



April 11, 2011

U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), we would like to request that Dentistry (code 51.0401) be added to the list of STEM designated degrees.

ASDA is the nation's largest student-run organization for dental students. Our members include 17,000 dental students at our 58 dental school chapters nationwide. Many of our members are advanced standing students, which means that their primary residence is a country outside the U.S. and they are attending a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited dental school to become licensed to practice in the U.S. After graduation from dental school, these students look for a position within the dental field.

In addition, many of our members are non-advanced standing students that participate in the standard dental education curricula. These students, like the advanced standing students, are on F1 visas. Addition of Dentistry as a STEM designated degree will help all dental students on F1 visas tremendously. The seventeen-month extension would open additional opportunities for these dental students to explore various employment opportunities. In addition, the extension will lessen the strain placed on these students by allowing them to focus on extensive graduation requirements and critical national board exams.

As the voice for dental students nationwide, we request that our members receive the seventeen-month extension offered to students of other professional degrees.

If you need additional information, please contact Nancy Honeycutt, ASDA Executive Director, at (312) 440-2848 or Nancy@ASDAnet.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Shisler".

Adam Shisler
2011-12 President