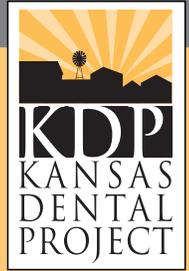


The Commission on Dental Accreditation

What the decision to accredit dental therapy programs means for Kansas



The Commission on Dental Accreditation, or CODA, is the only agency that accredits dental and dental-related educational programs in the United States. It is recognized by the United States Department of Education as the sole agency to accredit these post-secondary programs. In August CODA voted to approve accreditation standards for dental therapy educational programs.

- CODA has been granted accreditation authority for dental and dental-related education by the United States Department of Education since 1952.
- CODA has accredited more than 1,400 programs. These include programs for predoctoral dental education, postdoctoral general dentistry, advanced general dentistry (dental anesthesiology, orofacial pain & oral medicine), dental hygiene, dental assisting, and dental laboratory technology.
- CODA is comprised of 30 members, including the: American Dental Association, American Dental Education Association (ADEA), American Association of Dental Boards (AADB), ADEA/Special Care Dentistry Association, American Dental Assistants Association, American Dental Hygienists' Association, National Association of Dental Laboratories, and American Student Dental Association. Four members represent the public. CODA is an independent agency.

Attaining CODA accreditation will certify that graduates of dental therapy education programs will be prepared to provide safe, high-quality oral health care. CODA's decision is recognition of dental therapy as a profession by the dental industry's accrediting body.

"Accreditation is the ultimate source of consumer protection for prospective students. It is often a prerequisite for governmental funding. Graduation from an accredited program is almost always stipulated by state law and is an eligibility requirement for licensure and/or certification examinations. In short, accreditation of a school or program is a student's most important source of independent validation that the program has at least enough educational value to be "approved" by a **credible** (expertise-based), **independent** (free of outside influence), **reliable** (consistently applied standards) organization that has the U.S. Department of Education's approval."

– The Commission on Dental Accreditation

Learn More About the Kansas Dental Project at www.kansasdental.com

Information is from the Commission on Dental Accreditation: www.ada.org/en/coda/accreditation/about-us/