

University of Florida  
College of Dentistry  
**2015 ACCREDITATION**  
**Update**

July 28, 2015



To: UF College of Dentistry,

I am very pleased to inform you that the self-study process for our CODA accreditation is officially completed. The DMD Self Study was sent to our site visitors on Friday, July 24. If you would like to review the materials, the self-study and all related appendices are posted on our website [here](#).

The advanced education program self studies are also complete and are being mailed today.

Next we'll begin final preparations for our site visit, scheduled for September 29-October 1, 2015, and you can expect to hear more from me and our steering committee about this important event during the next two months.

If you are new to the college and would like to learn more about CODA accreditation, please visit our accreditation web pages [here](#).

I am extremely impressed with the hard work, time and dedication that has gone into the self-study process from all areas of our college. It was very gratifying to be here, during these final months of preparation, to witness the breadth of knowledge and expertise of the faculty and staff who have worked so diligently on this project. It was a true team effort and I offer a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone involved.

With kind regards,

**Isabel**

Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.  
Dean, UF College of Dentistry

## How is critical thinking defined by the Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs?

Critical thinking is foundational to teaching and deep learning in any subject. The components of critical thinking are: the application of logic and accepted intellectual standards to reasoning; the ability to access and evaluate evidence; the application of knowledge in clinical reasoning; and a disposition for inquiry that includes openness, self-assessment, curiosity, skepticism, and dialogue.

In professional practice, critical thinking enables the dentist to recognize pertinent information, make appropriate decisions based on a deliberate and open-minded review of the available options, evaluate outcomes of diagnostic and therapeutic decisions, and assess his or her own performance. Accordingly, the dental educational program must develop students who are able to:

- Identify problems and formulate questions clearly and precisely;
- Gather and assess relevant information, weighing it against extant knowledge and ideas, to interpret information accurately and arrive at well-reasoned conclusions;
- Test emerging hypotheses against evidence, criteria, and standards;
- Show intellectual breadth by thinking with an open mind, recognizing and evaluating assumptions, implications, and consequences;
- Communicate effectively with others while reasoning through problems.

For previous accreditation updates, please visit the college's [accreditation webpages here](#).