



Certification Programs

About These Programs

The Academy of Laser Dentistry certification is a professional certificate that ALD offers to individuals who demonstrate proficiency in standard and advanced aspects of laser use in dentistry. An ALD certification program allows individuals to demonstrate that ALD recognizes them as a skilled professional in laser dentistry. This is a peer reviewed dental laser continuing education certification program incorporating the dental laser curriculum guidelines 2019 update. Becoming an Academy of Laser Dentistry certified professional can help you differentiate yourself from your competitors, attract and win new patients, build loyalty and improve patient, and team satisfaction. Currently, the ALD recognizes 2 levels of dental laser certification: Standard Level Certification and Advanced Certification.

Academy of Laser Dentistry
954-346-3776 or email memberservices@laserdentistry.org



Standard Level Certification (Level 1)

INTRODUCTION

The Standard Level Certificate Program provides candidates with a strong foundational understanding of laser physics, laser tissue interaction, characteristics of various laser wavelengths, clinical case studies, safety and regulatory information.

Pre-Requisite – Introduction to Lasers Basic Course Video available [here](#).

Components of Standard Level Certification (3-Part Course)

Part 1: Foundations in Laser Dentistry (6 CEU's)

Foundations in Laser Dentistry is a self-paced, digital learning program. The course encompasses an understanding of laser physics and the use of lasers in dentistry, and it's intended to be informational. It includes a comprehensive overview and basic understanding of all dental laser devices, laser tissue interactions, emission modes and safety and operation of a variety of dental lasers. You will have 90 days unlimited access to successfully complete this course.

There are 5 chapters, each with an Q & A assessment following each chapter.

- Chapter 1 – Fundamentals of Light
- Chapter 2 – Production of Light
- Chapter 3 – Laser Tissue and Laser Material Interactions
- Chapter 4 – Clinical Applications in Laser Dentistry
- Chapter 5 – Laser Safety

Part 2: Hands-on Clinical Simulation Training (in person, 6-8 CEU's)

This program includes 6-8 hours of didactic device-specific or wavelength(s) specific training, more than 4 hours of which are devoted to supervised hands-on activities which includes a comprehensive clinical simulation examination. Also included is a 1-hour review of Part 1 key concepts and course evaluation.

This hands-on clinical simulation and training can be scheduled through an ALD Conference, ALD educational activity, by group enrollment with a university, corporate training or other organizations whose training programs are recognized by ALD for Standard Level Courses or by several ALD Recognized Standard Level Certification Trainers.

Part 3: Standard Level Online Exam (1-hour, 75 Question Multiple Choice Exam, 1 CE)

Please note: Parts 1 and 2 MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO TAKING THE STANDARD LEVEL ONLINE EXAM. The Standard Level Online Exam must be successfully completed within 90 days of your Part 2 Hands-on Training.

In order to successfully complete ALD's Dental Laser Standard Level Course in its entirety, you must successfully complete all 3 parts within 90 days of your Part 2 Hands-on Training.



HOW TO EARN STANDARD LEVEL CERTIFICATION

STEPS

Complete your pre-requisite, Introduction to Lasers Basic Course Video [here](#).

1. Enroll in a Standard Level Part 2: Hands-on Clinical Simulation Training Course (1-day course) conducted by a recognized ALD Standard Level Certification Trainer. You must secure your seat in this course before moving forward. For a list of upcoming courses, please go to our CE Calendar [here](#). For pricing, please check with the course instructor.
2. Next, enroll and purchase the ALD Dental Laser Standard Level Course Program for \$275 (registration will tentatively open November 1, 2020). The \$275 fee includes:
Part 1: Foundations in Laser Dentistry Online Course
Part 3: Standard Level Course Online Exam
1-year Complimentary ALD Membership
3. Successfully complete your Part 1: Foundations in Laser Dentistry Online Course (we suggest completing prior to your hands-on course).
4. Attend your Part 2: Hands-on course and successfully demonstrate your clinical skills in a clinical simulation exam during the clinical training.
5. Pass Part 3: Standard Level Online Exam (1-hour timed, 75-question multiple choice questions). This exam is a *psychometrically valid* test taken AFTER you complete both Parts 1 and 2.

In order to successfully complete ALD's Dental Laser Standard Level Course in its entirety, you must successfully complete all 3 parts within 90 days from your Hands-On Course Date. Upon successful completion, you will receive a verification letter and certificate of successful completion noting the specific course participation and clinical simulation wavelength within 6-8 weeks from the ALD.

The Standard Level Course is the basic level of education in dental laser usage, including specific laser proficiency and laboratory knowledge. Candidates for the Standard Level Course must demonstrate a basic understanding of all wavelengths via an online 75-question multiple-choice examination and an oral clinical simulation exam, with at least one wavelength. The Standard Level Course defines the standard of care for the dental professional. These courses are a minimum of 12 hours: 6 CEUs are self-paced online including the examination and a full day 6 CEUs in-person hands-on learning. The Standard Level Dental Laser Certificate program is taught by speakers who are recognized by the Academy of Laser Dentistry.

TOPICS COVERED

- Fundamentals of laser physics and an overview of light technology
- Laser science, terminology and tissue interactions
- Laser classifications, types, characteristics
- History of lasers in dentistry
- Clinical capabilities of dental lasers
- Laser safety - Laser Safety Officer (LSO)
- Knowledge of the laser environment
- Regulatory Information
- Management of patient expectations and treatment options

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

After successful completion attendees will have demonstrated through this 12-hour CE peer reviewed program, it's psychometrically tested examination, and peer reviewed and designed clinical simulation examination that allows dentists and hygienists to demonstrate safe and effective uses of dental lasers. This is the only program of its caliber with a peer reviewed psychometrically valid examination.

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ALD Certification Programs

www.laserdentistry.org | Phone: 954.346.3776 | support@laserdentistry.org



REF: APPENDIX A, B

Advanced Proficiency Certification (Level 2)

Advanced Proficiency Certification

Advanced Proficiency is the second level of certification from ALD. Successful candidates participate in 3 educational segments by demonstrating comprehensive knowledge of lasers and their applications in dentistry as well as a commitment to excellence in patient care and to advancing laser dentistry. The Advanced level is taken over a 3-year period to successful completion.

Advanced Certification Part I - Written Exam
Advanced Certification Part II - Clinical Simulation Exam
Advanced Certification Part III - Case Study Presentation

Pre-Requisite – Standard Level Certification as recognized by the Academy of Laser Dentistry.

HOW TO EARN ADVANCED PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATION

STEPS

1. Be an ALD member in good standing.
2. Attend a minimum of 2 ALD annual conferences during the 3-year program.
3. Successfully pass Part I – Written Multiple-choice exam and Part II - Clinical Simulation Exam.
4. Successfully prepare and present up to 5 clinical case reports of varying degrees of difficulty following the guidelines provided for Part III - Clinical Case Study Presentation.

Successful participation in all 3 parts of the Advanced program is required to meet this level of education. Separate application fees and requirements apply for each part (registration will tentatively open November 1, 2020). The Advanced program exceeds the standard of care for the dental professional.

A One-on-One Coaching Experience for 3 years

Upon registering for the Advanced Proficiency Part 1, candidates will download extensive preparation instructions including a suggested timetable and be assigned a mentor who will be available to the candidate for the duration of their Advanced Proficiency process. The mentor program and study guides help candidates prepare for success.

Advanced Proficiency Policies and Procedures 2019-2021 is provided to all applicants

The Advanced Proficiency examination program provides a rich opportunity for you to attain both personal and professional goals in this enlightening journey. There are three critical elements to guarantee success: Preparation, Preparation, and Preparation. The 60-page guidebook provides details for successful preparation for the demonstration of Advanced Proficiency in dental laser use.

Recommended Study Materials

Advanced Clinical Simulation Exam Checklist
Advanced Clinical Case Study Exam Checklist
Photography Guidelines
Curriculum Guidelines and Standard for Dental Laser Education
Guidelines for Slide Design
Instructions for Publishing in the *Journal of Laser Dentistry*

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CERTIFICATION PROGRAM BACKGROUND
OVERALL EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES AND STANDARD FOR DENTAL LASER EDUCATION

The educational objective is to provide candidates with an overview of the scientific fundamentals of lasers, the instruments used, safety issues, and clinical guidelines in accordance with the new [2020 Academy of Laser Dentistry Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education](#). ALD's main objective is to develop and uphold educational and clinical standards for the use of lasers in dentistry and to promote the safe and effective laser use on patients. This educational emphasis shifts from device characteristics to laser-tissue and laser-material interactions along with a deep dive understanding of absorption spectrum and chromophores. Biologic effects of laser interaction are critical concepts to understand the safety and effectiveness of clinical procedures. Successful completion of the certification program formally demonstrates knowledge and clinical proficiency in laser dentistry. The program is a structured educational mechanism for dental practitioners wishing to demonstrate high standards of dental laser use. This certificate program does not authorize the holder to practice outside the scope of his or her license. 2020 Academy of Laser Dentistry Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education is planned to publish in 2021. The Academy of Laser Dentistry Education Committee began a comprehensive review of the 1998 [Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education](#). Through a consensus process with members from dental academia, industry and private practice ALD will publish a new dental laser curriculum. The new Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education establish standards of education for the demonstration of safe and effective use of lasers by dental professionals.



CERTIFICATION FAQs Frequently Asked Questions

Why is laser certification important? It is a mechanism to demonstrate an understanding of laser light and tissue interaction for ultimate clinical efficacy, efficiency and patient safety. Some licensing bodies require a demonstration of continuing education in lasers.

What is a certificate program? A certificate program typically indicates attendance or completion of a course or series of courses with a specific focus. They are open to newcomers and experienced professionals alike. The result demonstrates knowledge of content at the end of a specific period of time. Associations create certification programs by gathering experts to discuss and determine content and criteria that improves or changes behavior.

What sets ALD above any others? Let the buyer beware. ALD's certificate program includes an education *and* experience component *and* requires passing exams. Depending upon the level, at least 2 and up to 3 examinations are required. It is a peer-reviewed and approved educational standard. It does not require re-certification although ALD's programs encourage practitioners to stay current through continuing education.

What does it mean to be an ALD Certified Professional? An ALD Certified dentist or hygienist demonstrates expertise in understanding laser use in everyday patient care. The more practical the chair-side experience you have, and the more training you complete, the better your chances are to pass the test.

Why are the ALD Certification Exams essential? Certification exams measure your skill and proficiency with laser use in dentistry. They are a psychometric instrument intended to demonstrate your ability to meet challenges with a mastery that comes with training and everyday laser use. The ALD examinations are fair, but challenging, designed to assess the ability of test-takers to apply fundamental dental laser knowledge and more advanced knowledge, depending upon the program. ALD exam content is updated every three years and is based on research and input from subject-matter experts and changes in dentistry conducted in 2019.

What are the benefits of an ALD Certification?

- ALD certified professionals demonstrate safety and proficiency.
- They have taken a peer-reviewed dental laser foundation course.
- They have passed a 75-question psychometric multiple-choice exam covering 5 distinct areas of laser use.
- They have demonstrated safe hand skills in a clinical simulation hands-on examination by well-experienced examiners.
- They understand the purpose and role of dental lasers in everyday treatment.
- They have participated in a recognized professional program. The Academy of Laser Dentistry is the standard-setting organization for dental laser education and certificate programs.
- The Standard Level Certification Course fee includes your first year of ALD Membership.

Ask a Certification Coach

Preparing for the oral case examinations for Advanced Proficiency? Ask a Credentialing Coach for tips on how to prepare. ALD Credentialing Coaches provide encouragement, support and advice based on his or her personal experience as you prepare for the advanced examinations.

APPENDIX A.1 - Standard Level Hands-on Training Day Schedule of Activities EXAMPLE

The hands-on training days are application and laser specific which means that the hands-on activities concentrate on a specific intended use of the laser wavelength. Candidates are advised to make sure the training day curriculum meets the intended uses for dentists and hygienists as applicable to them. This is a sample curriculum for the hands-on standard level training day.

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Introduction, Brief Review of Laser Differences
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Laser Safety
9:15 am – 9:30 am	BREAK
9:30 am – 10:15 am	Uninitiated Procedures: Aphthous Ulcers, PBM, & Depigmentation
10:15 am – 10:35 am	Hands-On: Uninitiated tips
10:35 am – 11:00 am	Gingivectomy and Soft Tissue Removal
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Hands-On: LIST of PROCEDURES
11:30 am – 12:30 am	Lunch/Break - Great time for small group discussion. Instagram group photo and posts on social media.
12:30 am – 1:30 pm	Frenectomy & Flap Procedures Initiated/ablating procedures (cutting) hard tissues
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Hands-On: Frenectomy and Flap (initiated) Open Hygiene Forum – LAPT/LBR overview and questions
2:00 pm – 2:20 pm	Contour Tissue, LAPT & LBR
2:20 pm – 2:30 pm	BREAK
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Hands-On: Contour Tissue, LAPT, & LBR Pre-initiated tips
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Review Session
3:45 pm – 6:00 pm	Oral Examination Simulation Video and Oral Examination

APPENDIX A.2 – Standard Level Hands-on Training Day Schedule of Activities EXAMPLE

This is another sample curriculum for the hands-on standard level training day.

0:15	Review of Part 2 learning objectives and technical specifications of device(s)
0:15	Discussion of specific laser-tissue and laser-materials interactions
0:15	Indications and contraindications, range of clinical applications Differentiate FDA-cleared vs. off-label procedures
0:15	Overview of instrument set-up, maintenance (including cleaning, disinfection, sterilization), and safety, warnings and cautions
1:00	Supervised hands-on instrument set-up and maintenance rotations
0:45	Lunch Break
2:30	Supervised hands-on clinical rotations with tissue models and video examples, including parameter settings and techniques. Examples would be the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft tissue (e.g., gingivectomy, frenectomy, fibroma removal, aphthous ulcer, tissue retraction for impression, hemostasis, sulcular debridement) • Hard tissue (as applicable) (e.g., cavity preparation, osteoplasty, calculus removal) • Other (as applicable) • Photobiomodulation (e.g., topical heating for the purpose of elevating tissue temperature for the temporary relief of minor muscle and joint pain and stiffness, minor arthritis pain, or muscle spasm, and for the temporary increase in local blood circulation and/or temporary relaxation of muscles)* • Bleaching of teeth • Endodontics (e.g., pulpotomy, root canal debridement, apicoectomy) • Photopolymerization of light-activated materials
0:15	Break
0:15	Common problems with improper or poor technique
0:15	Treatment planning considerations
0:15	Q & A
0:45	Proctored clinical simulation examination
1:00	Review of foundations key aspects, specifically physics, safety, and tissue interaction. Each section will be followed by Q&A on the topic and any other relevant questions.
0:15	Review and course evaluation
7:15	Total didactic training, not including 75 minutes for lunch and breaks

APPENDIX B. ALD **Standard Level** Clinical Simulation Exam EXAMPLE

SYSTEMS & SAFETY	CLINICAL SETTINGS & TECHNIQUE	PATIENT MANAGEMENT
<p>Knowledge of machine, safety, infection control, general set-up/set-down, power settings</p> <p>List at least 4 Safety Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Guarded Foot Pedal <input type="checkbox"/> Stop Button <input type="checkbox"/> Warning Labels <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Protection <p>List Laser Eye Protection Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Worn by ALL in the room <input type="checkbox"/> Optical Density value <input type="checkbox"/> Wavelength-specific for each laser <p>Identify High-Volume Evacuation Purposes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cool target site <input type="checkbox"/> Remove laser plume <input type="checkbox"/> Remove debris <p>Infection Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss how to clean and disinfect the device <input type="checkbox"/> Identify which components are sterilized and which are disposed <p>Delivery System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Specify type <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate how to assemble and disassemble <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss delivery system maintenance <p>Emission Mode</p> <p>Specify the emission mode(s) of your laser. If applicable, list pros and cons of each, and when to use clinically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous Wave <input type="checkbox"/> Gated Pulsed <input type="checkbox"/> Super Pulsed <input type="checkbox"/> Free-Running Pulsed 	<p>Specify Key Power Consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use the least amount of power to complete your treatment objective <p>List Key Working Distance and Angle</p> <p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <Insert proper parameters for specific laser and procedure> <input type="checkbox"/> <Insert proper parameters for specific laser and procedure> <input type="checkbox"/> <Insert proper parameters for specific laser and procedure> <p>Test-Fire Laser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Perform away from patient <input type="checkbox"/> Start with lowest setting <input type="checkbox"/> Name the laser's chromophores <p>What are the reasons to change spot size or tip diameter and what concept does this refer to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Power and Energy Density <p>Demonstrate at least 2 Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Low Setting – Aphthous Ulcer, Venous Lake of Lip <input type="checkbox"/> High Setting – Sulcular Debridement (Hygienist), Removal of Tissue (Doctor) <p><i>For each procedure, discuss treatment sequence, patient management, preoperative considerations, what to expect during and after treatment, postoperative instructions, applicable short- and long-term healing assessment intervals, what complications might occur and how these are managed.</i></p>	<p>Record Keeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wavelength and Emission Mode <input type="checkbox"/> Tip Diameter <input type="checkbox"/> Parameters (power (W), energy (mJ), repetition rate, pulse width, air and water spray) <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Emission Duration <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Treatment objective <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical and healing assessment, pathology reports <input type="checkbox"/> Patient management of complications <p>Wavelength and devices will be noted on the grade sheets.</p> <p>Wavelength 1 Wavelength 2 Wavelength 3</p> <p><u>Date of Exam</u> <u>Location of Exam</u> <u>Examiner Name</u> <u>Examiner Signature</u></p>

The clinical exam may be administered in small groups and is intended as a learning experience. Each candidate is expected to show clinical skill to the examiner following specific topics. The clinical skill demonstrated follow the clinical applications taught during the hands-on session.



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ABOUT ALD

The Academy of Laser Dentistry is a not-for-profit organization qualifying under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Academy of Laser Dentistry is an international professional membership association of dental practitioners and supporting organizations dedicated to improving the health and well-being of patients through the proper use of laser technology. The Academy is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, research and education and to the exchange of information relative to the art and science of the use of lasers in dentistry. The Academy endorses the Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education 2020.