

# CODA Communicator

The Official Newsletter of CODA | Winter/Spring 2025



## Major Actions of Interest to All Accredited Programs

At its Winter 2025 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) reviewed accreditation reports and took 410 accreditation actions on dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs and recorded thirteen (13) mail ballots on advanced education in general dentistry, dental education, dental assisting, dental hygiene, endodontics, general practice residency, periodontics, and prosthodontics education programs.

A total of 17 new programs were granted accreditation in Predoctoral Dental Education, Dental Public Health, Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Prosthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

One (1) dental assisting, three (3) dental hygiene, one (1) general practice residency, and one (1) oral and maxillofacial surgery (residency) programs received a formal warning that accreditation will be withdrawn in August 2025 unless the requested information, demonstrating compliance with the accreditation standards or Commission policy, is submitted prior to that time.

The Commission affirmed the reported voluntary discontinuance effective date or planned closure date of four (4) dental assisting and one (1) dental laboratory technology programs at the request of their respective sponsoring institutions.

[REVIEW ALL MAJOR ACTIONS HERE.](#)

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## Standards Adopted by CODA

At its Winter 2025 Meeting, the Commission adopted:

- Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs, related to Standard 3-6, related to faculty, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Endodontics, related to the intent statement of Standard 2-2, for administrative oversight at major sites where educational activity occurs, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, related to faculty ratios, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Pediatric Dentistry, related to an intent statement in Standard 2-2, for administrative oversight at major sites where educational activity occurs, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Prosthodontics, related to an intent statement in Standard 1-2, for administrative oversight at major sites where educational activity occurs, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral Medicine, related to an intent statement in Standard 3-2, for administrative oversight at major sites where educational activity occurs, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orofacial Pain, related to an intent statement in Standard 3-2, for administrative oversight at major sites where educational activity occurs, with immediate implementation.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Advanced Education in General Dentistry with an implementation date of July 1, 2025.
- Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in General Practice Residency with an implementation date of July 1, 2025.

[Find more details at the CODA webpage on Standards.](#)

## CODA Call for Comment on Standards

Proposed Standards currently in circulation for public comment are due June 1, 2025 and December 1, 2025. Visit the [Proposed Accreditation Standards](#) webpage for the list of standards open for comment and their respective due date for submission of comments.

The Commission now accepts commentary on proposed standards in circulation for public comments via a dedicated Online Comment Portal only. CODA no longer accepts comments via email, U.S. Post or overnight shipping services. To submit comments on any proposed standard in circulation, click on the URL included in the cover page of each standard, or listed along with the standard on the Proposed Accreditation Standards webpage

[Find more details at the CODA webpage on Hearings on Standards/Comments Due.](#)

## Commission Policies and Procedures

After discussion, the Commission took multiple actions to revise policies found within the Evaluation and Operational Policies and Procedures manual, and all appropriate Commission documents, including policies on:

- Notice of Accreditation Actions to Programs/ Institutions
- Policy on Professional Conduct and Prohibition Against Harassment for Commission Staff and Volunteers
- Site Visitor Appointments
- Policy Statement on Reporting and Approval of Sites Where Educational Activity Occurs

[Find more details at the CODA webpage on Policies and Guidelines.](#)

## CODA Directs Establishment of New Discipline Standards

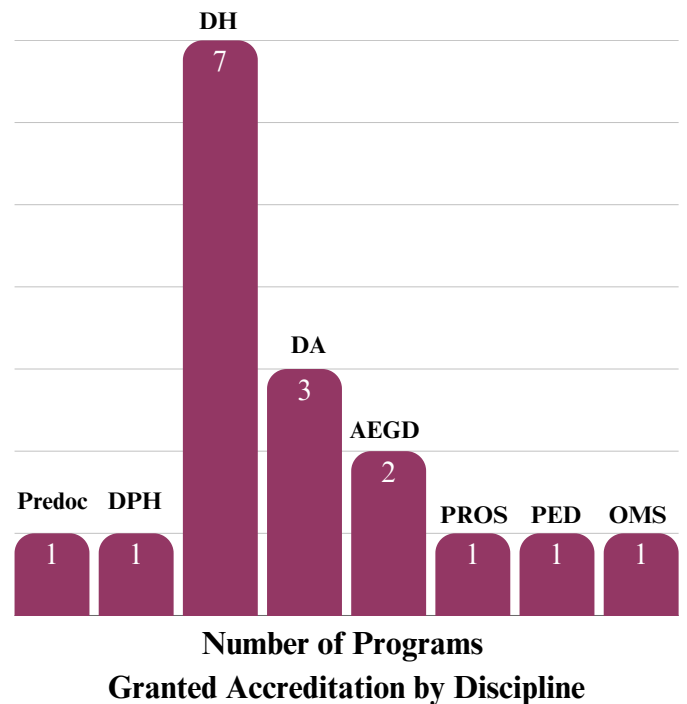
At its Winter 2025 Meeting, the Commission considered two requests to establish a new process of accreditation for two areas of dentistry, Advanced Dental Education Programs in Operative Dentistry, Cariology and Biomaterials, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinical Fellowship Training Programs in Trigeminal Nerve Surgery and Disorders.

The commission took the following actions:

- Directed that the Commission establish a process of accreditation for advanced dental education programs in operative dentistry, cariology and biomaterials.
- Directed the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee composed of Commission members and educators and practitioners with expertise in the area of operative dentistry, cariology and biomaterials be appointed to draft Accreditation Standards for advanced dental education programs in operative dentistry, cariology, and biomaterials, with a future report to the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- Directed that the Commission establish a process of accreditation for clinical fellowship training programs in oral and maxillofacial surgery - trigeminal nerve surgery and disorders.
- Directed the Review Committee on Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Education to develop Accreditation Standards for clinical fellowship training programs in oral and maxillofacial surgery - trigeminal nerve surgery and disorders, with a future report to the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- Directed the Standing Committee on Documentation and Policy Review to consider the current policy and determine whether revisions are warranted related to development of accreditation processes for subspecialties (i.e., fellowships) of dentistry that are already under the Commission's purview, with a future report to the Commission.

## New Programs Granted Accreditation

A total of 17 new programs were granted accreditation in Predoctoral Dental Education (1), Dental Public Health (1), Dental Hygiene (7), Dental Assisting (3), Advanced Education in General Dentistry (2), Prosthodontics (1), Pediatric Dentistry (1), and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (1).



This is the highest number of new program accreditations the Commission has granted at a single meeting since 2011.

Since Winter 2020, the Allied Dental Education group has seen the largest growth compared to Advanced and Predoctoral Education. The Commission has granted accreditation to 29 new dental hygiene programs resulting in an additional 561 students (first year projected enrollment) and 11 new dental assisting programs resulting in an additional 190 students (first year projected enrollment).



## Finances

### At its Winter 2025 Meeting, the Commission:

Approved the 2026 Annual and Application Fees as follows:

- Adopted a 20% increase in annual fees for all disciplines in 2026 to: \$10,260 for predoctoral dental education programs, \$2,580 for dental assisting, dental hygiene, dental therapy, and advanced dental education programs, and \$1,830 for dental laboratory technology programs.
- Affirmed that during the year a program is due for a regular accreditation site visit, the annual fee will be doubled.
- Adopted a 10% increase in application fees of \$74,140 for predoctoral dental education programs and \$18,540 for allied and advanced dental education programs.

Approved the 2026 International Fee schedule as follows:

- Adopted a 20% increase in the international predoctoral dental education annual accreditation fee to \$24,090 in 2026.
- Adopted a 10% increase in the international predoctoral dental education application fee to \$84,260 in 2026.
- Affirmed that international predoctoral dental education programs pay all site visit expenses (actual expenses) for all site visits during the application and regular site visit schedule.
- Affirmed that international predoctoral dental education programs pay an administrative fee of 25% of the total site visit cost for coordination of each site visit.
- Maintained the International Consulting Fee (outside of PACV process) of \$5,000.
- Affirmed that all international fees must be paid in U.S. Dollars.

Approved other 2026 accreditation fees as follows:

- Increased the Special Focused Site Visit Administrative Fee to \$6,000.
- Maintained the CODA Fee for Non-Compliance with CODA Policy on Privacy and Data Security (HIPAA) of \$4,000 per program per submission.
- Increased the Email/Contact Distribution List Fee to a \$500 minimum.
- Increased the CODA Administrative Fund fee to \$50 per program in 2026.

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

# Upcoming 2025 CODA Dates

<b>March 28</b> 4:00-5:00 pm	Hearing on Standards (Spring Hearing) <a href="#">Register Here</a>
<b>April 1</b>	Site Visit Orientation (By Invitation Only)
<b>April 2</b>	Predoc and Advanced Site Visitor Update (By Invitation Only)
<b>April 4</b>	Allied Site Visitor Update (By Invitation Only)
<b>April 10</b> 7:00- 8:00 pm	Hearing on Standards for Orofacial Pain
<b>June 1</b>	Call for Comments Due at <a href="#">CODA's website</a>
<b>June 12-13</b>	Site Visitor Training (By Invitation Only)
<b>July 7-11</b>	All Discipline Review Committee Meetings
<b>August 7</b> 9 a.m.	Closed Session Commission on Dental Accreditation Meeting
<b>August 8</b> 9 a.m.	Open Session Commission on Dental Accreditation Meeting

For a more comprehensive list of all upcoming meeting dates, find [Review Committee and CODA Meeting Dates on CODA's website.](#)

## CODA Office Moving This Year

Reminder: In June 2024, the American Dental Association (ADA) announced the sale of its building at 211 E. Chicago Ave. As part of this transition, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) will also relocate alongside the ADA.

**Effective March 10, 2025, CODA's new address will be located at 401 North Michigan Ave, Suite 3300 Chicago, IL 60611-4250.**

## CODA STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mr. Shawn Morrison** joined CODA in November as Manager, Training and Assessment. Mr. Morrison oversees all training programs for CODA volunteers. He is responsible for new and enhanced training programs to strengthen the Commission's volunteer performance. Mr. Morrison reviews all volunteer paperwork and manages the volunteer database to ensure accurate and complete records are maintained by the Commission. Mr. Morrison joins CODA with over 20 years of experience in various training roles.

**Ms. Marianne Flood** joined CODA in November as the Site Visit Coordinator. Ms. Flood is responsible for scheduling and facilitating the site visit logistics for dental school visits, advanced dental education visits, and international visits. Ms. Flood provides full administrative oversight and management of the Commission's site visit process, including initial, regular, and special focused site visits.

# Upcoming Call for Nominations

## Call for Review Committee Nominations

CODA requests nominations to fill vacancies for Review Committee roles. You can learn more about all of these positions on the Commission's Call for Nominations page. Review Committee Nomination Forms are due to CODA staff by June 1, 2025 for consideration at the Commission's Summer 2025 meeting.

Accreditation is a peer-review process, and CODA volunteers are an integral part of that process. The Commission provides comprehensive training to all its volunteers, so volunteers will be ready to serve when their term begins. In addition, CODA staff is available to support volunteers throughout their term.

## Call for Site Visitor Nominations

The Commission uses site visitors with education and practice expertise in the discipline or areas being evaluated to conduct its accreditation program. The Commission is seeking nominations for all site visitor roles. Nominations are due December 1, 2025.

The site visitor will be expected to complete the Commission's online training program and attend a virtual two day training workshop on June 12 and 13. The site visitor will also be expected to be accessible and able to communicate by email and the Commission's web-based communication tools. The Criteria for Appointment and Nomination Form are found at the link below.

[Find more details on becoming a Review Committee Member or Site Visitor at the CODA website.](#)

## Commission on Dental Accreditation Staff

### **CODA Senior Director**

Dr. Sherin Tooks, senior director

### **Administration and Committees**

Ms. Peggy Soeldner, senior manager

### **Operations**

Ms. Marjorie Hooper, operations coordinator

### **Communication and Technology Strategies**

Ms. Jess Lynk, manager

### **Training and Assessment**

Ms. Shawn Morrison, manager

### **Site Visit Coordination**

Ms. Marianne Flood, coordinator

Ms. Bernadette Molina, coordinator

**For general CODA inquiries,  
please email [coda@ada.org](mailto:coda@ada.org)**

### **Allied Dental Education**

Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, manager  
Dental Assisting and Dental Laboratory Technology

Ms. Katie Navickas, manager  
Dental Hygiene

### **Advanced Dental Education**

Dr. Yesenia Ruiz, manager  
Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics and  
Dentofacial Orthopedics, and Periodontics

Ms. Taylor Weast, manager  
Dental Public Health, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology,  
Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, Pediatric Dentistry, and  
Prosthodontics

Open, manager, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, senior manager  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry, General Practice  
Residency, Dental Anesthesiology, Oral Medicine and Orofacial Pain

### **Predoctoral Dental Education**

Ms. Kelly Stapleton  
Predoctoral Dental, Dental Therapy, and International  
Accreditation Program (contact office of CODA Director)