

Policy Statement 3.17 – Dental Student Graduation Declaration

Position Summary

All dentist students in Australia should make a common ethical declaration on graduation.

1 Background

- 1.1 Medical students take the Hippocratic Oath as part of their graduation.
- 1.2 The ADA Inc. has established a Code of Ethics for Dentists, the observance of which is a mandatory condition of membership. The ADA Inc. Code of Ethics is complementary to statutory and other legal requirements.
- 1.3 Some universities conduct their own student declarations as part of their dental school's graduation ceremony.
- 1.4 Dentists have the same professional obligations to patients as all other health practitioners.

2 Position

- 2.1 All dentist students in Australia should make an ethical declaration on graduation.
- 2.2 Such a declaration should be formal part of a graduation ceremony.
- 2.3 Dental schools should adopt the attached declaration certificate (Appendix) as the graduation declaration.

Policy Statement 3.1.7

Adopted by ADA Federal Council, August 23/24, 2018.

APPENDIX TO POLICY STATEMENT 3.1.7
DENTAL STUDENT GRADUATION DECLARATION
MODEL CERTIFICATE

The University of ABC

School of Dentistry

Declaration

I, _____, solemnly declare that:

- Above all else, I shall put the health, welfare and safety of my patients first
- I shall respect the confidence my patients place in me and not violate their trust
- I shall practise dentistry to the best of my ability, within my scope of practice, and with integrity and empathy
- I shall abide by the practice standards and Code of Ethics of the profession
- I commit myself to life-long development of my knowledge and skills as a dentist.

**I pledge this with pride in my commitment to serve the public
and as a new member of the dental profession**

Graduand

Head, School of Dentistry

Dated this day of December 20...