Membership FAQs

These questions and answers cover some of the most-asked topics about WDA, ADA, and local component membership. As you'll see, there are many different membership categories, as well as payment options.

If you have other questions, please contact Candice Wegner, Membership, CE & Strategic Partnerships Specialist, at 414-755-4118 or cwegner@wda.org.

When will my membership lapse?

Memberships cover the calendar year. Members are encouraged to renew by the end of the year but are given a grace period through March 31, after which member benefits are discontinued. Payment plans are available and may extend after March 31.

What are my payment options?

There are several: You can pay with an e-check or credit card online or by telephone, or with a check via U.S. mail. We offer monthly or 6-month installment plans when paying by e-check or credit card. We accept VISA, Discover and MasterCard, with a one-time, $25 administrative fee for credit card payments. To pay by phone, call the WDA at 414-276-4520.

I'm a recent dental school graduate. When do I pay full dues?

We recognize that recent graduates need some time to get settled into the profession. Your membership is at no cost the year you graduate as well as the following year after that. (For example, if you graduated in May of 2026, your membership is free until December 31, 2027). You will enjoy reduced dues (50%) your second year after dental school, elevating to full dues in year three. (For example, if you graduated in May of 2026, you will receive a 50% discount January 1, 2028-December 31, 2028. Starting January 2029, you will be responsible for the full amount.)

If you attend a dental graduate program, your reduced dues will start after you complete the graduate program, as long as you maintain continuous membership. Please contact Candice, at 414-755-4118 or cwegner@wda.org, if you are pursuing a graduate degree so we can properly apply your membership discounts.

What does each line item on my statement mean?

The WDA breaks down your statement into individual sections. They are:

- **American Dental Association:** This item represents your ADA membership.
- **Wisconsin Dental Association:** This represents your WDA membership.

- **Local Component:** This represents your local dental society membership.

  Remember, membership is tripartite. That means you belong to your local dental society, the Wisconsin Dental Association and the American Dental Association.

- **Wisconsin Dental Association Foundation:** This optional tax-deductible contribution supports the Wisconsin Dental Association Foundation, a 501(c)(3) philanthropic organization aligned with the Wisconsin Dental Association. Its mission is to improve the oral health and overall well-being of Wisconsin residents while supporting the needs of the dental community.

I'm retired. Do I get a discount?

If you are fully retired (not earning any income from the practice/knowledge of dentistry), you are eligible for ADA and WDA retired status. That means a 75% ADA membership discount and a WDA membership rate of $125. Component membership rates for retired members vary.

Fully retired dentists who have also earned life member status (30 consecutive years of ADA membership or 40 total years of membership) receive a 100% membership discount at the national, state and local levels.

To obtain retired status, you must sign an affidavit stating you are fully retired. The affidavit is available by contacting Candice Wegner, Membership, CE & Strategic Partnerships Specialist, at 414-755-4118 or cwegner@wda.org.

I only work part-time. Do I qualify for a discount?

If you are earning a net income less than $50,000 a year from your practice or knowledge of dentistry, you qualify for the WDA limited practice category, with a discount of 75% off WDA and local component membership. To obtain limited time practice status, you must contact Candice Wegner, Membership, CE & Strategic Partnerships Specialist, at 414-755-4118 or cwegner@wda.org.

Are membership discounts available if I take an extended leave due to a family situation, illness or injury?

If you are earning a net income less than $50,000 a year from your practice or knowledge of dentistry, you qualify for the WDA limited practice category, with a 75% WDA and local component membership discount. You may also qualify for a partial or full waiver. For waiver information, contact Candice Wegner, Membership, CE & Strategic Partnerships Specialist, at 414-755-4118 or cwegner@wda.org.

Is there someone I can talk with about my membership?

Yes. Contact Candice Wegner, Membership, CE & Strategic Partnerships Specialist, at 414-755-4118 or cwegner@wda.org.

Estimated membership totals

Tripartite membership means support from a local component, state society, and national association. Each level sets membership rates independently, and belonging to all three protects dentists and the public. Use the estimator below to gain an understanding of what membership may cost you.

Reductions for new dentists and other special promotional rates may apply to your membership. Additionally, members have the option to make a voluntary contribution ($100 is suggested, but any amount is welcome) to the Wisconsin Dental Association Foundation, a 501(c)(3) philanthropic organization whose mission is to improve the oral health and overall well-being of Wisconsin residents while supporting the needs of the dental community.

How 2025 Rates are Calculated	
American Dental Association	$627
Wisconsin Dental Association	$925
Local (varies by component)	$0 - $200
TOTAL (without optional Foundation gift)	$1,552 – $1,752

To obtain a more detailed estimate, contact Candice Wegner, Membership, CE & Strategic Partnerships Specialist, at 414-755-4118 or cwegner@wda.org.