

*(College of Dental Medicine UPDATED Accreditation Statement – 08.21.2012)*

The University of New England College of Dental Medicine hosted its Initial Accreditation site visit on April 3-4, 2012. A team from the Commission on Dental Accreditation visited both the Portland and Biddeford campuses, and evaluated our developing program in relation to the existing educational standards. In dental accreditation, our standards include 60 "must" statements covering areas such as mission; goals and objectives; institutional support; admissions and student support; curriculum; outcomes assessment; faculty and staff; facilities; quality assurance; clinic management; community-based education; and research, among many others.

We are pleased to report that our developing College of Dental Medicine received no recommendations, an indication that the program is in compliance with all accreditation standards at this time. The report we received did contain some suggestions, and we will consider those carefully as we move forward.

The accreditation site visit team acts in a fact-finding capacity. The only body that has the authority to award final accreditation status is the Commission on Dental Accreditation itself. The report of the site visit team was forwarded to a review committee in July 2012, and that committee made its recommendation on the accreditation status to the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 9-10, 2012, the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation considered the initial accreditation application of the University of New England College of Dental Medicine.

We are pleased to report that the program in dentistry is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and has been granted the accreditation status of "initial accreditation". 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](tel:3124404653) or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. The Commission's web address is: <http://www.ada.org/100.aspx>

Initial Accreditation is the accreditation classification granted to any dental, advanced dental or allied dental education program which is 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).

The successful completion of the initial accreditation process is a significant step forward in the process of ensuring the development of a quality educational and patient care program to serve the people of northern New England and beyond.