



March 20, 2020

The American Student Dental Association (ASDA) remains in strong support for ensuring the timely graduation and licensure for the Class of 2020. We understand that this is a time of uncertainty for many. ASDA wants to ensure the health and safety of students, patients, clinical faculty and examiners.

It is the position of ASDA that dental schools must strive to graduate all students by the graduation date announced by the institution at the time of enrollment. (A-3 Timely Graduation, 1997). The Association believes it is imperative that students graduate in a timely manner to enter the workforce and matriculate into residency programs before they begin on July 1.

ASDA is a proponent of dental licensure reform. We are proud to work with the American Dental Association and the American Dental Education Association on the Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure. The Association believes an ideal licensure exam:

- Does not use human subjects in a live clinical testing scenario
- Is psychometrically valid and reliable in its assessment
- Is reflective of the scope of current dental practice
- Is universally accepted

Under normal circumstances, ASDA believes demonstration of both kinesthetic and clinical decision-making competence is necessary to obtain initial dental licensure. ASDA believes this should be demonstrated by the following:

- Manikin-based kinesthetic assessment
- A non-patient based Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- Submission of a portfolio of comprehensive patient care.

ASDA understands that as of today, many dental schools are unsure when they will re-open. Given the unprecedented times, we call upon educators, policy makers and testing agencies to be open minded when planning for pathways to graduation and licensure. ASDA encourages the American Dental Education Association, American Dental Association and other dental organizations to come together to plan alternative pathways to licensure that involve third party assessment.

ASDA proposes this be completed as follows:

- Regional testing agencies and state dental boards endorse a licensure process involving a manikin-based assessment along with a diagnostic skills assessment, available for fourth year dental students when schools re-open.
- Testing agencies and state boards consider providing 2020 graduates of CODA-accredited programs with preliminary licensure, allowing graduates adequate time to prepare for a clinical examination.

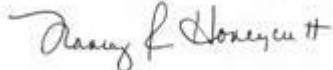
It is important for students to graduate and have a license in order to serve their communities. We ask that the dental community work with ASDA to ensure that the Class of 2020 graduates overcome the challenges presented during this national crisis.

It is important to note that regulations and mandates regarding COVID-19 are changing at a rapid pace. ASDA will not advocate for a solution that jeopardizes the health or safety of anyone involved in the licensing process. ASDA welcomes the opportunity to coordinate with deans, ASDA members, ADEA, the ADA, state dental boards and regional testing agencies to provide solutions that serve dental students, patients, and the public during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,



Sydney Shapiro
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American Student Dental Association



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