ALL IN Brief

Accreditation UP!Date

UP!
The journey begins
2015

To: UF College of Dentistry,

On July 23 & 24, we hosted a team of three people who served as consultants for us as we went through a mock site visit process for our D.M.D. Accreditation. We received a great deal of feedback, both positive and negative, that is going to help us direct our efforts toward improving some areas of our self study and fine-tuning other areas.

We have a lot of work ahead of us as we complete the self study process in preparation for our CODA site visit in February 2015. Without a doubt it will take a concerted team effort from everyone in our college to ensure we are properly representing the excellence that is the University of Florida College of Dentistry.

There are a lot of very important deadlines and expectations in the coming months and we will keep everyone apprised of our plans. If you have any questions, please contact Clay Walker, chair of the Accreditation Steering Committee.

Sincerely,

Boyd Robinson, D.D.S., M.Ed.
Interim Dean
UF College of Dentistry

What is CODA?

CODA is the Commission on Dental Accreditation and it's affiliated with the American Dental Association. CODA accredits dental schools and programs including D.M.D. and advanced dental education programs, and allied dental education programs in the U.S. CODA functions independently and autonomously in matters of developing and approving accreditation standards, making accreditation decisions on educational programs and developing and approving procedures that are used in the accreditation process.

For more information and history on CODA, click here.

What is CODA Accreditation?

Our D.M.D. and specialty programs are currently accredited by CODA which is charged with ensuring that the nation's dental schools and programs maintain the highest professional and ethical standards. Every seven years, we have to have an accreditation site visit to ensure we continue to meet CODA standards. (Except for OMFS programs which are reviewed every five years.)

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
College of Dentistry

The school/program completes a comprehensive self study to evaluate how well they meet the standards that CODA sets. And then produces a self-study report detailing its resources, curriculum, policies and operational standards, as well as weaknesses identified and corrected as a result of the self-study.

The next step is an on-site review conducted by CODA team members selected for their expertise in the program area.

They conduct interviews with administrators, faculty, staff and students to verify information in the self-study and ensure that the program meets minimum accreditation standards.

The site visit team creates and submit a detailed report to the commission and the college/program. The commission meets twice a year (usually January and July) to review site visit reports and make accreditation decisions.

Why is accreditation important?

Graduating from an accredited program doesn't guarantee licensure or a successful career, it does reflect the quality of how a college or program conducts its business and speaks to a sense of public trust, as well as to professional quality.

For students
Accreditation provides assurance that the college you're attending is engaged in continuous quality improvement and that it meets national standards for the dental profession.

For faculty members
Accreditation provides a formal process for ongoing evaluation and improvement of our programs. It also provides a collaborative process for faculty, students and staff to evaluate how well we achieve our mission and advance the art and science of dentistry.

What are the CODA standards for accreditation?

There are six CODA standards for pre-doctoral dental education programs.

Standard 1: Institutional Effectiveness
Standard 2: Educational Program
Standard 3: Faculty & Staff
Standard 4: Educational Support Services
Standard 5: Patient Care Services
Standard 6: Research Program

Interested in learning more? Click here.

Where can I get more information about the college's accreditation process and progress?

We have an area of our website devoted to accreditation.

You can review the draft self-study documents and provide input.

There is a list of the self-study committees.

You can also access archived materials from the last self-study cycle, completed in February 2008.