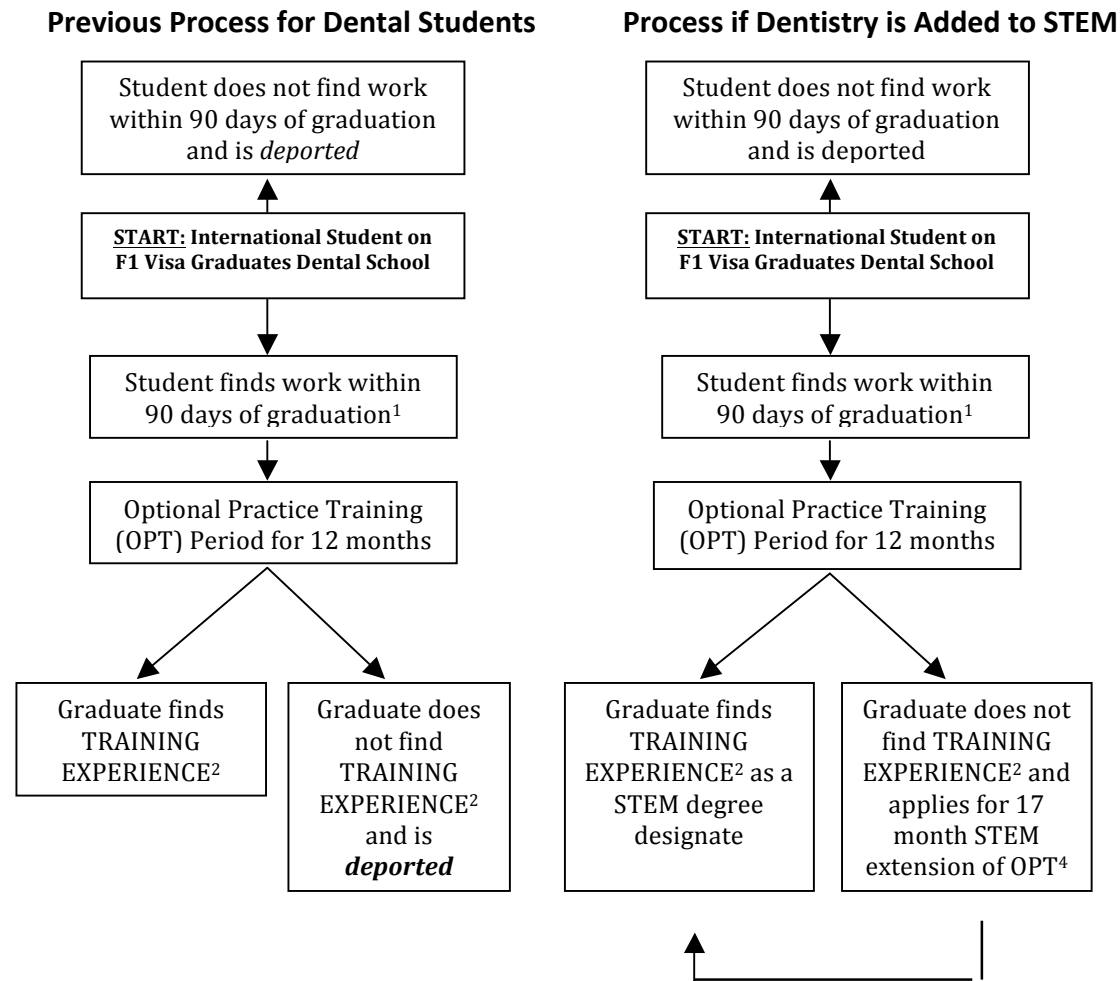




## STEM RESOLUTION FACT SHEET

**ASDA Resolution 303-2011** – To effectively **advocate** for advanced standing, predoctoral ASDA members to alleviate obstacles that make it difficult for them to practice dentistry the way they prefer.



<sup>1</sup> To begin OPT period, the student must have employment related to dentistry (paid or unpaid). Many graduates take unpaid educational jobs so they are not asked to leave the country.

<sup>2</sup>This does not mean they are practicing how they planned to. Many enroll in residencies, teaching roles, and work for large group practices to possibly obtain an H1 visa.

### **Why did ASDA pass this resolution?**

There are currently 32 advanced standing programs at United States dental schools, ranging in size from two to approximately 240 students. Many of our ASDA predoctoral members are enrolled in these programs and would benefit from the addition of dentistry to the list of STEM degrees. The Mission Statement of ASDA states:

*The American Student Dental Association is a national student-run organization **that protects and advances the rights, interests and welfare of dental students**. It introduces students to lifelong involvement in organized dentistry and provides services, information, education, **representation and advocacy**.*

This request serves as a perfect example of how ASDA continues to advocate and represent all of our dental student members.

### **Is this change a work force issue?**

No. The Department of Education and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will add dentistry as a STEM degree if they feel there is no impingement on the dentists that are American citizens. ASDA does not have the expertise or authority to evaluate the workforce issue. The DOE and USICE do this regularly for all professions in STEM and are charged to make a decision that does not impose on the American citizen.

### **Are other healthcare disciplines included on the STEM list?**

Pharmacology and Epidemiology are STEM degrees. Medicine is not included because international medical professionals directly use the USMLE to get into residency through MATCH and are directly employed on a work visa by hospitals and universities. They are a separate category and are not on a student visa. Nursing has a separate Visa classification and does not fall under student visa rules. Currently, foreign trained nurses can apply directly for work in the US and obtain a work visa once hired.