

The SCDA Fellowship & Diplomate Certification Programs

Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) is a unique international organization of oral health professionals and other individuals who are dedicated to promoting oral health, well being and dental care for people with special needs. Members include dentists, dental hygienists and assistants, non-dental healthcare providers, health program administrators, residents, students and hospitals.

Demonstrate Your Expertise with a Fellowship

SCDA encourages practitioners to earn credentials demonstrating advanced knowledge and expertise in the field of special care dentistry. SCDA offers three Fellowships in conjunction with the **American Association of Hospital Dentists (AAHD)**, the **Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities (ADPD)** and the **American Society for Geriatric Dentistry (ASGD)**.

Fellowship Programs are available in three areas of service:

- **[SCDA Fellowship in Hospital Dentistry \(AAHD\)](#)**
Fellowship in Hospital Dentistry (AAHD) indicates the dentist has demonstrated, through a formal evaluation process, a basic level of knowledge and competency required in a hospital dental practice. AAHD Fellowship provides a relevant credential for providers seeking or maintaining medical staff appointments and clinical privileges.
- **[SCDA Fellowship in Geriatric Dentistry \(ASGD\)](#)**
Fellowship in Geriatric Dentistry (ASGD) indicates the dentist or doctoral member has demonstrated, through a formal evaluation process, that he/she possesses the experience, skills and knowledge needed to advance geriatric dentistry in institutional, academic, community and private practice settings.
- **[SCDA Fellowship in Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities \(ADPD\)](#)**
Fellowship in Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities (ADPD) indicates that the dentist or doctoral member has demonstrated, through a formal evaluation process, that he/she possesses the experience, skills and knowledge needed to advance the field.

Already a Fellow? Pursue Diplomate Status

The American Board of Special Care Dentistry (ABSCD) was established in 2004 to advance the profession of Special Care Dentistry through the development of a certification process. The ABSCD is an independent certifying body of Special Care Dentistry Association. Its mission is to optimize the health of people with special needs by elevating the standards and advance the art and science of oral health care for these individuals by promulgating certification standards for dentists.

Certification by ABSCD indicates to your patients, peers and others in the healthcare arena that you are an expert in the field of special care dentistry. By achieving your Diplomate designation, you gain confidence and demonstrate professional competence in the application of Special Care Dentistry.

For study guides and additional information, visit www.scdaonline.org.

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Fellowship Eligibility and Requirements

- Applicants must be a general member in good standing of SCDA for two years (Note: Time as a student member does not count towards the two years.)
- Applicants must possess a DDS, DMD or an internationally equivalent degree.
- All applications must include two recommendation letters: one written by a Fellow of the group you are applying for and one written by a professional colleague familiar with your clinical abilities. All letters should address your involvement, abilities and accomplishments relevant to the fellowship being sought.
- Applicants are required to take an objective, written exam and present a case study to the Fellowship committee.
- Completed applications must be received 30 days before the Fellowship exam date.
- Fellowship Exam fee is \$500.
- To keep your Fellowship status active, you must maintain your membership with SCDA and pay yearly maintenance fees.

Diplomate Eligibility and Requirements

- Applicants must be a general member in good standing of SCDA.
- Graduate from an accredited dental program and possess a DDS, DMD or an internationally equivalent degree.
- Applicant must attain Fellowship in one of the component organizations of SCDA (AAHD, ADPD, ASGD) and hold that Fellowship for at least three continuous years.
- Completed applications must be received 30 days before the Diplomate exam date.
- Diplomates must attend one SCDA Annual Meeting every three years.
- Diplomate Exam fee is \$750.
- To keep your Diplomate status active, you must maintain your membership with SCDA and pay yearly maintenance fees.

► *If you have questions about the Fellowship or Diplomate Programs, visit www.scdonline.org, e-mail SCDA Headquarters at SCDA@SCDAonline.org or call 312.527.6764.*