

Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition

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 Patel, Kumar J., 2024, Georgia
 Patel, Seena, 2024, Arizona
 Rozdolski, Raquel, 2023, New York*
 Sadrameli, Mitra, 2022, Illinois
 Silva, Renato M., 2025, Pennsylvania
 Trecek, Carol, 2023, Wisconsin
 Upadhyaya, Jasbir D., 2025, Illinois
 Zelazo-Smith, Susan K., 2025, Illinois

Borysewicz, Mary A., director
 Cousins, Kelli, manager

The Commission's 2021-2022 Board of Trustees liaison is Dr. Gary R. Oyster (Sixteenth District).

Areas of Responsibility as Set Forth in the *Bylaws or Governance and Organizational Manual of the American Dental Association*

As stated in Chapter IX, Section 30.C. of the ADA *Bylaws*, the duties of the Commission shall be to:

- a. Formulate and adopt requirements, guidelines and procedures for the recognition of continuing dental education providers.
- b. Approve providers of continuing dental education programs and activities.
- c. Provide a means for continuing dental education providers to appeal adverse recognition decisions.
- d. Submit an annual report to the House of Delegates of this Association and interim reports, on request.
- e. Submit an annual budget to the Board of Trustees of the Association.

Advancing ADA Strategic Goals and Objectives: Agency Programs, Projects, Results and Success Measures

The Commission is an ADA agency with independent authority to administer the ADA Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP). For 2021, the Commission goals and objectives are as follows:

Objective: The Commission will establish and promote standards for effective continuing dental education that supports quality dental care

* Replaced Saraghi, Mana, 2021, New York

Initiative/Program: ADA CERP

Success Measure: A completed draft of revised ADA CERP Standards is circulated for review by the communities of interest by December 2022.

Target: Draft revisions of five standards reviewed by Commission in September 2022.

Range: Draft revisions of five standards completed by December 2022.

Outcome: This activity was in process at the time this report was written.

Objective: Streamline management of CERP application, review and reporting processes through technology upgrades.

Initiative/Program: ADA CERP

Success Measure: Contract for development of ADA CERP accreditation solution and software licenses executed and a development plan in place with a target project completion date no later than December 2023.

Target: Contract for development and license of software executed by October 1; business needs intake completed by December 1, 2022; development and testing conducted beginning January 1, 2023.

Outcome: At the time this report was written a proposal had been obtained to develop an accreditation solution including a database and web portal supporting online applications, reviews, with online payment interface. A request for funding the project was being prepared.

Objective: Develop and implement integrated communication plan to increase ADA CERP brand recognition among dental professionals, and build value proposition to continuing education providers promoting participation in the program and understanding of program requirements.

Initiative/Program: ADA CERP

Success Measure: Targeted communications deployed to ADA CERP stakeholders and dental community. Sequence of educational webinars for CE providers developed and implemented; new online resources for providers posted on website.

Target: Two live webinars for CE providers offered in 2022, new FAQ and other web-based resources regarding implementation of revised CERP eligibility requirements; two articles in ADA publications regarding ADA CERP by year end.

Outcome: Development and publication of new resources and programming has been pushed back to late third quarter and fourth quarter, as staff continue efforts to complete administration of ADA CERP application and review functions that were delayed by the cybersecurity incident. At the time this report was written, a request for proposal for an integrated communications plan was being developed.

Emerging Issues and Trends

The Commission oversees ADA CERP, designed to recognize providers that meet standards for continuing dental education, promote continuous quality improvement in CE, and help dental professionals meet CE requirements for re-licensure. At the time this report was prepared in May 2022, there were 503 ADA CERP recognized providers; this number includes 29 providers based outside the United States and Canada, and 29 providers approved through Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education. Another 101 providers were approved by state dental societies and national specialty societies through the CERP Extended Approval Process (EAP). The current list of [ADA CERP recognized providers](#) is published on the Commission's website.

CERP recognized providers reported that they offered a combined total of over 36,500 unique CE activities in 2020, the most recent year for which data is available.

Impact of COVID-19 on ADA CERP providers' continuing dental education programming: Data collected through the 2021 ADA CERP provider annual report indicates that the total number of CE activities ADA CERP providers offered in 2020 was only slightly lower than in 2019 (a total of 36,500 courses were offered in 2020, compared to 38,000 in 2019). However, the types of courses offered in 2020 compared with those offered in 2019 varied considerably, reflecting social distancing requirements in place in 2020. In 2020, ADA CERP recognized providers held 65% fewer live, in-person courses than in 2019 (including live lectures and hands-on courses). The number of live, online courses (live webinars) offered in 2020 increased 378% over 2019, and the number of self-study courses offered increased 40% in 2020 when compared to 2019. Many state licensing agencies also approved temporary revisions to CE regulations in order to mitigate challenges dental professionals may experience in fulfilling CE requirements during the pandemic.

Interprofessional Continuing Professional Education. ADA CERP is in its third year as an associate member of [Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™](#). Joint Accreditation offers providers of continuing education in the health professions the opportunity to be simultaneously accredited to provide continuing education in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physician assisting, optometry, psychology, social work, registered dietitians, physical training and dentistry through a single, unified application process. As of January 2022, a total of 29 CE providers of interprofessional education have requested ADA CERP recognition through Joint Accreditation. The Commission believes that this collaboration helps support dental professionals to coordinate care with other professionals, and continues the development and practice of interdisciplinary education (IPE) begun during pre- and post-graduate dental training. Participation in Joint Accreditation further aligns CERP Recognition Standards with those of the U.S. accreditors of continuing education in other health professions.

Review and Revision of CERP Standards. The [ADA CERP Recognition Standards](#) form the basis for the Commission's evaluation and approval of continuing dental education providers. The Commission has resumed its comprehensive revision of the Standards, with the goal of developing streamlined criteria for developing CE that is evidence-based, effective and outcomes focused, and independent from commercial influence, in order to help promote improvements in oral healthcare. Stakeholder groups will be invited to comment on the Standards during the revision process. The ADA CERP Eligibility Criteria were revised as part of this process, and effective July 1, 2023, commercial interests will no longer be eligible for CERP recognition, or to serve as joint providers of CE activities. In 2021 all currently recognized providers were evaluated to determine whether they are commercial interests; through this process the Commission identified 46 providers to be commercial interests. At the time this report was written, all currently recognized providers have been informed whether or not they will be eligible to participate in ADA CERP beyond June 30, 2023 when the revised CERP Eligibility Criteria take effect.

Strategic Planning: The Commission is conducting a strategic planning process in 2022 to identify its priorities and objectives for the next three years.

Technology: To improve ADA CERP application and recognition processes, the Commission has requested that the ADA's technology division request funding and proposals for the development of an accreditation platform to support online application submissions and reviews. The new platform is needed

to replace the solution that was being constructed within Aptify until the project was stopped in 2021 when the ADA determined to seek a replacement for Aptify.

Responses to House of Delegates Resolutions

There were no House of Delegates resolutions directed to the Commission in 2021.

Self-Assessment

The Council is next scheduled to conduct a self-assessment in 2024.

Policy Review

There are currently no ADA policies related to the Commission or CERP that the Commission has been charged with reviewing in accord with Resolution 170H-2012, Regular Comprehensive Policy Review.

Council Minutes

For more information on recent activities, see the Commission's [minutes](#) on ADA.org.