REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON PREDOCTORAL DENTAL EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chair: Dr. Bruce Rotter. Committee Members: Dr. William Akey, Dr. Abby Brodie, Mr. Drew Christianson, Dr. Marcia Ditmyer, Dr. Chester Evans, Dr. Susan Long, Dr. Ana Karina Mascarenhas, and Dr. John Valenza. Commissioner: Dr. Jeffery Hicks, chair, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), ex officio, attended a portion of the meeting. Guests (Open Session Only): Ms. Ann Lynch, director, Advocacy and Education, American Dental Hygienists’ Association and Dr. Anthony Palatta, chief learning officer, American Dental Education Association attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Dr. Sherin Tooks, director, Ms. Dawn Herman, manager, Predoctoral Dental Education, and Mr. Eric Wiig, senior project assistant, CODA. Ms. Peggy Soeldner, manager, Advanced Dental Education, CODA, attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting of the Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) was held on Monday, January 11, 2021 via a virtual conference meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO PREDOCTORAL DENTAL EDUCATION AND DENTAL THERAPY EDUCATION

Informational Report on the Conduct of a Validity and Reliability Study for the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs (p. 100): The Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs were adopted by the Commission on Dental Accreditation at its August 2010 meeting for implementation July 1, 2013.

As stated in the Commission’s “Policy on Assessing the Validity and Reliability of the Accreditation Standards” (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 100), the Commission believes that a minimum time span should elapse between the adoption of new standards or implementation of standards that have undergone a comprehensive revision and the assessment of the validity and reliability of these standards. This minimum period of time is directly related to the academic length of the accredited programs in each discipline. The Commission believes this minimum period is essential in order to allow time for programs to implement the new standards and to gain experience in each year of the curriculum.

The Commission’s policy for assessment is based on the following formula: The validity and reliability of accreditation standards will be assessed after they have been in effect for a period of time equal to the minimum academic length of the accredited program plus three years.

Thus, the validity and reliability of the new standards for a one-year program will be assessed after four years, while standards applying to programs four years in length will be assessed seven years after implementation.

Accordingly, the validity and reliability study for predoctoral dental education was due to be initiated in Spring 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission, at its Summer 2020 meeting, directed the study be postponed until Spring 2021. Survey results will be
considered at the Summer 2021 meetings of the Predoctoral Dental Education Review Committee and the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

In cooperation with the ADA’s Health Policy Institute (HPI), a timetable will be developed, surveys will be distributed to the audiences, and responses will be due to the HPI within two weeks of receipt of the survey. A sample format of the survey is presented in Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 100. Following a period of follow-up with non-respondents, the data will be tabulated and analysis completed by June 1, 2021. Commission staff will prepare a report with results of the study for consideration by the Commission at its Summer 2021 meeting.

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

**Consideration of Proposed Revisions to the Dental Education Programs Annual Survey Curriculum Section (p. 101):** The Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) considered its Summer 2020 report to the Commission regarding its review of the Curriculum Section (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 101) as well as the Curriculum Section of the Commission’s Annual Survey (Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 101), which was scheduled to be distributed in Fall 2020 but was delayed until Fall 2021 as directed by the Commission in Summer 2020. The Review Committee also reviewed aggregate data of the most recent Curriculum Section of the Annual Survey, conducted in Fall 2018 (Appendix 3, Policy Report p. 101). The Committee noted that the Curriculum Section is distributed every other year to dental education programs.

The Review Committee discussed several aspects of the Annual Survey as well as questions from the Health Policy Institute (HPI), which assists the Commission in the distribution and compilation of the Commission’s Annual Survey.

**Group II Survey - Student Information on Gender:** At this meeting, the PREDOC RC further considered the student information on gender, noting that the current gender options in the annual survey are “male,” “female,” and “other.” The Review Committee believed that using terms that correspond with the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) would ensure that dental education programs report the same information among required surveys. The IPEDS surveys require reporting based upon “male” and “female” categories. Following discussion, the PREDOC RC determined that the categories used within the Group II Survey regarding a student’s gender should be retained as written.

**Group IV Survey – Curriculum Section, Questions 80 to 83 on Use of Educational Activity Sites:** The PREDOC RC discussed several components of the Curriculum Section on the use of educational activity sites.

- Related to Types of Services, it was noted that there may be confusion between “Emergency Care (Emerg Care)” and “Episodic and Urgent Care (Ep/Urg Care)” since programs define and interpret these terms differently. Following discussion, the PREDOC RC believed that revising the term “Episodic and Urgent Care” to “Focused
Limited Care” would help programs distinguish between the requirements to classify emergency care different from focused limited care. The proposed revision is noted below.

(Underline indicates addition; Strikethrough indicates deletion)

For Questions 80 through 83, please select the most appropriate type(s) of services and type(s) of evaluations used at sites where educational activity occurs.

Types of Services:
- Preventive (Prev)
- Restorative Dentistry (Rest Dent)
- Emergency Care (Emerg Care)
- Extractions (Extract) Endodontics (Endo)
- Periodontal Therapy (Perio Ther)
- Prosthodontics (Prosth)
- Orthodontics (Ortho)
- Comprehensive Care (Comp Care)
- Episodic and Urgent Care (Ep / Urg Care) Focused Limited Care

- The PREDOC RC also noted that it would be helpful to add a question asking each program to define the age range for its child, adult and geriatric populations, just prior to the question on use of educational activity sites, which asks for data on these categories of patients. Information on the program’s defined age range of each patient category would help in interpreting the responses within Questions 80 through 83. Therefore, the PREDOC RC proposed the following addition to Annual Survey Group IV Curriculum.

(Underline indicates addition; Strikethrough indicates deletion)

For Questions 80 through 83, please define the program’s age range for the following patient populations, and address the questions below within those defined ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Population</th>
<th>Minimum Age</th>
<th>Maximum Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geriatric</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Finally, related to the “number of days that a typical dental student(s) renders care,” the Review Committee noted the following alternative language should be adopted to clarify the intent of the Questions 80 through 83 (Underline indicates addition; Strikethrough indicates deletion), “the number of days that a typical dental student(s) is assigned to renders care.”
Following discussion, the PREDOC RC believed that revisions to the Annual Survey Curriculum Section should be implemented in the survey to be distributed in Fall 2021, which had been delayed from Fall 2020, as directed by the Commission due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct that the proposed revisions to the Annual Survey Curriculum Section, as noted above, be adopted and implemented in the Annual Survey that will be distributed to all predoctoral dental education programs in Fall 2021.

**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 PREDOCTORAL DENTAL EDUCATION AND DENTAL THERAPY EDUCATION**

The Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education (PREDOC RC) considered site visitor appointments for 2021-2022. 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,

Dr. Bruce Rotter  
Chair, Review Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education