



Commission on Dental Accreditation

Via Email Transmission: [rscott@dacc.nmsu.edu](mailto:rscott@dacc.nmsu.edu)

August 17, 2018

Dr. Renay Scott  
President  
New Mexico State University-Dona Ana Community College  
3400 S. Espina  
P.O. Box 30001, MSC 3DA  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001

RE: New Mexico State University-Dona Ana Community College, Las Cruces, New Mexico  
Dental Assisting Program  
Status: Approval without Reporting Requirements

Dear Dr. Scott,

At its August 2, 2018 meeting, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) granted the dental assisting program the accreditation status of “approval without reporting requirements.” The definitions of accreditation classifications are provided at the link below. Below is a summary of actions and additional information.

#### **Dental Assisting Site Visit**

The Commission considered the site visit report on the dental assisting program. On the basis of this review, the Commission adopted a resolution to grant the program the accreditation status of “approval without reporting requirements.”

No additional information is requested from the program at this time. The next site visit for the program is scheduled for **2024**.

#### **General Information**

The findings of the Commission on Dental Accreditation are noted in the enclosed Commission approved site visit report. Oral comments made by site visit team members during the course of the site visit are not to be construed as official site visit findings unless documented within the site visit report and may not be publicized. Further, publication of site visit team members’ names and/or contact information is prohibited.

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One copy of this report has also been sent to the chief administrative officer and program director copied on this letter. The Commission requests that a copy of this report be forwarded to the chairpersons and appropriate faculty.

The Commission expects institutions to keep the Commission informed as soon as possible of anticipated changes in any approved educational program offered, particularly in the areas of administration, enrollment, faculty, facilities and curriculum. The Commission's policy and guidelines for reporting program changes can be found at the link below. Guidelines for specific program changes, including reporting enrollment changes, adding sites where educational activity occurs, and developing a teach-out report are found on the Commission's website.

***Institutions/Programs are expected to follow Commission policy and procedure on privacy and data security related to compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The Commission's statement on HIPAA, as well as the Privacy and Data Security Summary for Institutions/Programs (PDF), are found in the Policies/Guidelines section of the Commission's website at <http://www.ada.org/en/coda/policies-and-guidelines/hipaa/>. Programs that fail to comply with CODA's policy will be assessed a penalty fee of \$4000.***

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 assisting 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/en/coda>.

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 by telephone, at 1-800-621-8099, extension 4660 or by e-mail, at [smithmi@ada.org](mailto:smithmi@ada.org).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michelle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Smith".

Michelle Smith, RDH, MS  
Manager, Allied Dental Education  
Commission on Dental Accreditation

MS/ds

Enclosures: CODA Accreditation Status Definitions  
<https://www.ada.org/en/coda/find-a-program/status-definitions>  
Formal Report of the Site Visit  
Guidelines for Reporting Program Changes in Accredited Programs  
<https://www.ada.org/en/coda/policies-and-guidelines/program-changes>  
Electronic Submission Guidelines for General Correspondence  
<https://www.ada.org/en/coda/policies-and-guidelines/electronic-submission-guidelines>

cc: Dr. Susan Wood, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, New Mexico State  
University-Dona Ana Community College  
Ms. Martha McCaslin, program director, Dental Assisting Program  
Mr. Herman Bounds, Jr., director, Accreditation Division, U.S. Department of  
Education (via CODA website)  
State Boards of Dentistry (via CODA website)  
Institutional Accreditors (via CODA website)  
Dr. William G. Leffler, chair, CODA  
Dr. Sherin Tookes, director, CODA