

An Introductory Guide to AACD Accreditation

# AACD Accreditation

Education, inspiration, motivation, and profitability



Accredited  
Member



[www.aacd.com](http://www.aacd.com)

American Academy  
of Cosmetic Dentistry®

## AACD Accreditation: Education, inspiration, motivation, and profitability

American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) Accreditation is an honor. It's a sign of one's commitment to the cosmetic dental industry. Often, Accredited members say it's not really about earning the credential, rather it's about the learning, the professional growth, and the confidence that comes from the journey along the way. This guide will give you an overview of the credentialing process, and we hope that your desire to earn this credential—and further your professional and personal growth—is sparked.

Since its inception in 1986, the AACD Accreditation process has provided an exceptional opportunity for dentists and laboratory technicians to enhance their professional skills and

knowledge in cosmetic and restorative dentistry.

The AACD Accreditation process is unique in that it requires a dentist or laboratory technician to implement and demonstrate what they have learned at a level of proficiency dictated by the American Board of Cosmetic Dentistry® (ABCD). The Accreditation process is accessible to all dentists and laboratory technicians, regardless of location, educational background, or clinical experience. The only requirements are a resolve to meet challenges head-on, to continually seek growth, and to be persistent in pursuing a worthy goal. If you're up for a challenge, and ready to grow personally and professionally, AACD Accreditation is for you.



## Accreditation Case Types

Case selection is of paramount importance when approaching Accreditation. No bonus points are awarded for “degree of difficulty.” Therefore, it is wise to select a case with potential for an ideal final result.

### Accreditation Showcase of Excellence

Case 3 – Tooth Replacement - Implant



Restoring Dentist  
**Nicholas J. Pournaras, DMD**  
Diagnosis  
• Fractured Root #8  
Treatment  
• Porcelain Veneers #4-7, #9-13  
• Custom Zirconia Abutment #8  
• All-Ceramic Crown #8  
• Tissue Modification #5, #7, #9-10, #12  
Restorative Material  
• ZirDesign Custom Zirconia Abutment  
• Pressed Ceramic Empress Esthetic, Ivoclar Vivadent  
Partnering Ceramist  
Wayne Payne, CDT, AAACD

Dr. Nicholas Pournaras graduated from the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry in 1998. He holds active memberships in the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honor Society, American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, Academy of General Dentistry, Academy of Comprehensive Esthetics, Pierre Fauchard Academy, and Fellowship in the American Dental Implant Association. He maintains a full-time private practice in Columbia, SC, focusing on cosmetic and restorative dentistry. Dr. Pournaras lives with his wife, Kelly, and their two daughters, Zoe and Rex.



### Accreditation Showcase of Excellence

Case 5 – Six or More Direct Resin Veneers



Restoring Dentist  
**Chiann Fan Gibson, DMD**

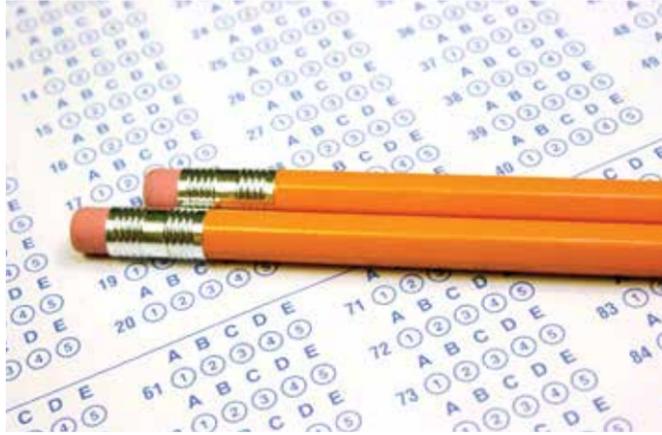
Diagnosis  
• Natural Dentition with Irregular Incisal Edge Contours and Embasures  
• Shorter Laterals with Pronounced Mamelons  
• Whitening  
Treatment  
• At Home Bleaching  
• Gingival Recontouring #9 and #10  
• Direct Resin Veneers #4 - #13  
Restorative Material  
• Cosmedent Renamel System (Hybrid/Microfill)

Dr. Chiann Fan Gibson was born in Tolyw, Japan and is the daughter of Taiwanese parents, who immigrated to America with less than \$200 and unable to speak English. Dr. Gibson received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Washington and her Doctorate of Dentistry from Tufts School of Dental Medicine. She served on the AACD Board of Directors from 2009-2011. Chiann and her husband, Jim Gibson are actively involved in numerous church and charitable organizations. Chiann believes that "The American Dream is alive and well for those who dare to reach for it!" which exemplifies Chiann's spirit and success.



“ Accreditation is not only a goal to be achieved, but a personal commitment to excellence recognized and celebrated by the dental community, our peers and most importantly, our patients. Congratulations on accepting the challenge! ”  
—W. Johnston Rowe, Jr., DDS, AAACD

# Accreditation Process



## 1 WRITTEN EXAMINATION

- Apply for and take the written examination
- After passing the exam, the five-year time period begins
- Attend the two required workshops:
  - Accreditation Workshop
  - Criteria Workshop
- Note: the written examination and two required courses must be successfully completed prior to submitting clinical cases, but do not need to be completed in any particular order.



## 2 SUBMISSION OF CLINICAL CASES

After candidates have passed all required clinical cases, they receive an invitation to complete the oral examination



## 3 ORAL EXAMINATION

Once the oral examination application is completed, candidates will take the oral examination at the AACD Executive Office



## BECOME AN ACCREDITED MEMBER

Upon successfully passing the oral examination, candidates receive award and recognition at the next Annual AACD Scientific Session.

## CASE TYPE I- Six or More Indirect Restorations

Case Type I requires six or more laboratory-fabricated restorations within the maxillary arch, treating, at a minimum, the cuspids and incisors. Additional restorations to comprehensively address smile design criteria are encouraged.

This case requires the clinician to create an open, working, successful rapport with the laboratory technician, and vice-versa. Smile design elements weigh heavily with this case type.

In the accompanying case, the anterior teeth had defective composite restorations and were short due to wear of the incisal edges, resulting in a reverse smile line. Restoration with porcelain veneers dramatically improved the appearance of the smile by lengthening the teeth and giving them a more natural shape and proportion.



## CASE TYPE II- One or Two Indirect Restorations

This case type involves one or two indirect restorations in the maxillary anterior region treating incisors. The adjacent teeth must have no indirect restorations. Case Type II challenges the clinician and the laboratory technician to match the restorations to the natural dentition, a situation frequently encountered in daily practice. Also their ability to work together successfully to communicate the various micro-esthetic issues such as shade, incisal translucency, and surface texture. It is critical for the team to deliver a natural looking result that adheres to predetermined esthetic parameters.

The accompanying photographs demonstrate treatment of the two lateral incisors with porcelain veneers. The right lateral incisor had previously been treated endodontically following trauma to the incisal edge. Restoring the two teeth achieved proper esthetic balance to the smile and better balance of color, size, and proportion.





### CASE TYPE III-

#### Tooth Replacement

(options: laboratory fabricated bridge or implant)

In this presentation, the clinician or laboratory technician must demonstrate esthetic results via a laboratory fabricated bridge or implant-supported restoration. The prosthetic replacement must be a maxillary incisor or canine. This case type provides examiners with an impression of the individual's ability to establish soft tissue esthetics within the edentulous space.

#### Tooth Replacement with a Laboratory Fabricated Bridge

One option for Case Type III is to place a laboratory fabricated bridge. Additional teeth may be treated, if appropriate. Options for treatment can include full-coverage bridges or adhesively bonded bridges. Smile design considerations become more relevant as more teeth are treated.

This case type tests the individual's ability to handle soft tissues in regard to pontic site development. Proper development of the edentulous site through socket preservation techniques or subsequent ridge augmentation is essential to achieve an ideal result.

Shown is a case where congenitally missing lateral incisors were replaced with two 3-unit bridges following augmentation of the soft tissue sites with connective tissue grafts.

OR



#### Tooth Replacement with an Implant

The second option for Case Type III involves replacement of a missing tooth with an implant. Additional teeth may be treated, if appropriate.

This case type tests the individual's ability to handle the soft tissues so the final restoration is indistinguishable from a natural tooth. Since a specialist is frequently involved in the placement of the implant, interdisciplinary communication is vital for the case to be successful.

The example for this case type shows replacement of the maxillary right central incisor with an implant and all-ceramic crown. In addition, porcelain veneers were placed on the remaining teeth from second bicuspid to second bicuspid. The final result created a beautiful, harmonious smile, with the implant-supported restoration appearing undetectable.



### CASE TYPE IV-

#### Class IV Direct Resin Restoration

This case type consists of an anterior direct resin (Class IV or diastema closure) restoration in which the individual's ability to blend composite resin with the natural dentition is tested. In case types demonstrating diastema closure, the space should measure approximately 1 mm or greater, and two adjacent teeth (i.e., maxillary incisors or canines) must be treated. Class IV restorations must be demonstrated in situations that replace a minimum of 10% of the tooth structure on the facial surface of one or more maxillary incisors.

Because the focus of this case type is to evaluate an individual's skill in matching the natural dentition in shape, size, and shade, the overall smile design may be less critical. The ability to adequately contour and finish the restoration so it blends indistinguishably with the natural tooth structure is essential. Using tints and opaquer is often necessary to achieve excellence in the final result.

Shown is a case in which a fractured central incisor was restored with direct composite. A large percentage of the tooth was replaced, so matching the opacity of the restoration to the remaining tooth was critical.



### CASE TYPE V-

#### Six or More Direct Resin Veneers

This case involves six or more direct resin veneers, treating at least the maxillary incisors and canines. Additional teeth may be treated, if it positively affects the outcome. Case Type V tests the individual's ability to create an optimal esthetic result using direct composite resin materials. The emphasis of evaluation is on smile design and tooth morphology. Care must be taken to develop a functional and esthetic result using a direct technique with composite resin.

In the accompanying case, teeth ##4-13 were treated with direct composite bonding to address generalized hypocalcification, some incisal chipping, and stained and failing composite restorations. The final result demonstrates the ability to achieve a very nice incisal translucency, a highly polished surface, and an overall beautiful result in a conservative manner.



# Accreditation Starts Here

## The Annual AACD Scientific Session

The AACD is dedicated to advancing excellence in cosmetic dentistry, with a primary focus on providing cutting-edge continuing education. The Annual AACD Scientific Session offers dentistry's most comprehensive and energizing in-depth learning experience, with hands-on workshops taught by the industry's most dynamic and respected instructors. Multiple Accreditation courses are offered at the scientific session, along with the Accreditation Written Examination, numerous Accreditation networking opportunities, and the Accreditation awards ceremony.

Join us at the session and be challenged to think outside the norm! We can offer an amazing educational experience you won't find anywhere else—and one that's perfect for those considering the path to Accreditation.

For more information, visit: [www.aacdconference.com](http://www.aacdconference.com).

## You are not alone: we can help you through the process!

### Resources for Your Journey to Excellence through Accreditation

AACD's Accreditation program encourages further education, interaction with like-minded colleagues, and the opportunity for professional growth. Dentists hone their clinical skills, laboratory technicians improve their restorations, and ultimately, patients benefit from the higher quality of service and treatment provided. The AACD encourages and assists members, as they pursue Accreditation by offering online resources, publications, and a mentoring program to ensure a positive credentialing experience.



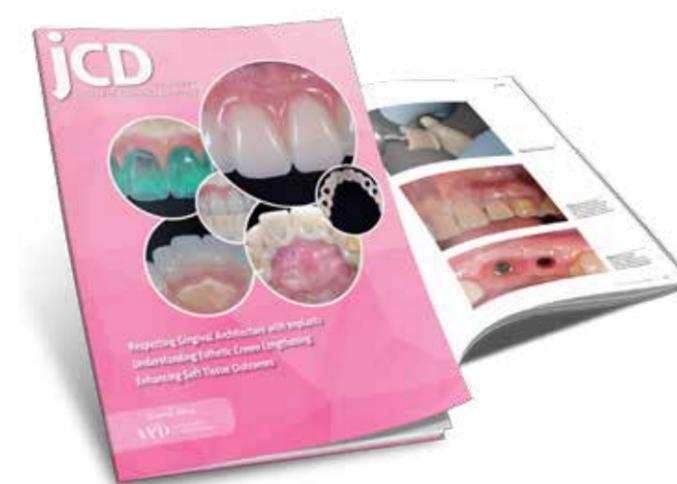
## Online Resources

[www.aacd.com/Accreditation](http://www.aacd.com/Accreditation) offers a wealth of Accreditation information:

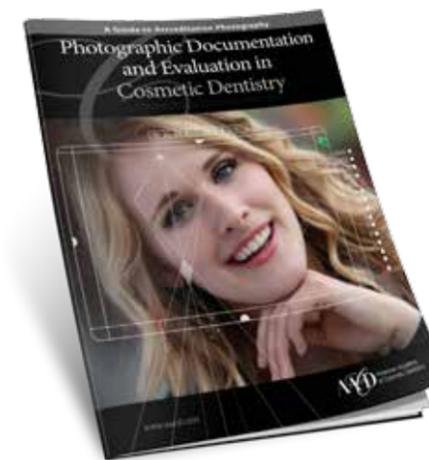
- Study Materials Listing – The Written Exam Committee recommends books and journals from the online Written Examination Study Listing to assist dentists and laboratory technicians in preparation for the written exam.
- Sample Exams – Online sample exams serve as a study tool and realistic gauge for how individuals will perform when taking the AACD Accreditation Written Examination.
- Accreditation Written Exam – With the help of Castle Testing Centers, the Accreditation Written Exam can be taken during specific dates at one of the more than 400 Castle locations worldwide. Choose a location that's convenient for you through Castle or at the Annual AACD Scientific Session and you'll be on your way to completing the first step.
- AACD eLearning – All AACD members are provided with a premium membership to Dental XP. eLearning is convenient for busy dental professionals and can be accessed any time, and at any location with an Internet connection. For more information, visit [www.aacd.com/learn](http://www.aacd.com/learn). Required AACD Credentialing Workshops, including the Accreditation Workshop and the Criteria Workshop, both presented by Bradley J. Olson, DDS, FAACD, are also available online through the AACD Virtual Campus ([www.aacd.com/campus](http://www.aacd.com/campus)) and free of charge for those wishing to begin the Accreditation process.
- My AACD – An online portal available to every AACD member, My AACD offers members the chance to interact with AACD staff, other members, and to see the latest news and events within the Academy. My AACD also offers a special "Community" geared toward Accreditation and Members in the Process and allows for Members in the Process to submit their cases for Accreditation.



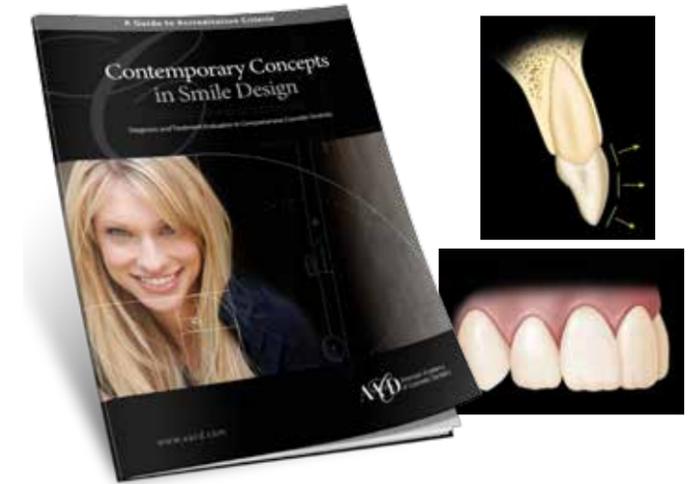
## Publications



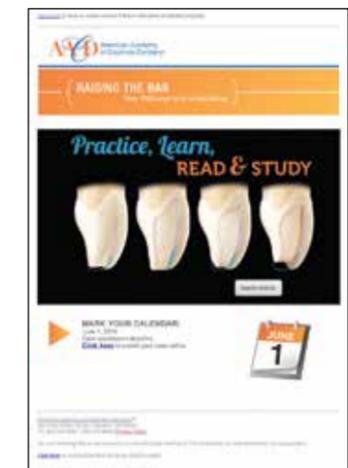
- *The Journal of Cosmetic Dentistry*  
The "Accreditation Essentials" section of the highly acclaimed AACD *Journal of Cosmetic Dentistry* is entirely devoted to Accreditation. Featured in every issue are successful (and sometimes, unsuccessful) Accreditation cases, tips on the execution of various case types, as well as examiner and laboratory perspectives.



- *Photographic Documentation and Evaluation in Cosmetic Dentistry - A Guide to Accreditation Photography*  
This photography guide will provide assistance to individuals refining their clinical photographic techniques. Readers will be better equipped to review and critique their own dentistry, as well as achieve the AACD photographic standards required to pass each case type.



- *A Guide to Accreditation Criteria - Contemporary Concepts in Smile Design*  
An invaluable reference for any dentist or laboratory technician, the AACD Guide to Accreditation Criteria aids in recognizing clinical details that provide the basis for excellence in cosmetic dentistry. Highlights of the manual include extraordinary graphics and photographs of properly treated clinical cases versus those less than ideal.



- *Raising the Bar*  
This quarterly e-newsletter provides all the latest news and happenings surrounding the Accreditation process, in addition to providing members with helpful tips and resources as they work toward achieving Accreditation.



## The support continues.

### AACD Accreditation Courses

- **Accreditation Workshop**

The AACD Accreditation process begins with attending this required workshop, which provides a detailed overview of the required parameters of the credentialing process. This course is available online or in person at AACD scientific sessions.

- **Criteria Workshop**

This is the second required workshop in the AACD Accreditation program. This course begins with a presentation of successful and unsuccessful cases, which are then evaluated by following criteria Accreditation Examiners use in examining clinical cases. This course is available online or in person.

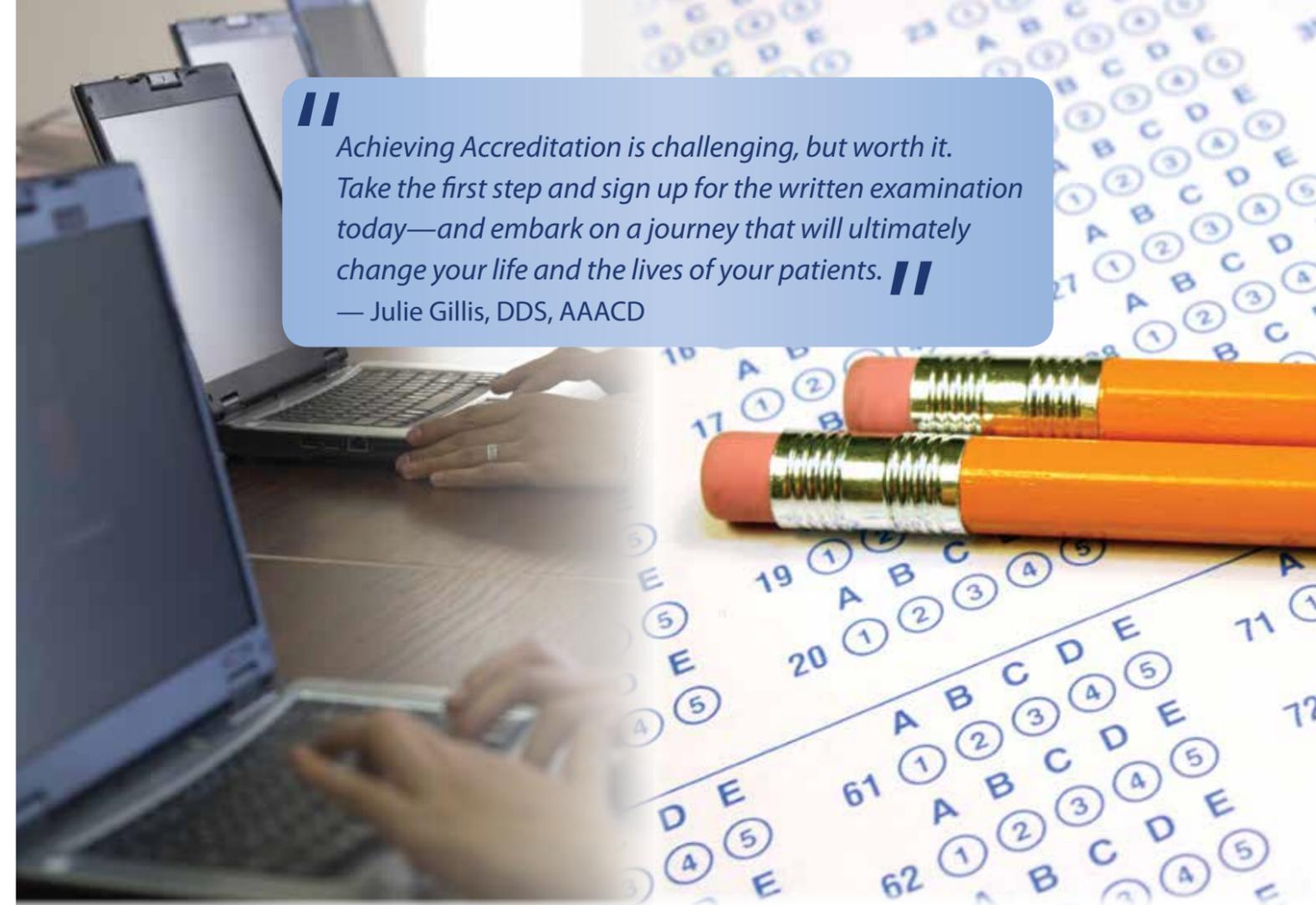
- **Photography Workshop for Accreditation Documentation**

This workshop is designed to teach participants basic camera operation and focuses on case documentation.

Techniques for improving quality and consistency of clinical photography are discussed. Mentors are available to answer questions and provide clinical instruction.

- **Advanced Accreditation Workshops**

Advanced Accreditation Workshops are offered to provide an intensive review of AACD Accreditation examination criteria. Attendees have an opportunity to work in small groups with experienced examiners, who guide discussions on Accreditation cases.



**||** *Achieving Accreditation is challenging, but worth it. Take the first step and sign up for the written examination today—and embark on a journey that will ultimately change your life and the lives of your patients. ||*  
— Julie Gillis, DDS, AAACD

**||** *Why should I become Accredited? To be honest, I wondered the same thing myself, but I can speak from personal experience that Accreditation has fundamentally changed the way I look at a smile. And since I've achieved Accreditation, I will always judge my results against those high standards. ||*

— John Weston, DDS, FAACD



### Volunteer Mentor Network

Camaraderie among AACD Members is legendary in the dental profession and truly comes to life at various face-to-face events, through online social networking venues, and the Accreditation process.

The Accreditation Volunteer Mentoring Network is available to members in the Accreditation process (MIP) who seek guidance with their questions.

Mentors are Accreditation Examiners who volunteer their time and expertise to assist colleagues in their journey toward Accreditation.



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