

# Fact Sheet

## Academy of General Dentistry

### Your dentist is a Fellow or Master of the Academy of General Dentistry

#### What does FAGD or MAGD stand for after your general dentist's name?

Your dentist is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD), an organization of general dentists who are dedicated to professional development and continuing education. All AGD members must remain current with advances in the profession to provide quality patient treatment. A general dentist who is a "Fellow" in the Academy of General Dentistry (FAGD) has been recognized by other general dentists as a leader and an example to other dentists of the importance of quality continuing dental education to patient care. A general dentist who has earned the designation "Master" of the Academy of General Dentistry (MAGD)—a big step up from Fellowship—has completed a structured and rigorous set of requirements involving all the dental disciplines.

Both Fellows and Masters have accepted the charge to keep abreast of advances in dentistry for the benefit of patients and the betterment of dentistry. They serve as mentors and leaders to other dentists pursuing continuing dental education. They set examples in their communities with their hard work, concern and involvement.

#### What are the steps to Fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry?

To earn a Fellowship Award, your dentist must earn a minimum of 500 approved continuing dental

education credits and pass a comprehensive 400-question examination. Your dentist must also be an Academy of General Dentistry member for five continuous years. While attaining Fellowship is a challenge, it allows dentists to remain current with what is new in dentistry, and to incorporate the latest techniques into their practices.

#### What is the requirement for Mastership in the Academy of General Dentistry?

To attain Mastership, members must first be Fellows in the Academy of General Dentistry. Then they must earn an additional 600 approved continuing education credits, meeting minimum requirements in certain dental disciplines, of which 400 hours are hands-on courses. Thus, a Master of the Academy of General Dentistry has taken a total of at least 1,100 hours of continuing education. A Master has studied 16 disciplines in dentistry, such as periodontics, orthodontics and implants.

#### What's special about a dentist who has an award from the Academy of General Dentistry?

Fellows and Masters of the Academy of General Dentistry contin-



ue in a lifelong pursuit of continuing education to provide the highest quality of dental care to patients. The award symbolizes the professional responsibility of general dentists to remain current in their profession and reminds each member of the dental profession to continue to learn new techniques for their dental practice. These are awards, however and should not be confused with post-graduate degrees or certification. Every dentist who applies for the Fellowship or Mastership award has their application reviewed by the AGD Council on Dental Education to assure that the high standards of the Academy of General Dentistry are met.

#### How many dentists have achieved Fellowship or Mastership?

To date, more than 11,000 members of the Academy of General Dentistry have become Fellows and more than 1,000 have gone on to receive Mastership. The Academy is very proud of all of its members who must take at least 75 hours of continuing dental education every three years, and especially proud of its members who have made the commitment to pursue these awards. When your dentist has achieved the Fellowship Award or Mastership Award, you can be assured that they are dedicated to providing the finest care in general dentistry.



This information was compiled for you by the Academy of General Dentistry. Your dentist cares about long-term dental health for you and your family and demonstrates that concern by belonging to the Academy of General Dentistry. As one of the 35,000 general dentists in the United States and Canada who are members of the Academy, your dentist participates in an ongoing program of professional development and continuing education to remain current with advances in the profession and to provide quality patient treatment. Visit the AGD's website at [www.agd.org](http://www.agd.org). You have permission to photocopy this page and distribute it to your patients.