

REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chair: Ms. Lonni Thompson. Committee Members: Ms. LaShun James, Ms. Sandra Kotowske, Mr. Steven Pigliacelli, and Dr. Arpana Verma. Guests (Open Session Only, Virtual): Mr. Bennett Napier, chief staff executive, National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL), and Ms. Rebecca Stolberg, vice president, Allied Dental Education and Faculty Development, American Dental Education Association (ADEA), attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, manager, Allied Dental Education, Ms. Katie Navickas, manager, Allied Dental Education, and Mr. Daniel Sloyan, coordinator, Allied Program Reviews, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The meeting of the Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) was held on January 8, 2024 via a virtual meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Informational Report on Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Data (p. 500): The Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) noted that data of the Annual Survey Curriculum section for dental laboratory technology education is reviewed as an informational report, when the materials are available following data collection and analysis. All survey data is considered confidential at the programmatic level.

At the Winter 2024 meeting, the DLT RC considered and discussed the most recent data for the Curriculum Section of the Commission's Annual Survey for dental laboratory technology education (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 500**). The Curriculum Section of the Commission's Annual Survey is conducted for dental laboratory technology education in alternate years. The most recent Curriculum Section was conducted in September/October 2023.

Recommendation: This report is informational in nature and no action is requested.

Consideration of Proposed Revision to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs (p. 501) On July 27, 2023, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a letter (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 501**) from Dr. James Nickman, chair, American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL), requesting that the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) engage the communities of interest and consider pursuing a comprehensive review and possible revision of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs.

During this June 19, 2023 meeting, the CDEL and National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL) discussed the impact digital workflow has had on the materials and technology used by dental laboratory technicians. The CDEL and NADL noted that the pace of change in the market

is so rapid that by the time revisions to Accreditation Standards are presented and adopted, the standard is likely already outdated. The CDEL believed that a significant number of current accreditation standards may be misaligned with market need as they are directly related to digital workflow. CDEL recognized that recent revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs were adopted in 2008 and 2021 but concluded that a comprehensive review of the entire Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs (**Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 501**) may be appropriate at this time.

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) reviewed and discussed the letter from CDEL. The Committee discussed the need for a comprehensive review of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs specifically due to the need to address digital workflow. There was also discussion about issues related to non-CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology education programs and concerns about several CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology programs teaching out and discontinuing, including a discussion regarding how this affects the dental laboratory technology community. Additionally, Review Committee members discussed that the industry of dental laboratory technology may not be supporting the CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology programs and the education of dental laboratory technology technicians. The Committee also discussed the need to educate dentists on the role of a trained dental laboratory technician and the need for support of dental laboratory technicians from dentists.

Following discussions, the Committee concluded that there is a need for an Ad Hoc Committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs and to discuss relevant issues affecting the dental laboratory technology profession and industry, and how these issues impact CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology education programs. The Committee determined that the Ad Hoc Committee members should include the DLT RC members, a representative from NADL, a representative from the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology, a dental laboratory technology educator and a dental laboratory technology site visitor.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee of available members of the Dental Laboratory Technology Education Review Committee, and nominated representatives from the National Association of Dental Laboratories, the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology, a dental laboratory technology educator, and a dental laboratory technology site visitor to conduct a comprehensive review of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs, and to further discuss relevant issues affecting the dental laboratory technology profession and industry, and how these issues impact CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology education programs with a report for further consideration by the Dental Laboratory Technology Education Review Committee and Commission in Summer 2024.

Consideration of Proposed Revisions to Improve Diversity in Dental and Dental Related Education Programs (p. 502): On December 1, 2023, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity (TNCDHE). The request is found in **Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 502**. In its letter, TNCDHE provides short-term and long-term suggestions to CODA to improve diversity in all academic dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education programs.

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) reviewed the letter from The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity. The DLT RC determined that there is a need to address diversity within dental laboratory technology educational programs, specifically inclusivity of educators who represent diversity in age. The Committee also discussed considering Standards related to an inclusive environment in dental laboratory technology education.

Following discussion, the Committee concluded that the Ad Hoc Committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs could also further study relevant issues affecting the dental laboratory technology profession and industry, and how these issues impact CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology education programs to address diversity within dental laboratory technology educational programs, specifically inclusivity of educators who represent diversity in age and consider Standards related to an inclusive environment in dental laboratory technology education.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct the Ad Hoc Committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs, and to further study relevant issues affecting the dental laboratory technology profession and industry, and how these issues impact CODA-accredited dental laboratory technology education programs related to diversity within dental laboratory technology educational programs, specifically inclusivity of educators who represent diversity in age and consider Standards related to an inclusive environment in dental laboratory technology education.

Consideration of Faculty to Student Ratios in Accreditation Standards (p. 503): At its Winter 2023 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) considered a letter from 17 state dental associations related to workforce shortages in dental assisting and dental hygiene education programs. The Commission discussed the letter and directed that a formal letter be sent to the state dental associations requesting additional information on the request, and that an Ad Hoc Committee be established to consider ratios within the Commission's Accreditation Standards. The Ad Hoc Committee conducted an extensive review of the issues surrounding the state dental associations' request. Following review of faculty to student ratios in Accreditation Standards, the Ad Hoc Committee submitted its report (**Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 503**), to the Commission for consideration at its Summer 2023 meeting.

In Summer 2023, the Commission reviewed the report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty to Student Ratios in Accreditation Standards. Following review, the Commission concurred with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee and directed that 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. The Commission also directed that 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, and that a copy of the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty to Student Ratios in Accreditation Standards be provided to the state dental associations.

At its Winter 2024 meeting, the Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) reviewed the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty to Student Ratios in Accreditation Standards. The DLT RC discussed the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs pertaining to faculty to student ratios, specifically Standard 3-10, which states: *“The number of faculty positions **must** be sufficient to implement the program’s goals and objectives. The faculty to student ratio, during laboratory instruction, **must** not exceed one instructor for every twelve students.”* The Committee believed that this Standard (DLT Standard 3-10) is sufficient in terms of faculty to student ratios and there should be no changes to Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs regarding ratios at this time.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) direct that there be no changes to faculty to student ratios at this time within the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATING TO MORE THAN ONE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Matters related to more than one review committee are included in a separate report.

CONSIDERATION OF SITE VISITOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION IN THE AREA OF DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education considered site visitor appointments for 2024-2025. The Committee’s recommendations on the appointments of individuals are included in a separate report.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Lonni Thompson
Chair, Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education