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Dental students are the future of the profession. The number of participants in the ADA's Dental Admission Testing Program (DAT) increased an average of 11.8 percent per year from 2001–2005, though faculty shortages and other factors are affecting the quality of dental education.

The ADA is taking steps to focus attention on the looming crisis in dental education and also has developed numerous programs, resources and services to help dental students and ease their transition to dental practice.

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RAISING AWARENESS OF DENTAL EDUCATION NEEDS



Our dental education system faces significant challenges. To meet all these challenges we, as dental professionals, must help secure the future of this profession by supporting dental education. This is our call to action!

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What do YOU think?



Do you agree that dental education is in a near-crisis situation? What do you see as your role in addressing that situation? [Respond Now](#)

[View responses](#) to last issue's question.

Hot Button

HOW DOES DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005 AFFECT STUDENT LOANS?



Since President Bush signed the Deficit Reduction Act into law on February 8, 2006, a wave of information about federal student loans has flooded the media. How do these new provisions affect practicing dentists, dental students and residents? There are several positive benefits.

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MAJOR CHANGES ANTICIPATED FOR DENTAL EDUCATION



The American Dental Education Association's Commission on Change and Innovation (CCI) in Dental Education was established late in 2005 to engage communities of interest in exploring systemic changes to the dental school curriculum. The commission's intent is to redefine core competencies and related foundation knowledge that will lead to a change in competency-based dental education and curriculum, the construction of National Board examinations, the updating of CODA Standards and the reassessing of clinical licensure processes.

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DENTAL STUDENTS AND DRINKING HABITS



It's no secret that campus alcohol and drug use are problems of national concern. For the most part, it's not the students who think drinking is a problem; they view drinking as a rite of passage and a right of young adulthood. For campus officials and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, what they define as 'binge drinking' is what students define as a party—or as the most desirable way to spend spring break. Many components of campus culture support and normalize alcohol abuse, regardless of official rules and policies—think fraternity parties, football/basketball games, corporate sponsorship of campus activities and cheap drinks at the campus bars.

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