

Council on Dental Education and Licensure

Usman, Najia, 2025, Ohio, chair, American Dental Association
 Tanguay, Jason A., 2025, Montana, vice chair, American Dental Association
 Avery-Stafford, Cheska D., 2024, Wisconsin, American Dental Association
 Bennett, Donald P., 2025, Louisiana, American Association of Dental Boards
 Coble, Shandra K., 2025, Alabama, American Dental Education Association
 Divaris, Kimon, 2024, North Carolina, American Dental Education Association
 Howe, Brian J., 2027, New York, American Dental Education Association
 Jee, Arthur C., 2027, Maryland, American Association of Dental Boards
 Maher, Rachel A., 2027, Delaware, American Dental Association
 McAndrew, Maureen, 2026, New York, American Dental Education Association
 McKenzie, Craig P., 2024, Pennsylvania*
 Mousel, Barbara L., 2024, Illinois, American Association of Dental Boards
 Ryals, Kelley H., 2027, New Mexico, American Dental Association
 Shadid, Paul A., 2026, Oklahoma, American Dental Association
 Smith, Toddrick S., Tennessee, American Dental Association
 Terry, Bruce R., 2024, Pennsylvania, American Dental Association
 Watkins, Catherine A., 2026, North Carolina, American Association of Dental Boards

Ostrander, Sarah, interim director
 Puzan, Annette, manager

The Council's 2023–24 liaisons include: Dr. Randall C. Markarian (Board of Trustees, Eighth District) and Dr. Judd Burns (American Student Dental Association).

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

As listed in Chapter VIII, Section K.4. of the ADA Governance and Organizational Manual, the areas of subject matter responsibility for the Council shall be:

- a. Dental, advanced dental and allied dental education and accreditation;
- b. Recognition of dental specialties and interest areas in general dentistry;
- c. Dental anesthesiology and sedation;
- d. Dental admission testing;
- e. Licensure;
- f. Certifying boards and credentialing for specialists and allied dental personnel; and
- g. Continuing dental education.

Key Accomplishments and Outcomes: Agency Programs, Projects, Results and Success Measures

Initiative/Program: On behalf of the ADA as a key community of interest, review and comment on matters of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition (CCEPR), the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCDNE) and the National Commission on the Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards (NCRDSCB).

Success Measure: Receive reports and submit comments by established deadlines to CODA, CCEPR, JCDNE and NCRDSCB.

Target: Meet review deadlines as appropriate or set by the Commissions.

Range: January through December.

*New Dentist member

Outcome: All comment deadlines were met.

The Council transmitted comments to CODA on proposed revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Clinical Fellowship Training Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Craniofacial and Special Care Orthodontics and the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Advanced Education in General Dentistry, General Practice Residency, Dental Public Health, Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (Residency), Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (Residency), Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, Dental Anesthesiology, Oral Medicine and Orofacial Pain. Specifics on these matters are noted in the Council's January and June 2024 [meeting minutes](#).

Initiative/Program: Support the licensure reform efforts in accord with the ADA Comprehensive Policy on Dental Licensure.

Success Measure:

1. Support the development and enactment of licensure compact legislation and advocate for changes to state dental practice acts, rules and regulations regarding licensure.
2. Manage the ADA's involvement with the Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure (CMDL).
3. Continue to support the implementation and promotion of non-patient clinical licensure examinations, including the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCDNE) Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) and Dental Hygiene Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DHLOSCE).
4. Monitor the Dental Board of California's (DBC) implementation of its portfolio-style licensure examination.

Target: Report on these matters at the January and June Council meetings; ongoing updates via electronic communications to members and reports at relevant standing committee conference calls.

Range: Ongoing

Outcome: At the time this report was written, this initiative was on plan.

As reported in its Annual Report to the 2022 and 2023 House of Delegates, the Council supports ADA Policy on dentist and dental hygiene licensure portability through the pursuit and establishment of licensure compacts. Consistent with the ADA Comprehensive Policy on Dental Licensure (*Trans.*2018:341), and as reported previously to the House of Delegates, the Council has been monitoring the use and implications of licensure compacts among states for dentists and dental hygienists. In October 2020, the Council received notice that the U.S. Department of Defense was making grant funds available to assist professions in the development of new interstate licensure compacts. The scope of the grant included technical assistance from the Council on State Governments (CSG) in drafting model interstate compact legislation, developing a legislative resource kit and convening a national meeting of state policymakers to introduce the compact. In January 2021, the Council voted to submit a grant application and in March 2021, the Council was informed that the U.S. Department of Defense selected the professions of dentistry and dental hygiene to develop an interstate compact for licensing portability. CSG appointed 29 individuals to serve on the Technical Assistance Group (TAG), responsible for establishing the framework of the compact through examination of the issues, current policy, and best practices. Subsequently, CSG appointed a Compact Document Team (CDT) composed of 10 regulator board administrators, licensing experts and stakeholders to draft the model legislation. In August 2022, the draft legislation was widely circulated for stakeholder review and comment. The CDT considered suggested changes submitted during stakeholder review. The revised draft language inclusive of changes made in response to stakeholder feedback was shared with the TAG and both groups came to consensus on finalized language. The final legislative model language of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist (DDH) Compact was released on January 20, 2023, for consideration by states.

When this report was prepared, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin had enacted the compact; Ohio, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania introduced the DDH Compact language. Having reached the enactment threshold of seven states, the first meeting of the DDH Compact Commission is scheduled for late August 2024 with a request to each member state to appoint its commissioner. The ADA will continue its advocacy in support of this issue by partnering with state associations interested in introducing the DDH Compact legislation in 2025.

The Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure (CMDL or Coalition), established in 2018 by the ADA, American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and American Student Dental Association (ASDA), is comprised of 130 national and state organizations, institutions and programs representing dentistry, dental education, dental specialties, dental hygiene, and non-profit groups working to advance access to oral health care and modernize the licensure process for dentistry and dental hygiene. In support of CMDL Strategic Plan goals, the Coalition has continued to advocate for the acceptance of all non-patient pathways to licensure in lieu of patient-based examinations and has prioritized advocating for the enactment of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. In support of building a strong and sustainable Coalition, leadership and staff met with state dental and hygiene associations and dental schools in several states and made presentations at state and national meetings. The Coalition will continue its advocacy efforts for dental licensure and portability.

The Council continues to support ADA policy calling for the elimination of patients from the clinical licensure examination process. As of June 2024, 49 states (including the District of Columbia) accept the results of manikin-based licensure examinations. The Council also supports the JCNDE DLOSCE, a non-patient licensure examination made available to state dental boards in June 2020. As of June 2024, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Washington, and Oregon accept the results of the DLOSCE as either partially or completely fulfilling the clinical examination requirement for licensure. Information on the DLOSCE, including the most recent DLOSCE Technical Report, is available on the [JCNDE](#) website.

The Council maintains licensure information on the ADA website. The Dental Licensure Dashboard houses the Initial Licensure Requirements map, the Licensure by Credentials map, the Continuing Education and Renewal Requirements map, and the Specialty Licensure map. Updated regularly, the maps provide state-by-state information on the requirements for obtaining and maintaining licensure.

Per a directive of the 2013 House of Delegates (*Trans.*2013:327), the Council monitors the Dental Board of California's (DBC) implementation of its portfolio-style licensure examination and reports information annually to the House of Delegates. Since being made available on November 5, 2014, 79 dental licenses via the portfolio pathway have been issued by the Dental Board of California. In August of 2023, the Dental Board of California voted to approve the removal of the portfolio pathway from statute. [California Senate Bill 1453](#) was amended on April 22, 2024, to include provisions to remove the portfolio from statute and the legislative process is expected to conclude in August 2024.

Initiative/Program: Fulfill responsibilities to and assignments by the ADA House of Delegates.

Success Measure:

1. Per the five-year review cycle, consider and possibly recommend revision to the education policies assigned to the Council for review.
2. Consider the annual reports of the Dental Assisting National Board and the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology.
3. Provide governance oversight to the Department of Testing Services regarding the administration of the Dental Admission Test (DAT), Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT), and the Admission Test for Dental Hygiene (ATDH).

Target: Submission of proposed revision to current ADA policy and responses to assigned resolution to the 2024 House of Delegates; submission of comments to and collaboration with other ADA Councils on

policy matters; action on the DANB and NBC reports; set direction, establish policy and oversee research related to the DAT, ADAT, and ATDH programs.

Range: January through August

Outcome: On plan.

Emerging Issues and Trends

The Council considered at its June 2024 meeting the results of the Continuing Education (CE) Pilot conducted in spring 2024 by the CE Department. The pilot demonstrated consistently successful metrics and the Council directed that the Continuing Education Pilot be made permanent. Further, the Council recommended that the Council's areas of responsibility as listed in the *ADA Governance and Organizational Manual* be amended to remove CE oversight and transfer the duty to the CE Department but retain the responsibility for CE policy review. The Council's resolution recommending the proposed amendment to the *Governance and Organizational Manual* is presented in a separate report to the 2024 House of Delegates. Specifics on this matter are noted in the Council's January and June 2024 [meeting minutes](#).

The joint ADEA-ADA Collaborative Faculty Curriculum project, proposed by Dental School Deans to help support the transition of new faculty entering academia from private practice, is led by a steering committee composed of three ADEA members and three CDEL members. This modular curriculum will be available on the ADEA eLearn platform, and the completion of materials by learners will be tracked by electronic badging. The project is ongoing with materials being released on a rolling basis.

Responses to House of Delegates Resolutions

The 2023 House of Delegates referred Council on Dental Education and Licensure Resolution 401, Amendment of Policy, Comprehensive Policy on Dental Licensure and Ninth District Resolution 401S-1 to the appropriate agency for further study and report to the 2024 House of Delegates. The Council reconsidered Resolutions 401 and 401S-1 and recommends further amendments to clarify specific sections of the policy. Explanation of the recommendations including a proposed resolution will be submitted in a separate worksheet to the 2024 House of Delegates.

The Council has considered Resolution 408H-2023 and taken several actions in response. The full response including a proposed resolution is contained in a separate report to the 2024 House of Delegates.

The 2023 House of Delegates referred Seventeenth Trustee District Resolution 409, Methodology of CODA Accreditation Standards, to the appropriate agency for further study and report to the 2024 House of Delegates.

At its January 2024 meeting, the Council reviewed Resolution 409H-2023 and noted the testimony provided by the makers of the resolution, Seventeenth Trustee District, that while it is not in the Commission on Dental Accreditation's (CODA) purview to be concerned with workforce issues, CODA's decisions related to faculty to student ratios and accreditation standards related to faculty education requirements do have a financial impact on education programs and their ability to hire qualified faculty members. Accordingly, correspondence dated March 7, 2024, was transmitted to CODA urging the Commission to demonstrate transparent methodology for the establishment of faculty-to-student ratios and educational requirements for part-time and adjunct faculty in allied dental education programs, and revise the clinical and laboratory faculty-to-student ratios in Dental Hygiene Education Programs to 1:6. Additionally, the Council urged CODA to further amend the Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs to permit registered allied personnel with ten or more years of experience to work as part-time or adjunct clinical and laboratory faculty in Allied Dental Education Programs that have other faculty who meet educational degree requirements. The Council believed that such changes could enable

programs to more easily hire qualified faculty which may increase their enrollments and help to alleviate the ongoing workforce shortage of allied dental professionals and ultimately expand access to patient care.

Self-Assessment

In accordance with Resolution 1H-2013, the Council conducted a self-assessment in 2024. Current and immediate past members of the Council were surveyed to gather their insights and perspectives on the agency's roles and responsibilities. The Council considered the aggregated survey results at its June 6-7, 2024 meeting. Members indicated the Council is effective at carrying out its *Bylaws* duties but suggested that mentoring of new Council members as well as providing additional time for Council members to review materials in advance of meetings may increase effectiveness. The Council agreed that some of the Council's subject matter responsibilities could be amended to better align with the Council's current roles. For example, CDEL is responsible for not only dental admission testing but also dental hygiene and dental specialty admission testing. Also, CDEL is responsible for the "Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties" and the "Requirements for Recognition of Specialty Certifying Boards"; however, the responsibility for applying the requirements belongs to the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards (NCRDSCB). The suggested amendments have been communicated to CEBJA for review by their Bylaws Subcommittee with a report back to CDEL. Regarding structure, the Council concluded that CDEL's current structure is appropriate but noted that increased collaboration across all Councils at the ADA would decrease redundancies and streamline efforts.

Policy Review

In accordance with Resolution 170H-2012, Regular Comprehensive Policy Review (*Trans.*2012:370), the Council on Dental Education and Licensure reviewed the Association policies listed below related to education. The Council determined the following should be maintained at this time:

- Statement on Credentialing Dental Assistants (*Trans.*1995:634)
- Certifying Board in Dental Assisting (*Trans.*1990:551; 2014:460)
- Criteria for Recognition of a Certification Board for Dental Laboratory Technicians (*Trans.*1998:92, 713; 2014:462; 2019:280)
- Certifying Board in Dental Laboratory Technology (*Trans.*2002:400; 2014:460)

The Council has reviewed the policy, Development of Alternate Pathways for Dental Hygiene Training, and concluded that this statement should be amended to better balance the Association's support of a state's alternative training modalities for dental hygienists while remaining supportive of CODA-accredited dental hygiene programs and their graduate's eligibility to participate in the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact. The term "acknowledges" has a more neutral tone, recognizing this pathway as one approach to address workforce shortages. The Council's resolution calling for amendment to the policy is presented in a separate report to the 2024 House of Delegates.

The Council reviewed the policy Criteria for Recognition of a Certification Board for Dental Assistants (*Trans.*1989:520; 2014:460; 2019:278) and concluded that the policy is current and relevant; however, the Council recommends amendment related to DANB's board composition, the Board's selection of suitable consultants and agencies to assist in its operations, and the Board's granting of certification or recertification. The Council's resolution calling for amendment to the policy is presented in a separate report to the 2024 House of Delegates.

The Council reviewed the policy Dentist Administered Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene Education Programs" (*Trans.*1992:616; 2010:542) and concluded that the policy is redundant because the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Programs and Dental Hygiene Programs address both resolving clauses of this policy. The Council's resolution calling for rescission of this policy is presented in a separate report to the 2024 House of Delegates.

Council Minutes

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