

HOW-TO GUIDE

JOINING ADA AFTER GRADUATION



How-To Guide: Joining ADA After Graduation

This how-to guide provides step-by-step instructions and ADA membership details to aid dental school seniors with the transition to membership after graduation.

You'll find information on:

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Fourth-year dental students are probably thinking about what life will be like after graduation. The ADA has benefits and resources to support new dentists and, with reduced dues, membership is affordable (free, for many).

Membership Options

There's a membership option for every graduate!

Tripartite Membership (most common)

Tripartite means that you hold membership at the local, state and national level.

If you will be in private practice as an associate, an employee or on your own, in a group practice or clinic, or on the faculty of a dental school, tripartite membership is for you.

Federal Dental Services Membership (direct membership with ADA)

If you will be in the Army, Air Force, Navy, U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or other full-time federal employment, Federal Dental Service (FDS) membership is for you. Tripartite membership is also available in many states.

Graduate Student Membership (direct membership with ADA)

If you will be going into a graduate program, residency or specialty training program that lasts at least one year, graduate student membership is for you. Tripartite graduate membership may be available in some states. Please visit your state dental association website to determine if there is tripartite membership in your state.

Provisional Membership (direct membership with ADA)

Licensed dentists who are relocating, or taking time off for any number of reasons are eligible for provisional membership.

You can learn more at [ADA.org/recentgraduate](https://ada.org/recentgraduate).

Tip: Collaborate with your state society to host a membership lunch and learn. The ADA Office of Student Affairs can provide membership brochures and resources for distribution.

ADA Reduced Dues Program

Recent graduates receive the benefits of ADA membership without paying full dues. They don't pay full dues until the fifth year of membership.

- Year 1 - \$0
- Year 2 - 25% of full national dues
- Year 3 - 50% of full national dues
- Year 4 - 75% of full national dues
- Year 5 and thereafter - 100% of full national dues

Many state and local dental societies also offer dues reductions. To be eligible for reduced dues, dentists must maintain continuous ADA membership. It's to your advantage to join and stay a member.

Going into a residency or graduate training program? If so, you can join the ADA as a graduate student member for just \$30. Once you complete your training, the ADA Reduced Dues Program begins the following year.

For more information on the reduced dues program, see the ADA Membership FAQs at [ADA.org/join](https://ada.org/join).

Benefits of Membership

New dentists receive benefits and resources to support their transition to practice. You can:

- **Stay Up-to-Date**
The ADA can help you stay current on the latest dentistry news as well as scientific findings and studies with *JADA*, *ADA News*, *ADA New Dentist News*, *ADA Professional Product Review*, our [New Dentist Now](#) blog, the [Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry](#) and our e-publications.
- **Build a successful practice**
Access the [ADA Center for Professional Success](#) for resources to help you manage your career, expand your knowledge, and balance your life. Design your office, get information on legal questions, hire staff or educate your patients, all with [ADA Catalog](#) resources.
- **Safeguard your future with ADA-sponsored Members Insurance Plans**
Life and disability insurance is the cornerstone of a solid financial plan and [ADA Members Insurance Programs](#) are designed specifically for dentists. They offer insurance products at premiums that are among the most competitive on the market.
- **Learn and grow with affordable CE**
Learn the latest through ADA Annual Meeting, your state and local dental societies and [ADA CE Online](#). ADA CE Online offers quality continuing education courses at an affordable rate, as well as several free courses.

Tip: [Login](#) to [ADA.org](https://ada.org) to update your member profile and access your membership benefits online.

National Signing Day

Earn up to \$500 for your chapter by working with your state or local dental society to host a National Signing Day event at your school. The ADA National Signing Day is a designated time period when state or local dental societies hold events where dental school seniors apply for ADA membership. National Signing Day brings together dental schools, state and local dental societies, and ASDA chapters to welcome new dentists to the profession.

For more information, contact the ADA Office of Student Affairs at 312-440-7470 or studentaffairs@ada.org.

How to Join

The ADA welcomes all new dentists and encourages them to become members. A new dentist must complete an application to become a member of the ADA. The transition from ASDA membership to ADA membership is not automatic. A good rule of thumb is to apply for ADA membership when you apply for your license. Here's how it works:

Step 1: Stay in touch with the ADA! Update your member profile by logging into ADA.org and visiting My ADA.

Step 2: Complete an ADA Membership Application and provide the ADA or your state society with your license information. ASDA and ADA student membership is valid until December 31 of your graduation year—you are applying for the following year.

Step 3: The ADA or your [state society](#) will process your application. Reach out to them to get involved and connect with other new dentists near you.

Step 4: Access and enjoy your member benefits!

If you have any questions along the way, please contact the ADA Office of Student Affairs at 312-440-7470 or at studentaffairs@ada.org.

Resources and Quick Links

These are your go-to people and web pages during the transition to ADA membership.

- **ADA Office of Student Affairs**
Develops student resources and manages ADA student programs
312-440-7470
studentaffairs@ada.org
www.ada.org/student
- **ADA New Dentist Committee**
Made up of new dentists, this committee has the issues and concerns of new dentists in mind
312-440-2779
newdentist@ada.org
www.ada.org/newdentist

- **State (constituent) and local (component) dental societies**
Provides specific information and resources based on local professional needs
www.ada.org/statelocalorg.aspx
- **Membership information on ADA.org**
ADA.org/recentgraduate
ADA.org/join
- **ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct**
The Principles of Ethics are the aspirational goals of the profession; members of the ADA voluntarily agree to abide by the ADA Code as a condition of membership in the Association
Access the Code [here](#).