

COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION
POLICY ON COMPLAINTS

A. DEFINITION

A complaint is defined by the Commission on Dental Accreditation as one alleging that a Commission-accredited educational program, a program which has an application for initial accreditation pending, or the Commission may not be in substantial compliance with Commission standards or required accreditation procedures.

B. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE COMPLAINTS: In accord with the U.S. Department of Education's Criteria and Procedures for Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, the Commission requires accredited programs to notify students of an opportunity to file complaints with the Commission.

Each program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation must develop and implement a procedure to inform students of the mailing address and telephone number of the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The notice, to be distributed at regular intervals, but at least annually, must include but is not necessarily limited to the following language:

The Commission on Dental Accreditation will review complaints that relate to a program's compliance with the accreditation standards. The Commission is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dental and dental-related education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for treatment received by patients or individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff or students.

A copy of the appropriate accreditation standards and/or the Commission's policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-2678 or by calling 1-800-621-8099 extension 4653.

The accredited program must retain in its files information to document compliance with this policy so that it is available for review during the Commission's on-site reviews of the program.

REQUIRED RECORD OF COMPLAINTS: The program must maintain a record of student complaints related to the Commission's accreditation standards and/or policy received since the Commission's last comprehensive review of the program.

At the time of a program's regularly scheduled on-site evaluation, visiting committees evaluate the program's compliance with the Commission's policy on the Required Record of Complaints. The team reviews the areas during the site visit, includes their findings in the draft site visit report and notes the findings at the final conference.

Reaffirmed: 8/10, 7/09, 7/08, 7/07, 7/04, 7/01, 7/96; Revised: 8/02, 1/9; CODA: 01/94:6 4