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# Annual Report 2023

The report of the Commission on Dental Accreditation

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**CODA**\*

*Commission on Dental Accreditation*

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This publication may be reprinted in its entirety, without additions, edits or deletions, for educational purposes only.

*The Commission's mission, vision and values were adopted August 6, 2021 in accordance with the development of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.*

## Mission

The Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs.

## Vision

The Commission on Dental Accreditation is a globally recognized leader for accrediting educational programs in the dental professions.

## Values

The Commission is committed to:

- ◆ Collegiality
- ◆ Consistency
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Quality
- ◆ Transparency

[Read the Strategic Plan](#)  
[2022-2026](#)

# Introduction

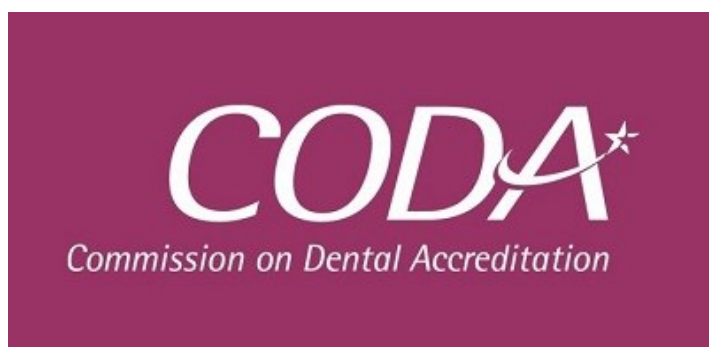
## Who We Are

From 1937 to 1974, prior to the formation of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Education (now known as the Council on Dental Education and Licensure) served as the accrediting agency for dental and dental-related education programs. In 1973, the House of Delegates of the American Dental Association approved the establishment of a Commission on Accreditation of Dental and Dental Auxiliary Educational Programs. The Commission began operating in 1975, and in 1979 this body's name was officially changed to the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Since 1952, the Commission on Dental Accreditation, and its predecessor, has been recognized by the Secretary of the [United States Department of Education \(USDE\)](#) as the sole agency to accredit dental and dental-related education programs conducted at the post-secondary level. CODA's mission is to serve the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accredita-

tion standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. The general public and communities of interest have direct access to many important resources through CODA's [website](#). Many questions related to CODA's role and responsibility are answered in the [Questions and Answers about CODA](#). The Commission also makes available to the public its [Meeting Agenda and Materials](#) in an effort to demonstrate transparency to its communities of interest. Additionally, updated information about CODA's activities is available by reviewing information in [Accreditation Updates](#).

The Commission on Dental Accreditation accredits dental education programs, advanced dental education programs and allied dental education programs in the United States. The Commission also accredits fully-operational international dental education programs. The Commission functions independently and autonomously in all matters of developing and approving accreditation standards, making accreditation decisions on educational programs and developing and approving procedures that are used in the accreditation process. It is structured to include an appropriate representation of the communities of interest.



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# Commission Structure

## Site Visit Teams

The foundation of the accreditation process is the site visit, and the primary role of the Site Visit Team is to gather and evaluate data and facts. Members on each team can include those with expertise in the discipline, biomedical sciences, clinical sciences, curriculum, finance, or national licensure. To maintain accreditation, programs self-assess their compliance with CODA's accreditation standards and provide CODA with documented evidence through the Self-Study process. CODA's site visitors review such materials, visit programs to evaluate process, interview faculty and students/residents, tour facilities, and more in order to assess a program's compliance with CODA standards. The site visit team then clearly and comprehensively reports on its findings to the Review Committees and Commission. The Commission provides a number of resources to programs and site visitors throughout the [Site Visit Process](#).

## Review Committees

Review Committees meet twice per year, two to three weeks before each Commission Meeting, to review reports submitted by Site Visit teams as well as programmatic reports and requests, and to discuss policy and procedures related to the committee's discipline. As of this publication, there are seventeen (17) Review Committees, each focused on one or more disciplines within dental education. These committees review and discuss the reports submitted by site visit teams and educational programs, and make recommendations to the Commission. The Review Committees also consider policy, some new and some annual recurring policy, which is applicable to the discipline. Note that the Review Committees **do not** make final accreditation or policy decisions – they instead make recommendations to the Commission, which then considers these recommendations at its Winter and Summer Meetings. In this regard, Review Committees are advisory to the Commission.

## Commission on Dental Accreditation

The Commission on Dental Accreditation makes the final decision to grant, continue or withdraw an accreditation status to a dental education program. The Commission bases its decision on the program's compliance with the Accreditation Standards and Commission Policies. In this regard, the Commission continuously evaluates and monitors educational programs for compliance with the Accreditation Standards. The Commission also ensures Standards reflect the

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## Composition of CODA Board of Commissioners

Organization	Appointments
American Dental Association (dental practitioners)	4
American Association of Dental Boards (licensure community)	4
American Dental Education Association (dental educators)	4
American Dental Education Association and Special Care Dentistry Association—joint appointment (postdoctoral general dentistry)	1
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, American Academy of Oral Medicine, American Academy of Oro-facial Pain, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Academy of Periodontology, American Association of Endodontists, American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, American Association of Orthodontists, American Association of Public Health Dentistry, American College of Prosthodontists, American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists (1 each representing the advanced dental disciplines)	12
American Dental Assistants Association (dental assistants)	1
American Dental Hygienists’ Association (dental hygienists)	1
National Association of Dental Laboratories (dental laboratory technicians)	1
Public (consumers/public)	4
American Dental Education Association, American Student Dental Association—joint appointment (student)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>

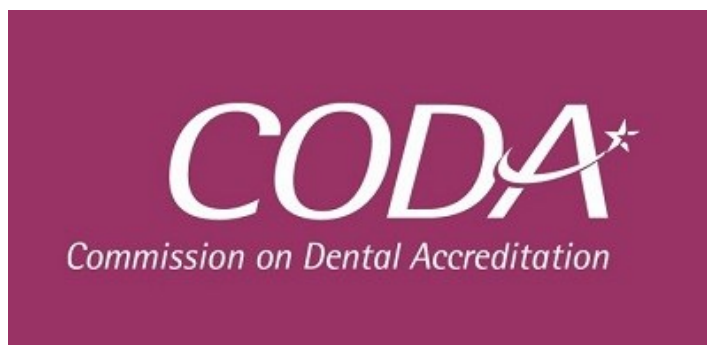
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evolving practice of dentistry by formulating and adopting requirements and guidelines for the accreditation of dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs under its purview. The Commission seeks input from all of its broad communities of interest related to the development and periodic revision of Accreditation Standards through [Hearings and Comments](#), thus ensuring the Standards remain current and define the quality of dental education. CODA maintains continuous contact with those important communities through various mechanisms. The Commission also establishes [Policies and Guidelines](#) to guide the evaluation and decision making process to ensure fairness, consistency, and appropriate levels of due process.

## Appeal Board

The principal function of the Appeal Board is to hear and make judgments on withdrawal of accreditation or denial of accreditation, at the request of an educational program or institution. The Appeal Board will determine whether the Commission on Dental Accreditation, in arriving at a decision regarding the withdrawal or denial of accreditation for a given program, has properly applied the facts presented to it. In addition, the Commission's Rules stipulate that the Appeal Board shall provide the educational program filing the appeal the opportunity to be represented by legal counsel and shall give the program the opportunity to offer evidence and argument in writing and/or orally to try to refute or overcome the findings and decision of the Commission. The Appeal Board is an autonomous body, separate from the Commission. Appeal Board members are selected in accordance with the Rules of the Commission on Dental Accreditation.



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# The Year in Numbers

## 2023 February: Number of CODA-Accredited Programs

Discipline	Number of Programs	Approval without Reporting	Approval with Reporting*	Initial Accreditation	Approval without Reporting (teach out)	Approval with Reporting (teach out)	Initial Accreditation (teach out)
Predoctoral	71	62	4	5	0	0	0
Predoctoral International	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dental Assisting	230	214	14	0	1	1	0
Dental Hygiene	332	294	26	11	1	0	0
Dental Laboratory Technology	13	11	0	0	2	0	0
Dental Therapy	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	95	90	0	5	0	0	0
General Practice Residency	173	166	3	1	3	0	0
Orofacial Pain	13	12	0	1	0	0	0
Dental Anesthesiology	8	7	1	0	0	0	0
Oral Medicine	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (and clinical fellowships)	111	104	5	2	0	0	0
Orthodontics (and clinical fellowships)	75	71	1	3	0	0	0
Endodontics	56	53	2	1	0	0	0
Periodontics	57	56	0	1	0	0	0
Pediatric Dentistry	84	79	1	4	0	0	0
Prosthodontics (all, including MxPros and combined programs)	57	56	0	1	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	15	14	0	1	0	0	0
Dental Public Health	15	13	0	2	0	0	0
Ortho/Periodontic	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>1319</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

\*Includes programs on “Approval with Reporting Requirements,” with “intent to withdraw” and “required period of non-enrollment” statuses.

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# The Year in Numbers

## 2023 August: Number of CODA-Accredited Programs

Discipline	Number of Programs	Approval without Reporting	Approval with Reporting*	Initial Accreditation	Approval without Reporting (teach-out)	Approval with Reporting (teach-out)	Initial Accreditation (teach-out)
Predoctoral	72	60	6	6	0	0	0
Predoctoral International	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dental Assisting	225	211	13	1	0	0	0
Dental Hygiene	335	292	32	10	1	0	0
Dental Laboratory Technology	13	9	1	0	3	0	0
Dental Therapy	3	2	0	1	0	0	0
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	94	89	2	3	0	0	0
General Practice Residency	169	164	4	1	0	0	0
Orofacial Pain	13	12	0	1	0	0	0
Dental Anesthesiology	8	7	1	0	0	0	0
Oral Medicine	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (and clinical fellowships)	113	105	6	2	0	0	0
Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (and clinical fellowships)	76	71	1	4	0	0	0
Endodontics	56	54	1	1	0	0	0
Periodontics	57	56	0	1	0	0	0
Pediatric Dentistry	87	79	1	7	0	0	0
Prosthodontics (all, including MxPros and combined programs)	57	55	0	2	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	15	14	0	1	0	0	0
Dental Public Health	15	13	0	2	0	0	0
Ortho/Periodontic	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1425</b>	<b>1310</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*Includes programs on “Approval with Reporting Requirements,” with “intent to withdraw” and “required period of non-enrollment” statuses.

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# Total Enrollment in Dental Education Programs

Dental Education Area	Enrollment (difference from prior year)	Year
Predoctoral	26,596 (+368)*	2022-2023
Advanced Education	7,413 (+9)	2022-2023
Dental Hygiene	16,416 (+617)	2022-2023
Dental Assisting	4,817 (-219)	2022-2023
DLT	373 (-24)	2022-2023
<b>All Programs</b>	<b>54,864</b>	<b>Source: Surveys of Dental Education Programs</b>

\*Includes U.S. programs, only. Enrollment at King Abdulaziz University in Saudi Arabia is 799 students.

You will find current Enrollment and other data on the [Program Surveys](#) page of the CODA website. Updates will be made to this page as available.

## Programs, Volunteers, and Staff

- **1,425** CODA-accredited education programs in approximately 776 institutions
- More than **600** Volunteer Commissioners, Site Visitors and Review Committee Members
- **Eight** Professional Staff (Senior Director and Managers)
- **One** Coordinator of Operations
- **Two** Site Visit Coordinators
- **One** Coordinator of Allied Program Reviews
- **Five** Support Staff

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# Accreditation Actions at the 2023 Winter and Summer Meetings

In 2023, the Commission reviewed accreditation reports and took **837 accreditation actions** on dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs and recorded **19 mail ballots** on dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs. A total of **19 new programs** were granted accreditation:

Educational Program	Number
Predoctoral Dental Education	2
Dental Hygiene	3
Dental Assisting	2
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (Fellowship)	2
Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics	1
Pediatric Dentistry	3
Advanced Education in General Dentistry – 12 month/ Optional 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	1
Dental Therapy	1
Endodontics	1
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (Residency)	1
Orofacial Pain	1
Prosthodontics	1

The Commission affirmed the reported voluntary discontinuance effective date or planned closure date of the following education programs, at the request of their respective sponsoring institutions:

Educational Program	Number
Dental Assisting	12
General Practice Residency	5
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	1
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (fellowship)	1

The Commission currently accredits **1,425** education programs in twenty-two dental and allied dental disciplines.

# Standards Revisions at the 2023 Winter and Summer Meetings

The Commission adopted revisions to the following Accreditation Standards:

## February 2023

- ◆ Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Public Health, with an implementation date of July 1, 2023.
- ◆ Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Dental Anesthesiology, with an implementation date of July 1, 2023.

## August 2023

- ◆ Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Education Programs (Standards 2-7 and 3-6), with immediate implementation.
- ◆ Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (new Standard 4-16), with an implementation date of July 1, 2024.
- ◆ Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain (new Standard 2-10), with an implementation date of July 1, 2024.

The Commission's website, at [Commission on Dental Accreditation \(CODA\)](https://www.coda-dental.org/), offers a wide variety of Commission reports, data, and valuable information:

- The [Hearing on Standards/Comments Due](#) page provides access to proposed revisions to Accreditation Standards and the electronic comment submission portal.
- Current, proposed, and recently revised Accreditation Standards are available under the [Standards](#) tab
- Search for CODA-accredited programs on the [Find a Program](#) page
- Visit the [Call for Nominations](#) page to learn about and submit Review Committee Member and Site Visitor nominations
- To see schedules of Site Visits, go to the [Site Visit Process](#) and [Site Visit Schedules](#) page
- Acquire a current copy of the [Policy & Procedure Manual](#) under the Policies/Guidelines tab

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# 2023 Highlights

## Finance

For 2024, the Commission:

- Adopted a 0% increase in annual accreditation fees for all domestic and international disciplines
- Maintained application fees
- Maintained International fees
- Directed the CODA Administrative Fund Fee of \$25 per program in 2024 be rescinded and there be no (\$0) Administrative Fund Fee in 2024
- Directed that the Commission's 2024 budget include the addition of one (1) full-time equivalent staff positions dedicated solely to the Commission

Find more details on the CODA website's [Fees page](#).

The Commission has also engaged with a financial analyst to study CODA's revenue and expense planning model and assist the Commission with long-term projection modeling to obtain a revenue-neutral budget, and to conduct a comparative analysis among other accreditors related to financial models and administrative funds.

## Documentation and Policy Review

- Adopted several proposed revisions to the [Evaluation and Operational Policies and Procedures](#) manual
- Directed the adoption and immediate implementation of proposed revision to the Policy on Discontinuance or Closure of Educational Programs Accredited by the Commission and Teach-Out Plans.

## Communication and Technology

In 2021, the Commission directed a review of the Communication Plan in 2022-2023 to ensure that the next communication plan addresses the Commission's strategic needs, as well as ongoing communication and technology needs of the Commission, including an electronic accreditation tool. The Commission noted that the Communication Survey to Communities of interest would be distributed in Fall 2023, with development of the communication plan to follow.

The Commission also continues its work to identify, secure, and develop a long-term solution for its electronic accreditation platform needs.

## Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning

The Commission continues to monitor its effectiveness and attainment of its goals through the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Progress Tracking Sheet and Operational Effectiveness Tracking Sheet, in accordance with the strategic plan.

# 2023 Highlights

## Ad Hoc Committees and their Progress

### Ad Hoc Committee to Consider a Request to Establish a Process of Accreditation for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Operative Dentistry, Cariology and Biomaterials :

- Directed that the Commission not establish a process of accreditation for advanced dental education programs in operative dentistry, cariology and biomaterials at this time.
- Directed a formal communication to the Academy of Operative Dentistry (AOD) notifying AOD of the Commission's action.

### Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty to Student Ratios in Accreditation Standards:

Following consideration of requests from state dental associations related to CODA's Accreditation Standards, the Commission took the following actions:

#### Winter 2023

- Directed a response to the state dental associations requesting information on the request, and
- Established an Ad Hoc Committee to consider to review ratios within the Commission's Accreditation Standards.

#### Summer 2023

- Directed there be no development of a policy or process for rationale that must be followed when revising Accreditation Standards related to faculty to student ratios;
- Directed the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty to Student Ratios in Accreditation Standards be provided to the Review Committees that oversee dental assisting, dental hygiene, dental laboratory technology, and dental therapy education for further consideration and review, including determination if revisions of Accreditation Standards are warranted, with a report to the Commission in Winter 2024; and
- Directed that the Commission on Dental Accreditation send a copy of the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty to Student Ratios in Accreditation Standards to the state dental associations.

## MEETING MINUTES

Unofficial Major Actions and Meeting Minutes are provided on the Commission's website at:

[POST MEETING ACTIONS](#)



# 2023 Highlights

## **Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Advanced Dental Education Delivery Models :**

- In Winter 2023, the Commission directed all advanced dental education Review Committees to consider the proposed revisions to advanced dental education Standards related to sponsoring organization and authority to operate, for possible adoption and implementation, with report to the Commission in Summer 2023.
- In Summer 2023, the Commission directed circulation of all advanced dental education program Accreditation Standards documents (related to program sponsor and authority to operate), to the communities of interests until June 1, 2024 for consideration at the Summer 2024 meeting of the Commission.

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Volunteerism:**

- Directed continued review of volunteerism through the Standing Committee on Finance, in conjunction with the financial comparative analysis study; and
- Directed Commission staff to communicate the importance of volunteerism to the communities of interest, and to explore additional methods through which the Commission may express appreciation to its volunteers, including offering continuing education, issuing certificates of appreciation, or other methods, as available.

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Alternative Site Visit Methods:**

- Directed that the Ad Hoc Committee on Alternative Site Visits be transitioned to a standing committee of the Commission named the Standing Committee on Site Visit Process and Training, effective immediately.

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development and Mega Issues:**

- Directed the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development and Mega Issues to develop periodic ongoing professional development sessions for CODA Commissioners and Review Committee members, addressing topics related to dental education and accreditation.

## **Additional Actions Taken by the Commission in Summer 2023:**

- The Commission adopted and directed immediate implementation of the proposed new Guidelines for Requesting an Increase in Enrollment in a Dental Hygiene Education Program.
- The Commission adopted and directed immediate implementation of a revision to the Policy on Enrollment Increases in Advanced Dental Education Programs, which permits the Review Committee Chair to review and approve temporary, one-time only increases in enrollment of up to a maximum of six (6) months, if the program provides evidence of sufficient resources to support the temporary increase.

## **Commission Appointments and Elections:**

The Commission approved nominees to fill vacancies for discipline specific positions, public member positions and non-disciplines specific positions on its Review Committees and the Appeal Board beginning fall 2023. The Commission elected Dr. Maxine Feinberg as chair of the Commission and Dr. Frank Licari as vice-chair of the Commission, during the 2023 - 2024 term.

# Annual Call for Nominations

The Commission on Dental Accreditation accepts nominations each year for volunteer Review Committee member and Site Visitor positions.

The mission of CODA is to serve the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. Accreditation is a peer-reviewed process, and CODA volunteers are an integral part of that process. The Commission provides comprehensive training to all its volunteers, so each will be ready to serve when their term begins. In addition, CODA staff is available for support throughout the process.

The Commission takes into account a balance in geographic distribution as well as representation of the various types of educational settings and diversity, including underrepresented groups. Board certification and experience requirements may apply.

## **The typical work of a Review Committee member includes the following:**

- Review and become familiar with the CODA accreditation process, and participate in training at CODA headquarters.
- Review policy matters, site visit reports, progress reports and other reports on accredited or developing educational programs, which are submitted to the Commission for final action.
- Communicate by electronic mail and the Commission's web-based communication tools.
- Time commitment can vary depending on committee assignment; however, CODA asks that you are willing to commit ten (10) to twenty (20) days per year to Review Committee activities.

## **The typical work of a Site Visitor includes the following:**

- Attend training, conduct comprehensive review of print and electronically delivered materials and travel to Commission headquarters to learn and understand the requirements and guidelines for the accreditation of dental, advanced dental or allied dental educational programs.
- Objectively review materials, which programs submit as evidence of the program's compliance with accreditation requirements.
- Visit educational programs to evaluate process, interview faculty and students/residents/fellows, view facilities, and more in order to assess the program's compliance with CODA standards.
- Develop reports on findings through review of the program's materials and on-site.
- Time commitment can vary; however, site visits are typically 1-4 days in length and require approximately 10+ hours of preparation. You may be asked to serve on at least 1 or more visits per year.

Nominating yourself or a peer is very straightforward. For a list of upcoming vacancies, the nomination criteria and nomination forms, as well as deadlines for nominations in each category, visit [Call for Nominations](#), and then follow the instructions on that page.



# Online Resources

## Deadlines for Submission of Reports:

**May 1 (Summer CODA meeting review)**

**November 1 (Winter CODA meeting review)**

- Program changes that require CODA review and approval prior to implementation must be reported by May 1 or November 1.
- Program changes that do not require CODA review must be reported at least 30 days prior to the anticipated implementation of the change.
- Unexpected program changes must be reported no more than 30 days following the occurrence.

## Additional Online Resources for Educational Programs:

- [Program Change and Other Report Guidelines](#)
  - Reporting Program Changes
  - Reporting Distance Education
  - Reporting a Teach-Out
  - Reporting a Transfer of Sponsorship
- [Reporting Use of Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs](#)
- [Enrollment Increases](#)
- [Electronic Submission and CODA Portal](#)

And More....

For further information on topics in this Annual Report, please contact the [Commission office](#).