

Guidance Document: Temporary Flexibility in Accreditation Standards to Address Interruption of Education Reporting Requirements Resulting From COVID-19 for the Class of 2021

Below is the *temporary flexibility* guidance on select Accreditation Standards. Only those Accreditation Standards which include *temporary flexibility* are included, all others have been retained as written in the current published Accreditation Standards document.

Advanced Dental Education Program in Advanced Education in General Dentistry,

Alternative Assessment Methods (for example, patient vs simulation)

For the Class of 2021, while patient-based experiences are essential, alternative methods for training and assessment are allowed, in accordance with the *temporary flexibility guidance document*. Programs are encouraged to be innovative and consider multiple methods appropriate to the discipline. Alternative methods could include objective structured clinical examination (OSCE), portfolios, case presentations, procedural presentations, case studies, virtual cases, simulations, and use of virtual standardized patients, and other modes of assessment.

Modification/Reduction of Curriculum Content or Curriculum Requirements (for example, modification/reduction of program-dictated requirements, CODA competency requirements, and/or CODA quantitative numbers-based requirements)

For the Class of 2021, programs have the flexibility to modify program-dictated requirements, as long as the modifications continue to meet standards required by CODA and the program continues to confirm its graduates are competent upon completion of the program. Curriculum (program) length cannot be modified, but curriculum content changes that are necessary are permissible. The didactic curriculum should be continued without interruption, due to the flexibility allowed via the use of alternative methods of delivery for case studies, patient care conferences, treatment planning conferences, literature reviews, etc.

Program Length or Program Component Length (for example, rotations, services, etc.)

For the Class of 2021, the program length requirement will be maintained, since reducing the program length could impact the graduates' future licensing or board certification requirements, which are outside of CODA's purview. The use of distance education technology offers the programs flexibility in providing the required educational experiences. Modification of program components, such as rotations, is allowed as long as the specific rotation requirements are achieved.

Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Advanced Education in General Dentistry

AEGD Standard 2-6

The program must provide formal instruction in physical evaluation and medical assessment, including:

- a) taking, recording, and interpreting a complete medical history;**
- b) understanding the indications of and interpretations of laboratory studies and other techniques used in the diagnosis of oral and systemic diseases;**
- c) understanding the relationship between oral health care and systemic diseases; and**
- d) interpreting the physical evaluation performed by a physician with an understanding of how it impacts on proposed dental treatment.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is allowed through the use of alternative methods in delivering instruction, such as simulation, case studies, computer simulation, case discussions, and OSCE. The program is expected to ensure instruction is provided in items a-d.

AEGD Standard 2-8

Formal patient care conferences must be scheduled at least twelve (12) times a year.

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is allowed through the use of alternative educational delivery methods in conducting patient care conferences, including distance education technology.

AEGD Standard 2-10

The program must be one or two calendar years in length.

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, the program length requirement will not be modified. Temporary flexibility is provided through the use of alternative educational and assessment methods while ensuring competence of the program graduates.

AEGD Standard 2-15

The program's resident evaluation system must assure that, through the director and faculty, each program:

- a) periodically, but at least three times annually, evaluates and documents the resident's progress towards achieving the program's written goals and objectives or competencies for resident training using appropriate written criteria and procedures**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is allowed through the use of alternative methods in conducting resident evaluations, including distance education technology.

AEGD Standard 5-1

The program must ensure the availability of adequate clinical patient experiences that afford all residents the opportunity to achieve the program's written goals and objectives or competencies for resident training.

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is given at the discretion of the program director. The program is expected to ensure the program's goals and objectives or competencies for resident training are achieved.