



Commission on Dental Accreditation

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August 5, 2011

Dr. Rose Joyce
Interim President
West Los Angeles College
9000 Overland Avenue
Culver City, CA 90230

AUG 15 2011

RE: Dental Hygiene Program

Dear President Joyce:

At its August 4, 2011 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) considered the site visit report on the dental hygiene program sponsored by West Los Angeles College.

On the basis of this review, the Commission adopted a resolution to grant the program the accreditation status of "approval without reporting requirements." The definitions of accreditation classifications are enclosed. No additional information is requested from the program at this time. The next site visit for the program is scheduled for **2017**.

A copy of the Commission's site visit report is enclosed. One copy of this report and the related enclosures have also been sent to the chief administrative officer and program director copied on this letter. The Commission requests that a copy of this report and the related enclosures be forwarded to appropriate individuals.

In taking this action, the Commission stipulated that it will expect the institution to keep the Commission informed as soon as possible of anticipated major changes in any approved educational program offered, particularly in the areas of administration, faculty, facilities and curriculum. The Commission's policy and guidelines for reporting major program changes can be found on the web at the following link:
<http://www.ada.org/314.aspx>.

The Commission has authorized use of the following statement by institutions or programs that wish to announce their programmatic accreditation by the Commission. Programs that wish to advertise the specific programmatic accreditation status granted by the Commission may include that information as indicated in italics below (see text inside square brackets); that portion of the statement is optional but, if used, must be complete and current.

The program in dental hygiene is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation [*and has been granted the accreditation status of "approval without reporting requirements"*]. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312) 440-4653 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. The Commission's web address is: <http://www.ada.org/100.aspx>

President Joyce
August 5, 2011
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The Commission wishes to thank you and the faculty and staff for their cooperation during the site visit. If this office can be of any assistance to you, please contact me at (800) 621-8099, extension 2695 or e-mail me at wellingg@ada.org.

Sincerely,



Gwen Welling, RDH, MS
Manager, Dental Hygiene Education
Commission on Dental Accreditation

GW/sz

Enclosures: CODA Accreditation Status Definitions
Formal Report of the Site Visit

Enclosures sent to the program director via email:

Reporting Major Changes in Accredited Programs
Electronic Submission Guidelines for General Correspondence
Evaluation and Operational Policies and Procedures
Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Programs

cc: Ms. Aracely Aguiar, dean, Academic Affairs, Career and Technical Education
Ms. Carmen Dones, chair/program director, Dental Hygiene
Dr. Donald R. Joondeph, chair, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)
Dr. Anthony J. Ziebert, director, CODA

**FORMAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION
TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE
ON THE EVALUATION OF THE DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION PROGRAM
Culver City, California***

Introduction

An evaluation of the dental hygiene program offered by West Los Angeles was conducted on December 2-3, 2010 by a committee of the Commission on Dental Accreditation composed of Ms. Laura Justice, consultant in dental hygiene and Ms. Gwen Welling, Commission staff.

The Commission believes that educational institutions offering curricula supportive to the dental profession assume the obligation and responsibility of affording quality educational opportunities which are based on sound educational principles. Commission objectives are also based on the premise that dental hygiene education programs should strive continually to improve standards of scholarship and teaching consistent with the purpose and methods of postsecondary education. To assist the institution in appraising its educational effectiveness and identifying ways and means by which its endeavors can be strengthened, dental hygiene programs are reviewed periodically by peers in relation to predetermined standards. This peer review of the educational process is based on the program's self-study and conferences with persons involved in the various components of the program.

This report represents the visiting committee's findings and conclusions that directly relate to accreditation standards. These are found, as appropriate, under headings that parallel the Commission's Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs. Only those standards that warrant one of the aforementioned types of comments are included; in all other cases, the visiting committee found that the program met or exceeded the minimum standards.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation has discontinued the use of commendations, effective July 26, 2007. As a result, commendations will no longer be cited within site visit reports for programs under the Commission's purview.

Accreditation History

The dental hygiene program offered by West Los Angeles was initiated in 1971. This was the Commission's seventh site evaluation of the dental hygiene program. At the time of the site visit, the accreditation status for the dental hygiene education program was "approval without reporting requirements." Information on the Commission's previous accreditation of the program follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Basis of Action</u>	<u>Action</u>
May 1971	Site Visit	Approval

*As approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation for transmittal August 4, 2011.

May 1972	Progress Report	Approval
December 1972	Progress Report	Approval
May 1978	Site Visit	Conditional Approval
December 1978	Progress Report	Conditional Approval
December 1979	Special Site Visit	Provisional Approval
May 1980	Progress Report	Provisional Approval
May 1981	Progress Report	Conditional Approval
May 1982	Progress Report	Approval
December 1984	Interim Report	Approval
December 1988	Site Visit	Approval
January 1997	Site Visit	Approval
July 1997	Progress Report	Approval
January 2004	Site Visit	Approval <u>with</u> Reporting Requirements
July 2004	Progress Report	Approval <u>without</u> Reporting Requirements

Review of Recommendations Cited in the Program's Previous Site Visit Report

At the time of the Commission's last evaluation of the program in January 2004, one recommendation was cited in the areas of Administration, Faculty and Staff. During this evaluation, the visiting committee reviewed these areas and found that the program has maintained compliance with the previously cited recommendations.

Compliance with Commission Policies

At the time of the site visit, the visiting committee determined that the program was in compliance with the Commission on Dental Accreditation's policies on "Third Party Comments" and "Complaints."

Standard 1. Institutional Effectiveness

The program has documented its effectiveness using a formal and ongoing outcomes assessment process to include measures of dental hygiene student achievement.

Standard 2. Educational Program

The dental hygiene program is presented in four, 16-week semesters. Upon completion of the program, graduates are awarded associate of science degrees. The curriculum has been defined in terms of program goals, general instructional objectives, learning experiences designed to achieve the goals and objectives and evaluation procedures to assess student attainment of the goals and objectives.

Accreditation Status

At its August 4, 2011 meeting the Commission on Dental Accreditation adopted a resolution to continue the accreditation status of "approval without reporting requirements" for the dental hygiene program offered by West Los Angeles.

Publication of Accreditation

The Commission has authorized use of the following statement by institutions or programs that wish to announce their programmatic accreditation by the Commission. Programs that wish to advertise the specific programmatic accreditation status granted by the Commission may include that information as indicated in *italics* below (see text inside square brackets); that portion of the statement is optional but, if used, must be complete and current.

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COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION ACCREDITATION STATUS DEFINITIONS

Programs Which Are Fully Operational

APPROVAL (without reporting requirements): An accreditation classification granted to an educational program indicating that the program achieves or exceeds the basic requirements for accreditation.

APPROVAL (with reporting requirements): An accreditation classification granted to an educational program indicating that specific deficiencies or weaknesses exist in one or more areas of the program. Evidence of compliance with the cited standards must be demonstrated within 18 months if the program is between one and two years in length or two years if the program is at least two years in length. If the deficiencies are not corrected within the specified time period, accreditation will be withdrawn, unless the Commission extends the period for achieving compliance for good cause.

Programs Which Are Not Fully Operational

INITIAL ACCREDITATION: An accreditation classification granted to any dental, advanced dental or allied dental education program which is in the planning and early stages of development or an intermediate stage of program implementation and not yet fully operational. This accreditation classification provides evidence to educational institutions, licensing bodies, government or other granting agencies that, at the time of initial evaluation(s), the developing education program has the potential for meeting the standards set forth in the requirements for an accredited educational program for the specific occupational area. The classification "initial accreditation" is granted based upon one or more site evaluation visit(s) and until the program is fully operational.