the tripartite.

## Membership is affordable for new dentists

Turning to your association during a time of transition should be a no brainer. That's why the ADA offers the Reduced Dues Program. Dues are \$0 at the national level the year following graduation and most state and local societies also offer reduced rates. Reduced rates continue for the next three years.

## Going into a graduate training program or residency?

You can join the ADA directly for \$30, and the Reduced Dues Program goes "on hold" until you enter practice. Your state society may also offer tripartite membership for graduate students.

There is a membership option – and plenty of support – for you at every stage of your dental career. Your state and local societies are a great place to meet dentists in the area. Plus, you'll have access to numerous clinical, practice and advocacy resources, affordable CE and more. It's never too early to get involved or at the local level.  
[ADA.org/join](http://ADA.org/join)  
[ADA.org/societydirectories](http://ADA.org/societydirectories)

## 211 East Chicago Avenue has been our home for a long time. What about you?

Stay in touch. Drop us a line at [studentaffairs@ada.org](mailto:studentaffairs@ada.org) or update your contact information online.

By the way, we love visitors. Next time you're in the neighborhood, stop on by for a building tour.

# ADA — We Live Dentistry

## **We love this profession and believe in protecting it.**

That's what advocacy is all about. The ADA is the voice of the dentist in Washington D.C. and on Capitol Hill. The ADA also actively supports state dental society efforts to influence legislative policies. For more information, visit [ADA.org/advocacy](http://ADA.org/advocacy) or contact the ADA at 800.621.8099 or the Washington D.C. Office at 202.898.2400.

**“The ADA exists to help solve your professional problems – as members of the same profession, we care deeply about each other’s potential for success throughout our careers.”**

Kathleen O’Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.  
Executive Director, ADA



## We care about the oral health of this country and around the globe.

We are committed to improving the nation's oral health through public education and legislative advocacy.

Through the Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations (CAPIR), the ADA studies the most pressing oral health issues, such as community water fluoridation, oral health literacy, access to care and more. Reach CAPIR at [800.621.8099](tel:800.621.8099) ext. 2673 or [mooreb@ada.org](mailto:mooreb@ada.org).

[MouthHealthy.org](http://MouthHealthy.org) provides the public with timely and credible oral health information on prevention, care and treatment in a highly engaging user experience. The public can find:

- Oral health information by life stages from pregnancy through seniors
- A-Z topics with videos
- ADA Seal of Acceptance products
- Tips and activities to make oral health care fun for kids
- ADA® Find-a-Dentist™ to help them find an ADA member dentist

For outreach beyond the U.S., check out [internationalvolunteer.ada.org](http://internationalvolunteer.ada.org).

## Dentists are among the most respected professionals. We can help keep it that way.

Dentists and dental students are often faced with tough decisions that have ethical ramifications. The ADA wants to help maintain the integrity of the profession while also offering guidance to dentists.

### How?

All members of the American Dental Association voluntarily agree to abide by the *ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct* (ADA

Code) as a condition of membership in the ADA. By requiring in its Bylaws that the professional conduct of its members be governed by the *ADA Code*, the ADA promotes adherence to high ethical standards by all members of the dental profession.

Through the activities of the *ADA Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs* (CEBJA) – the agency dedicated to enhancing the ethical conscience of dentists – a forum is provided for self-regulation, the public and profession are kept informed of current and emerging ethical issues and members are reminded of their obligation to adhere to the standards of conduct set forth in the ADA Code.

*ASDA White Paper on Ethics & Professionalism in Dental Education* Check out this impressive white paper at [ASDAnet.org](http://ASDAnet.org).

## ADA – We live dentistry.

### Learn more:

- Visit [ADA.org/advocacy](http://ADA.org/advocacy)
- Visit [ASDAnet.org](http://ASDAnet.org) (go to The Issues tab)
- Sign up for e-publications, Advocacy Update and the State Legislative Report
- Review the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct at [ADA.org/ethicsconduct](http://ADA.org/ethicsconduct)

### Take action:

- Join and stay a member.
- Participate in state lobby day. Contact your state dental society [ADA.org/societymembers](http://ADA.org/societymembers)
- Volunteer for Give Kids A Smile® or other charity event.
- Ask about leadership opportunities at your state or local society, such as joining a committee.

# Membership Benefits

## Make the most of your membership in the ADA and smoothly transition to practice.

Wherever you go after graduation, the ADA is with you. Resources and benefits are available to you every step of the way.

### First things first: Getting your license.

When preparing for the clinical licensure process, a good place to start is the ADA publication *Understanding Licensure: The Dental Examination Process for the New Graduate*. All fourth-year student members receive the publication or you may request a copy at [studentaffairs@ada.org](mailto:studentaffairs@ada.org). Find more information on licensure at [ADA.org/understandinglicensure](http://ADA.org/understandinglicensure). Your state dental society may also have resources to help you navigate the licensure process, including a roadmap to dental practice. Find a list of roadmaps at [ADA.org/newdentist](http://ADA.org/newdentist).





The ADA has a Council focused on licensure and related issues. The Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) is the ADA agency dedicated to promoting high quality and effective processes of dental education, dental licensure and credentialing in the United States.

General information:  
[ADA.org/student](http://ADA.org/student)  
or [ADA.org/licensure.aspx](http://ADA.org/licensure.aspx)

State Dental Boards:  
[www.dentalboards.org](http://www.dentalboards.org)

Council on Dental Education  
and Licensure:  
[education@ada.org](mailto:education@ada.org),  
800.621.8099 ext. 2717

Joint Commission on National Dental  
Examinations: 800.232.1694.

## **Choose the career path that's right for you.**

### **Giving Back and Paying Down Loans**

There are a number of federal and state programs that offer loan repayment assistance, which are often in exchange for services in a healthcare shortage area. Access the list of *Dental Student Loan Repayment Programs and Resources* on [ADA.org/student](http://ADA.org/student).

### **Advanced Education**

More and more graduates are continuing their training after dental school. If that's you, take a look at the ADA's Advanced Education information on [ADA.org/student](http://ADA.org/student). It includes a checklist and a worksheet to help you manage the application process. You can also find a list of specialty organizations and search for advanced programs on [ADA.org](http://ADA.org). ASDA's Guide to Postdoctoral Programs, found on [ASDAnet.org](http://ASDAnet.org), is also a good resource.

Did you know that Graduate Student Membership is available for just \$30 annually? Maintain continuous membership and you can start the Reduced Dues Program when you complete your program (that means \$0 dues to start and reductions for three more years!). Some state dental societies also offer tripartite membership for dentists who are in a graduate program or residency.



### Federal Dental Services

Almost 5,000 dentists work for the U.S. Public Health Service, the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs or the U.S. Military. The Federal Dental Services offers excellent benefits, such as loan repayment options, as well as the opportunity to serve your country.

The ADA has a special membership category for Federal Dentists where you can join the ADA directly and receive additional benefits. Plus you join for free as part of the Reduced Dues Program as long as you apply the year following graduation. Learn more about your benefits at [ADA.org/fds](https://www.ada.org/fds).

### Private Practice Options

Most graduates go into private practice and many choose to start as an associate or employee dentist. Many state and local dental societies offer job shadowing, mentoring or other programs where you can explore different types of practice. Find your state society contact information on [ADA.org/societydirectories](https://www.ada.org/societydirectories). Another great resource is the New Dentist Committee. Learn more on the next page.

If you are in private practice, you'll join the ADA as a tripartite member. Dues are \$0 at the national level your first year following graduation and most state and local societies also offer reduced rates.

## Finding a good fit.

Once you know what you want to do, the real fun begins! Gather as much information as you can before taking the plunge into your first job(s) as a dentist.

### Choosing a Practice Location: County Demographic Report

For the county of your choice, the ADA Survey Center report provides number of dentists by primary occupation, specialty, age and gender along with census data, income statistics, comparisons county-to-state and much more! The member price is \$75 per report – a small investment for your future. Order by calling [800.947.4746](tel:800.947.4746).

### Associateships

Search for Associateships information on [ADA.org/student](http://ADA.org/student) for an overview of how to find an Associateship, calculate compensation and prevent pitfalls. For more in-depth information, consider purchasing the ADA Catalog publication *Associateships: A Guide for Owners and Prospective Associates* (Item J045). Order at [adacatalog.org](http://adacatalog.org) or call [800.621.8099](tel:800.621.8099).

### Help and Support Finding a Job

Members can access the JADA classified ads at [ADA.org/publications](http://ADA.org/publications). Your state and local dental societies may also post listings on their websites. Access this information at [ADA.org/societydirectories](http://ADA.org/societydirectories). Another good resource is the ADA New Dentist Committee. Reach out to your representative and consider contacting the new dentist committee at your state society as well. Visit [ADA.org/newdentist](http://ADA.org/newdentist) for more information.





## Staying up-to-date.

The ADA can help you stay current on the latest dentistry news as well as scientific findings and studies.

### **JADA and ADA News**

ADA's quarterly publication, *The Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA)*, and its weekly periodical, *ADA News* – the most widely read dental periodicals nationwide – are free to members and available on [ADA.org/publications](http://ADA.org/publications).

### **ADA Professional Product Review**

Get the facts before you buy! *The Review* offers unbiased laboratory performance data and clinician feedback to help dentists make informed purchases. Members receive the publication four times per year with *JADA* and can access archives at [ADA.org/publications](http://ADA.org/publications).

### **ADA New Dentist News**

This quarterly publication assists new dentists, graduate students and dental students in their transition years and highlights various ADA resources. Members can access archives at [ADA.org/newdentistnews.aspx](http://ADA.org/newdentistnews.aspx).

### **ADA Library**

From a comprehensive package of information to a quick answer of a tricky question, count on the ADA Library. Access the online catalog or contact the library for assistance. In Chicago? Be sure to stop by the ADA Library – the archives are worth seeing (17th century antique dentures!) and members can check out books for free.

[ADA.org/library](http://ADA.org/library)  
[library@ada.org](mailto:library@ada.org)

### **E-publications**

ADA e-publications are an easy way to stay informed. We offer *Toothsome*, *Advocacy Update*, *Practice and Thrive*, *Science and Technology* and more. Sign up at [ADA.org/publications](http://ADA.org/publications).



## Make the most of your ADA membership

Get involved by ...  
learning more:

- Visit [ADA.org/membercenter](http://ADA.org/membercenter) to learn more about ADA member benefits
- Read your publications and journals regularly
- Check out [ADA.org/student](http://ADA.org/student) for student resources, including information on licensure and transitioning to practice

Get involved by ...  
taking action

- Join and stay a member. Encourage your colleagues to become members, too! [ADA.org/join](http://ADA.org/join)
- Reach out to your state society to ask about mentorship programs. If you don't have one, help get a program started in your area!
- Look for us in social media! Join the New Dentist Conference Facebook group or sign up for the ADA Twitter feed. It's an easy way to stay in touch.



# New Dentist Resources

## Life as a New Dentist

Life as a new dentist is sure to be a whole new ball game. Know that you're not alone! You have a support network – both those who've been there and those going through the same experiences as you – standing by ready to help you out.

**“As dentists, our strength is linked to improving the public’s oral health. Not maintaining the status quo, but improving. It’s a big responsibility. And it’s a responsibility that the ADA takes seriously.”**

Danielle Ruskin, D.D.S.  
2011-2012 Chair,  
ADA New Dentist Committee





## New Dentist Committee Support

### New Dentist Committee

The New Dentist Committee (NDC), a standing committee of the ADA Board of Trustees, is composed of one member from each of the 17 ADA trustee districts and serves as the voice of the new dentist (dentists out of dental school less than ten years) within the ADA. It works to monitor and anticipate new dentist needs, address issues that concern and impact new dentists, foster the next generation of leadership within organized dentistry and to advocate for the development of member benefits, services and resources to facilitate professional and practice success.

The NDC serves new dentists in many ways. It gives the ADA Board of Trustees, Councils, and Commissions insight from the new dentist perspective. Each year, NDC members serve as ex officio members to ADA Councils as well as the ADPAC Board. The Committee also sponsors the annual New Dentist Conference and the quarterly publication, ADA New Dentist News. Learn more at [ADA.org/newdentist](https://www.ada.org/newdentist).

### New Dentist Committee Network

The Network is made up of more than 200 state and local committees working for new dentists. This network provides a vital communication resource between the ADA and new dentists, as well as a forum for new dentists to discuss their issues and concerns.



## Learning and Connecting

### ADA New Dentist Conference

Meet new dentists from around the country at the ADA New Dentist Conference, which features clinical, practice management, leadership and professional issues programming. Plan now for the next New Dentist Conference, held July 18-20, 2013 in Denver, Colorado. Learn more about the Conference at [ADA.org/newdentistconf](http://ADA.org/newdentistconf).

### Local Meetings and Events

State and local dental society meetings are a great way to earn affordable CE and get to know dentists who face similar issues. Access a comprehensive meetings calendar in the News & Events tab on [ADA.org](http://ADA.org).

### ADA Annual Session

The ADA Annual Session provides cutting-edge education and information by bringing together leaders in dental practice, research, academics and industry. Attendees can choose from among 200 CE courses, gain access to the World Marketplace Exhibition featuring hundreds of exhibiting companies, and network with colleagues from across the U.S. and around the world. Plus enjoy

the New Dentist Experience, a special event just for new dentists! Plan now for the 2013 Session, October 31-November 5 in New Orleans.

### ADA E-learning

Download free podcasts, like *Smart Questions for a Successful Associate-ship* and *Attracting New Patients to Your Practice*, on [ADA.org/podcasts](http://ADA.org/podcasts). Additionally, ADA CE Online offers quality continuing education courses at an affordable rate, as well as several free courses. Learn more and register at [adaceonline.org](http://adaceonline.org).

## Resources at Your Fingertips

### ADA Catalog

The ADA Catalog is a great resource for new dentists entering practice and offers patient education materials, including several bilingual options, practice management publications and the essentials, like HIPAA guidelines. Be sure to check out the *New Practice Start-Up Kit* (K016), a package of nine catalog resources including the CDT 2011-2012: *The ADA Practical Guide to Dental Procedure Codes* (J932), *The Chairside Instructor: A Visual Guide to Case Presentation* (W013),



*Employee Office Manual and CD-ROM (J670) and much more. Catalog products are available at a significant member discount.*

### Evidence-Based Dentistry and Scientific Information

Find answers to your clinical questions with the ADA Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry™ at [ebd.ada.org](http://ebd.ada.org). The Center also has many educational programs to help you learn how to use EBD in your practice. Do you have questions about science and technology? The ADA also provides members with information on a range of scientific topics. Contact [science@ada.org](mailto:science@ada.org) or [312.440.2878](tel:312.440.2878) to take advantage of personalized services for members.

### Practice Help on ADA.org

[ADA.org](http://ADA.org) features a directory of Practice Management Consultants as well as Practice Appraisers and Brokers, information on Electronic Health Records, tips on Going Green and more. When it's time to buy, check out the Dental Buying Guide on [ADA.org](http://ADA.org), a directory of the suppliers and services you'll need. Visit [ADA.org/productguide](http://ADA.org/productguide).

### Travel Benefits

As a member, you get special travel benefits, including discounts on Chicago hotel rates, air travel and car rentals. Visit [ADA.org/travel](http://ADA.org/travel) for more information.

## Safeguard your future with ADA group insurance

Dental student members can get \$50,000 of group term life and \$2,000 per month of disability insurance at no cost during school – guaranteed issue (if you're under 40)! Premiums are fully subsidized by the ADA Member Insurance Plans through graduation or residency; coverage continues after dental school and can be renewed throughout your career as a practicing dentist at competitive rates! Additional coverage is available to you once you begin practice; your access to quality group insurance underwritten by Great-West Life and Annuity Insurance Company is a valuable benefit of ADA membership!

To enroll go to [insurance.ada.org](http://insurance.ada.org) or call [888.463.4545](tel:888.463.4545) for more information.



### Life Insurance

Coverage provides debt protection, future income and other sources of cash in the event of untimely death. The ADA program offers term life insurance with coverage for you, your spouse/domestic partner, and/or children.

### Disability Insurance

Coverage provides a source of personal income in the event you suffer a disabling injury or illness; benefits are payable monthly based on your ability to work or study full-time. The ADA policies include “own occupation” definition of disability, student loan repayment, partial disability benefits, and more.

## Health and Well Being

### Ergonomics and Stress Management

A JADA study found that more than 70 percent of dental students reported neck, shoulder and lower back pain by their third year of dental school. Protect yourself with healthy ergonomic practices. Stress is part of dentistry – learn to manage common stressors, like fear of failure, time management, balancing relationships and more. Access ergonomic and stress management resources on [ADA.org/student](https://ada.org/student).

### ADA Health and Well Being Program

Visit [ADA.org/wellbeing](https://ada.org/wellbeing) for information on how to stay physically and mentally healthy. This section includes resources for stress management, work balance and ergonomic health as well as information on disabled dentists, infected providers, substance use and more. All inquiries are handled with discretion.

## Life as a New Dentist

### Get involved ... by learning more

- Visit [ADA.org/newdentist](https://ada.org/newdentist) or [ADA.org/newdentistconf](https://ada.org/newdentistconf)
- Check out [dentalpracticehub.ada.org](https://dentalpracticehub.ada.org) for tips and tools on practicing successfully
- Visit [ADA.org/wellbeing](https://ada.org/wellbeing)
- Explore ADA Catalog resources for your transition to practice

### Get involved ... by taking action

- Join and stay a member of ADA
- Show your ADA pride: display your ADA member logo on your practice website
- Update Find-a-Dentist profile on [MouthHealthy.org](https://MouthHealthy.org)
- Volunteer to be part of your local new dentist committee
- Sign up for the ADA Insurance Plan that fits your lifestyle



**Stay in touch  
with the ADA  
and let us know  
how we can  
help you!**

Or complete the survey at  
[ADA.org/dentalstudentsurveys](https://ada.org/dentalstudentsurveys)

FILL OUT ADA SURVEY  
ON YOUR SMARTPHONE



Download a QR reader app  
and take a picture of this code!

## **We're here for you throughout your career!**

### **ADA Office of Student Affairs**

studentaffairs@ada.org  
ADA.org/student  
312.440.7470

### **ADA New Dentist Committee**

newdentist@ada.org  
ADA.org/newdentist  
312.440.2779

### **American Dental Association**

211 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611  
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312.440.2500

This resource of the American Dental Association is offered as information only and not as, practice, financial, accounting, legal or other professional advice.

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