

FAQ's

Fellowship

I joined the AGD my last year of dental school. Does that year count toward my three years of continuous membership?

No. Active membership in the AGD begins no earlier than the date of your dental school graduation.

I completed a General Practice Residency prior to joining the AGD. Will I receive credit hours toward my Fellowship?

Individuals who join the AGD within four years of completing a one-year CODA-accredited advanced dental education program (AEGD/GDR/GPR) may earn up to 150 hours of participation credit, and up to 300 hours of credit for a two-year program. Credit can be received for non-concurrent completion of both program types for a maximum of 450 hours of participation credit.

Do I have to wait until I have earned 500 hours to take the exam?

No. You may take the exam whenever you feel you are ready. We often recommend that recent graduates take the exam within the first two years of membership, as they are more familiar with test-taking.

When and where can I take the exam?

The exam is available year-round at SMT computer testing centers throughout the U.S. and Canada, and is also offered once a year as a paper/pencil test on the Friday of every AGD Annual Meeting & Exhibits.

How do I locate a testing center near me?

You can find a center online by visiting the Web site. Testing appointments may be made through SMT's registration department once a paid exam application has been received and processed in the AGD office.

How many times can I take the exam?

There are two different computer-based exams available annually, October through December, so you may have up to two chances in a given year. You may continue to re-test until you pass, but you may not take the same exam version twice.

How is the exam graded?

The Fellowship Exam is criterion-referenced. Scores are based on the candidate's total number of correct answers. A minimum pass score has been established based on candidates' performance over the past five years. Each year's exam is statistically equated to previous years, assuring the pass level is consistent from year to year.

How many people pass the exam the first time?

Approximately 80–85% of exam takers pass in a given year.

What tools are available to help prepare for the exam?

The AGD sells a print and online Fellowship Study Guide (\$85) and Self-Assessment quizzes, volumes 8–13 (\$15 each). Several AGD constituents offer Fellowship Exam prep-courses for those who like to study with others. You may earn 15 CE hours toward the Fellowship Award by completing and submitting the original Fellowship Study Guide answer test sheet to the AGD. Self-Assessment booklets can be ordered online and take approximately 7–10 business days to receive.

How can I receive CE credit for teaching?

You may receive up to 100 credit hours for your first year of full- or part-time teaching at an ADA/CDA-accredited institution, or by speaking on behalf of PACE/CERP-approved program providers. If you teach at an institution, a letter of verification from the director of your department is required to receive CE credit. For those individuals who speak on behalf of PACE/CERP-approved providers, verification from the program provider is necessary.

How can I receive CE credit for publishing an article?

You may receive CE credit for authorship of a published scientific article in a scientific journal, authorship of a published dental textbook or chapter in a dental textbook, and authorship of a case report, technique paper, or clinical research report in a dental or scientific journal. A copy of the article or chapter as it appears in the publication must be submitted for consideration of credit.

Can I earn my required 500 CE hours by teaching, publishing articles, and by doing self-instruction courses only?

A minimum of 350 CE hours must be taken through course attendance. A combined maximum of 150 of the required 500 hours may be earned by teaching or publishing articles. A maximum of 150 self-instruction course hours can be applied toward the award.

I have registered to take the Fellowship Exam. Am I automatically registered for the Fellowship Award?

There are two separate applications and fees for Fellowship. The first application registers you for the Fellowship Exam. Once you have passed the exam, a Fellowship Award application will automatically be sent to you, or you can call and request an award application when you are ready. The award application must be postmarked by December 31 to qualify you for Fellowship the following summer.

If you have further questions about Fellowship, please contact the Program Coordinator at 888.243.3368, ext. 4096.