Dental education in the United States is considered to have among the highest standards in the world. Those standards, set forth by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), are responsible for maintaining the quality of educational programs for institutions, students, and patients. CODA accreditation of an international program allows graduates of that program (1) to be eligible for licensure within the U.S., (2) to attend graduate programs in the U.S., and (3) to potentially receive graduate funding in the U.S.

**THE SITUATION**

**HELPING THE FIRST NON-U.S. DENTAL SCHOOL OBTAIN CODA ACCREDITATION**

Dental education in the United States is considered to have among the highest standards in the world. Those standards, set forth by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), are responsible for maintaining the quality of educational programs for institutions, students, and patients. CODA accreditation of an international program allows graduates of that program (1) to be eligible for licensure within the U.S., (2) to attend graduate programs in the U.S., and (3) to potentially receive graduate funding in the U.S.
CLIENT
Established in 1984, KAUFD is one of the most preeminent dental schools in the MENA region.

GOALS
KAUFD sought to become a CODA-accredited program, meaning their graduates would have the same credentials as graduates from U.S. dental schools.

STRATEGY
AAL began the project by thoroughly evaluating KAUFD’s curriculum and CODA Self-Study document. AAL then provided KAUFD with a comprehensive analysis of its compliance with each of the 65 CODA standards, and detailed strategies for ensuring a successful application package.

Additionally, AAL conducted a mock-site visit to help prepare the school for the examination from CODA. This mock site visit was done by AAL’s Senior Consultants who have served as site visitors, and led numerous institutions through accreditation processes.

The entire project took six months, and AAL supported KAUFD through the last submission of their documentation.

RESULTS
On August 1, 2019, CODA granted an accreditation status to KAUFD. This is the first time a predoctoral dental education program outside of the U.S. has received such a status.