Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Accreditation of the King Abdulaziz University by the Commission on Dental Accreditation

Does the Commission’s accreditation of the international predoctoral dental education program at King Abdulaziz University mean all graduates of the program at King Abdulaziz University are considered graduates of a CODA-accredited program?

No, not all graduates of the program will be considered graduates of a CODA-accredited program. Commission policy states: Students who are enrolled in the program at the time accreditation is granted [King Abdulaziz University - August 1, 2019], and who successfully complete the program, will be considered graduates of an accredited program. Students who graduated from the program prior to the granting of accreditation will not be considered graduates of an accredited program.

If a student graduated after the time the University was granted accreditation, will that student be “accredited” or “certified” in the United States?

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. CODA does not grant accreditation or certification to individuals.

What about licensure? Does this status mean graduates of King Abdulaziz University are now licensed to practice dentistry in the United States?

No. “Accreditation” is an evaluation process where an organization or agency (e.g., the Commission on Dental Accreditation) uses experts in a particular field of interest or discipline (e.g., dental education) to define standards of acceptable operation/performance for universities, programs, or organizations and measures compliance with them. Whereas “licensure” for a graduate of any program accredited by CODA is dictated by state practice acts. The final authority on licensure requirements rests with the individual state dental board or similar agency. Similarly, “certification” is a process by which an organization (e.g., a certifying board) grants recognition of competence to an individual who has met predetermined qualifications specified by that entity. CODA does not grant certification or licensure.

I am a graduate of King Abdulaziz University. Will CODA write a letter of recommendation so that I can seek work in the United States?

No. CODA does not license, certify or serve as a reference for individuals. CODA is a programmatic accreditor only.