STUDENT CONTINUING EDUCATION FAQs

First- through fourth-year dental students who are current members of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) may earn up to a maximum of 50 hours of continuing education (CE) credit toward achieving the AGD Fellowship Award (FAGD) after graduation.

Per the award guidelines, students may earn lecture or Self-Instruction CE credit for courses completed on or after their AGD join date from AGD Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE) or American Dental Association (ADA) Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP)-approved organizations. A maximum of 15 CE hours from student Self-Instruction activities can be applied to the AGD Fellowship Award.

Learn more about AGD's dental student CE benefits from the frequently asked questions (FAQs) below. For additional information, contact the AGD Membership Services Center toll-free at 888.AGD.DENT (888.243.3368) or *membership@agd.org*.

Now that I can earn CE credits as a student member of AGD, how soon can I apply for Fellowship?

In accordance with the award guidelines, prior to applying for Fellowship, you must first complete 500 credit hours of approved CE and be an active, licensed dentist member in AGD for three (3) continuous years (36 months) by Dec. 31 of the year in which your award application is received. Your three-year length-of-membership requirement will begin no earlier than the month in which you graduate from dental school. For complete Fellowship requirements, visit the Continuing Education & Events section of the AGD website and click on "Fellowship Award."

How many CE credits can I earn toward Fellowship as a student member of AGD?

You may earn up to 50 hours of lecture or Self-Instruction credit for approved CE courses you attend as an AGD dental student member. At least 35 of the 50 hours must be from live courses. A maximum of 15 CE hours earned as a student from Self-Instruction courses can be applied toward the AGD Fellowship Award. The credit hours you report will be recorded on your AGD Award Transcript and applied toward the Fellowship requirements after graduation. Credits earned as a student beyond the 50-hour maximum will not count toward Fellowship.

How can I tell which CE courses are eligible for Fellowship credit?

You may earn credit toward your Fellowship from any AGD PACE- and ADA CERP-approved CE lecture courses you attend. The organization providing the CE course should be able to indicate whether it is AGD PACE- or ADA CERP-approved. Additionally, any CE lecture course offered by your local AGD constituent is eligible for Fellowship credit, while any course you take to fulfill a current dental school requirement is not.

What are PACE and CERP?

AGD Program Approval for Continuing Education, or PACE, is an evaluation of the educational processes and organization uses when designing, planning and implementing CE courses. Continuing Education Recognition Program, or CERP, is a similar evaluation process overseen by the American Dental Association (ADA).

Where can I find CE courses to attend for Fellowship credit?

AGD offers a variety of resources to help you pursue Fellowship early in your dental career:

- *AGD FellowTrack programs:* Administered locally by select constituents, AGD FellowTrack programs help to guide students in their pursuit of Fellowship by directing them to AGD PACE-approved CE lecture courses available in their area. Contact your local AGD constituent for more information.
- *Local area courses:* Search the AGD CE Directory by topic, speaker, location and more to find approved CE opportunities close to home. You also can contact your local AGD constituent leaders or dental school liaisons to see if any free or discounted courses are available in your area. For more information, visit the Member Center section of the AGD website and click on "Connect with Your Local Constituent."
- *AGD Scientific Session:* Access high-quality CE and more at the AGD Scientific Session, the premier dental event of the year. AGD student members enjoy free meeting registration, which includes lectures and admission into the AGD exhibit hall. For details, visit the Continuing Education & Events section of the AGD website.
- *AGD PACE-approved providers:* Search for current AGD PACE-approved program providers by state to find local CE lecture courses eligible for Fellowship credit. To begin your search, visit the Continuing Education & Events section of the AGD website and click on "Learn More" under the PACE header.
- *ASDA national meetings:* AGD members who are also members of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) may earn credit toward Fellowship by attending educational lectures at ASDA's Annual Session and National Leadership Conference meetings each year.

Can I earn Fellowship credit for CE courses I take online?

Yes. Up to 15 hours of CE credit earned from AGD PACE- or ADA CERP-approved organizations that offer Self-Instruction courses may be applied toward the AGD Fellowship Award. Students may also earn Fellowship credit for Self-Instruction courses offered through Self-Instruction exercises found in AGD's peer-reviewed clinical journal, *General Dentistry*.

Can I earn Fellowship credit for CE courses offered through my dental school?

Only CE lecture courses offered outside the scope of your dental school's curriculum are eligible for Fellowship credit. If you are attending a course in order to fulfill a requirement as part of your school's curriculum, the course is not eligible for Fellowship credit. However, if your dental school is an AGD PACE- or ADA CERP-approved provider, and it offers a course that is not required as part of your current curriculum, you may receive Fellowship credit for attending that course.

Did I earn Fellowship credit if I was enrolled in an AGD FellowTrack program last year?

Yes. Beginning Jan. 1, 2011, if you were an AGD dental student member at the time you participated in a local AGD FellowTrack program, you are eligible to receive Fellowship credit for all live CE lecture courses you attended through your program. To ensure that you receive CE credit for your activities, contact the coordinator of your local AGD FellowTrack program and check on the status of his or her CE Submission Roster from the year(s) you were registered.

Can I earn Fellowship credit by enrolling in a residency program after graduation?

AGD members can receive credit toward Fellowship for completion of a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) or General Practice Residency (GPR) program. Credit is awarded as follows:
- Up to 150 hours of participation credit toward Fellowship and Mastership for approved one-year programs;
- Up to 300 hours of participation credit toward Fellowship and Mastership for approved two-year programs; and
- Up to 450 hours of participation credit toward Fellowship and Mastership for non-concurrent completion of both types of approved programs.

To receive credit, send either a copy of your residency certificate or a letter (on official letterhead) from the director of the residency program verifying that you have completed the program. Be sure to include the beginning and ending dates of the program, along with the type of residency completed. Please note that AEGD and GPR programs are the only residencies that qualify for credit.

How should I report my CE credits to AGD?

If you attended a CE course presented by an AGD PACE-approved provider, you do not need to report anything to AGD Headquarters, as approved providers are required to submit the information on your behalf in the form of an attendee roster. To ensure you receive credit, remember to bring your AGD Member ID card to each course so your name and ID number can be recorded properly on the attendee roster.

If the provider is not AGD PACE-approved, please email a scanned copy of your course completion certificate to the AGD Membership Services Center at *membership@agd.org*, or fax it to 312.335.3432.

Course-completion certificates from non-AGD PACE-approved providers must include the following:
- Your name and six-digit AGD Member ID number
- Course provider name, ID number and address
- Course information, including title, date, speaker, location, hours earned and topic or subject code

How should I report my CE credits to AGD if I am currently enrolled in a FellowTrack program?

If the coordinator of your local AGD FellowTrack program is planning to provide AGD Headquarters with a CE Submission Roster on behalf of your entire class or program, we will record your credits when we receive the roster. If not, please fill out a course-completion certificate for each CE course you attend, and save them for your records. At the conclusion of your local AGD FellowTrack program, or at the end of the school year, please email scanned copies of all of your course-completion certificates to the AGD Membership Services Center at *membership@agd.org*, or fax them to 312.335.3432.

How can I keep track of CE credits I've earned so that I don't duplicate courses by mistake?

You can monitor your CE activities with the AGD Award Transcript, which is available online and indicates the total CE credits you have accrued as a member. To access your AGD Award Transcript at any time, visit the Continuing Education & Events section of the AGD website and click on "Track My CE," then "View My Award Transcript."

Please note that the CE credits you earn as a dental student member will not be tracked on your AGD Licensing Transcript, as you are not yet a licensed dental professional and are therefore not required to apply for relicensure with a state dental board.

How long does it take AGD to update CE credits to my transcript?

Please allow up to 60 days for AGD PACE-approved CE credits to be posted to your AGD Award Transcript. If your credits have not been posted after 60 days, please contact the course provider. If you submitted non-AGD PACE-approved CE credits, it takes approximately 30 business days from the date the AGD receives your CE to process it and add it to your transcript. For this reason, sending CE credits to AGD Headquarters via email or fax are generally the fastest methods of submission.

How can I correct an error on my transcript?

You can view your AGD Award Transcript online at any time. If you notice any errors in your transcript, including missing CE credits, please submit your changes to AGD Headquarters by email to *membership@agd.org* or by fax to 312.335.3432.