

CODA – A way towards International Accreditation of Dental Education

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) was established in 1975 and is nationally recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) as the sole agency to accredit dental and dental-related education programs conducted at the post-secondary level. CODA's mission is to serve the oral health care needs of the public through the development and administration of standards that foster continuous quality improvement of dental and dental related educational programs. Currently, there are more than 1,400 accredited programs in the discipline-specific education areas.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation accredits dental schools and programs including advanced dental education programs and allied dental education programs in the United States and internationally. CODA serves the public and profession by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. Commission policy and procedure are related to compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Accreditation benefits:

- Students and Residents who are the consumers, seeking the education programs that are accredited by CODA.
- To serve the needs of graduates who may wish to demonstrate their preparedness for licensure in a state in the U.S.
- Licensing and Regulatory Bodies that license and register dental professionals.
- Educational Institutions that maintain quality education programs by complying with nationally accepted accreditation standards.
- The Public who expect their oral health care needs are safely and expertly served.

Accreditation Fosters Academic Improvement:

- Accreditation in higher education is a self- and peer assessment process that ensures improvement of academic quality and public accountability
- CODA is the leading professional agency for programmatic accreditation of dental and allied dental education programs at the post-secondary level
- CODA receives its accreditation authority from the acceptance of all stakeholders within the dental community and from recognition by the United States Department of Education

Stakeholders Participation:

- Dental, advanced dental, and allied dental disciplines are under the accreditation purview of CODA.
- When reviewing and updating standards, CODA ensures standards reflect the evolving practice of dentistry by seeking input from all its communities of interest.
- CODA maintains continuous contact with those important communities through various mechanisms

Monitored Through Rigorous Peer Review:

- Dental and allied dental education programs apply for accreditation based on Accreditation Standards.
- To maintain accreditation, institutions self-assess their adherence to the Accreditation Standards.
- CODA uses comprehensive internal quality assurance and in-depth training of qualified and experienced professionals, who evaluate programs on site.
- The accreditation review team provides clear and comprehensive report of their findings to the CODA Commission.
- The Commission makes the final decision to award, continue or remove and accreditation status. The Commission bases its judgments on the program's compliance with the Accreditation Standards and Commission Policies.



International Accreditation Process

