

**Guidance Document: Temporary Flexibility in Accreditation Standards to Address Interruption of Education Reporting Requirements Resulting From COVID-19 for the Class of 2021**

Below is the *temporary flexibility* guidance on select Accreditation Standards. Only those Accreditation Standards which include *temporary flexibility* are included, all others have been retained as written in the current published Accreditation Standards document.

**Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral Medicine**

**Alternative Assessment Methods (for example, patient vs simulation)**

For the Class of 2021, while patient-based experiences are essential, alternative methods for training and assessment are allowed, in accordance with the *temporary flexibility guidance document*. Programs are encouraged to be innovative and consider multiple methods appropriate to the discipline. Alternative methods could include objective structured clinical examination (OSCE), portfolios, case presentations, procedural presentations, case studies, virtual cases, simulations, and use of virtual standardized patients, and other modes of assessment.

**Modification/Reduction of Curriculum Content or Curriculum Requirements (for example, modification/reduction of program-dictated requirements, CODA competency requirements, and/or CODA quantitative numbers-based requirements)**

For the Class of 2021, programs have the flexibility to modify program-dictated requirements, as long as the modifications continue to meet standards required by CODA and the program continues to confirm its graduates are competent upon completion of the program. Curriculum (program) length cannot be modified, but curriculum content changes that are necessary are permissible. The didactic curriculum should be continued without interruption, due to the flexibility allowed via the use of alternative methods of delivery for case studies, patient care conferences, treatment planning conferences, literature reviews, etc.

**Program Length or Program Component Length (for example, rotations, services, etc.)**

For the Class of 2021, the program length requirement will be maintained, since reducing the program length could impact the graduates' future licensing or board certification requirements, which are outside of CODA's purview. The use of distance education technology offers the programs flexibility in providing the required educational experiences. Modification of program components, such as rotations, is allowed as long as the specific rotation requirements are achieved.

**Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral Medicine**

**Oral Med Standard 2-3**

**The duration of the program must be at least two consecutive academic years with a minimum of 24 months, full-time or its equivalent.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, the program length requirement will not be modified. Temporary flexibility is provided through the use of alternative educational and assessment methods while ensuring competence of the program graduates.

#### **Oral Med Standard 2-4**

**At least one continuous year of clinical education must take place in a single educational setting.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is given at the discretion of the program director. The program is expected to ensure graduates are competent upon completion of the program

#### **Oral Medicine Standard 2-15**

**The educational program must ensure that each resident diagnose and treat an adequate number and variety of cases to a level that (a) the conditions are resolved or stabilized and (b) predisposing, initiating and contributory factors in the etiology of the diseases or conditions are controlled.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is allowed at the discretion of the program director, as long as items a and b listed above are achieved. The program is expected to ensure competency of its graduates.

#### **Oral Medicine Standard 2-17**

**Clinical medical experiences must be provided via rotation through various relevant medical services and participation in hospital rounds.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is given at the discretion of the program director. The program is expected to ensure graduates are competent upon completion of the program

#### **Oral Med Standard 5-5**

**The program's resident evaluation system must assure that, through the director and faculty, each program:**

- a) **periodically, but at least two times annually, evaluates and documents the resident's progress toward achieving the program's written goals and objectives or competencies for resident training using appropriate written criteria and procedures.**

Temporary Guidance: For the Class of 2021, temporary flexibility is allowed through the use of alternative methods in conducting resident evaluations, including distance education technology.