Commission on Dental Accreditation Public Statement on Argosy University Closure

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) understands that dental hygiene students enrolled in the closed Argosy University program are concerned about their future ability to complete a CODA-accredited dental hygiene education program. The Commission sympathizes with these students and has provided information and resources to programs that may be interested in assisting Argosy students with fulfilling their educational goals.

Below are the facts related to the Commission’s activities on Argosy’s closure:

- On February 12, 2019 the Commission on Dental Accreditation requested that Argosy University submit a formal Teach-Out Report. This request was made after the Commission became aware of the potential closure of the program. The Commission has followed up with Argosy and most recently its receiver; however, to date Argosy University has yet to submit a Teach-Out Report. The Commission has no ability to mandate that a defunct program/institution submit a Teach-Out Report; however, if a report is not submitted the Commission may withdraw accreditation from a program.

- Reports that the Commission on Dental Accreditation has denied “teach-out” of the Argosy program are inaccurate and misleading. The Commission has received no “teach-out” report. Further, no CODA-accredited dental hygiene program has requested CODA review of a program change by which it can accept the Argosy students. The Commission on Dental Accreditation has no authority to require an educational program to accept students.

- Since early March 2019, the Commission on Dental Accreditation has communicated with CODA-accredited dental hygiene programs that may be willing to accept Argosy students, as well as the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, and the Argosy University receiver. The Commission has provided guidance and resources related to reporting program changes in order for a program to accept additional students.

- It has been suggested that the Commission waive accreditation standards and/or reduce requirements in order to accommodate Argosy students in other CODA-accredited programs. As the national programmatic accreditor for dental and dental related disciplines, the Commission is obligated to ensure the sustained quality of CODA-accredited educational programs and cannot waive or reduce requirements.

- The Commission on Dental Accreditation has provided information and resources to dental hygiene programs that may be interested in accepting the former Argosy University students. However, it is the accepting program's choice to admit students. A program's decision to admit students may be impacted by institutional policies on admission, program resources, program graduation requirements, and other factors that may differ from the program previously offered by Argosy.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation supports quality dental hygiene education. The Commission will assist any program that is willing to accept the former Argosy students by providing guidance with reporting program changes to CODA for review. To that end, if another CODA-accredited dental hygiene program is interested in accepting Argosy students, the Commission will review its program report in an expedited manner.

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