



Code of Conduct

The CADAT Code of Conduct is intended to provide CADAT members with a set of best practices and guidelines with which members agree to adhere to when joining and maintaining their membership in the Association. Such principles are intended to serve as the foundation for the dental assisting teaching profession and to define the Code of Conduct.

The CADAT Board of Directors is authorized not only to develop and maintain this Code of Conduct, but to also establish and implement procedures and guidelines for the purpose of determining when violations or failures occur and for allowing the members to participate in a resolution and remediation process that is both reasonable and fair. The Code of Conduct represents a commitment by CADAT and its members to follow the ethical standards and best practices evidenced by the Code of Conduct at all times.

Introduction

Professional conduct defines interactions between the individual educator and students, the employing agencies, the public and other professionals. Generally, the responsibility for such conduct rests with the individual member, however, a Code of Conduct (Code) for educators is recommended for all non-profit associations whose principle purpose and membership service the needs of the community. Violations of the Code may also be used as supporting evidence, though may not constitute an independent basis, for the suspension or revocation of a member as defined in the CADAT Association Bylaws.

This Code makes explicit the values of the educators as professionals. When individuals become educators in healthcare, they make a moral commitment to uphold these values.

Purpose

The members of the California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT) believe that the quality of their services directly influences the profession and the dental community. We recognize our obligation to provide services and to conduct ourselves in a manner that places the highest esteem on professionalism and dignity, seek to ensure that every student receives the highest quality education, and that every fellow educator maintains a high level of competence from entry through ongoing professional development. As educators in allied dental healthcare we are responsible for the development of sound educational policy and obligated to implement that policy and its programs into the educational setting.

CADAT members recognize their primary responsibility to the student and the development of the student's potential. Central to that development is the educator's valuing the worth and dignity of every person, student and colleague alike; the pursuit of truth; devotion to excellence; acquisition of knowledge; and democratic principles. To those ends, the educator engages in continuing professional development and keeps current with research and technology. CADAT members encourage and support the use of resources that best serve the interests and needs of students. Within the

context of professional excellence, we work together with the student to explore the challenge and the dignity of the human experience.

Practices

Professional practices are behaviors and attitudes that are based on a set of values that the education community believes and accepts. These values are evidenced by the educator's conduct toward students, colleagues, employers and the community.

CADAT members shall be prepared and legally licensed or certified in their areas of assignment. Educators may not be assigned or willingly accept assignments they are not licensed or credentialed to fulfill.

CADAT members shall maintain high levels of competence throughout their careers.

CADAT members shall exhibit consistent and equitable treatment of students, fellow educators and professional colleagues. They shall respect the civil rights of all and not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, culture, religion, sex or sexual orientation, marital status, age, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, disabling condition or vocational interest. This list of bases or discrimination is not all-inclusive.

CADAT members shall accept the value of diversity in educational practice. Diversity requires educators to have a range of methodologies and to request the necessary tools for effective teaching and learning.

CADAT members shall impart to their students principles of good citizenship, professionalism within the dental community and team, the principles of the Dental Practice Act and attending regulations for allied dental healthcare practice, and societal responsibility.

CADAT members shall exhibit acceptable and professional language and communication skills. Their verbal and written communications with colleagues, students and staff shall reflect sensitivity to the fundamental human rights of dignity, privacy and respect.

CADAT members shall be open-minded, knowledgeable and use appropriate judgment and communication skills when responding to an issue within the educational environment.

CADAT members shall keep in confidence information obtained in the course of professional service unless required to be disclosed by law or by clear and compelling professional necessity as determined by the program or institution.

CADAT members shall exert reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions which interfere with learning or are harmful to the student's health and safety.