

**Guidance Document: Temporary Flexibility in Accreditation Standards to Address Interruption of Education Reporting Requirements Resulting From COVID-19 for the Class of 2020**

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.

**Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics Education**

Alternative Assessment Methods (for example, patient vs simulation)

Programs may determine the competency measures they will use, as long as they document that graduates are competent. Although clinical care is preferred, alternative patient learning experiences such as scenario-based examination and simulation could be utilized. Programs should track the comparability of simulation to clinical patient experiences.

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)

Programs may modify or reduce their program-dictated quantitative requirements and/or modify their curriculum, as long as they document that the program continues to comply with the Accreditation Standards and ensure competence of graduates.

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

Programs may document how students/residents/fellows were engaged in alternative activities such as distance learning, board case preparation, virtual patient visits, or other activities during the period of interruption as long as the competence of graduates is ensured.

**Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics**

**Orthodontics Standard 4-1**

**Program Duration: Advanced dental education programs in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics must be a minimum of twenty-four (24) months and 3700 scheduled hours in duration.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2020, temporary flexibility is permitted with regard to how the scheduled hours are achieved. Programs should document how students/residents were engaged in alternative activities such as distance learning, board case preparation, virtual patient visits, or other activities during the period of interruption. Programs should track overall program hours, not specific student/resident hours. There is no modification to the minimum 24 months and 3700 scheduled hour requirement.

**Accreditation Standards for Clinical Fellowship Training Programs in Craniofacial and Special Care Orthodontics**

**Orthodontics Fellowship Standard 4-2**

**The duration of the fellowship program must be a minimum of twelve months.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2020, temporary flexibility is permitted with regard to the documentation of how students/fellows were engaged in alternative activities such as distance learning, board case preparation, virtual patient visits, or other activities during the period of interruption. There is no modification to the minimum twelve-month program length requirement.