The associateship agreement typically contains the following elements:

* A statement that defines the nature of the associateship relationship. Often, the statement will contain the phrase "independent contractor" if the associate is not a true employee of the practice. If the associate is responsible for paying their own taxes, the contract will usually require the associate to provide proof-of-payment to the host dentist so they cannot be held liable if the associate fails to pay their taxes.
* The obligations of the host dentist to provide necessary facilities, equipment, supplies and administrative support to the associate.
* The obligations of the associate dentist to maintain all licenses and memberships required to legally practise dentistry in the host's practice.
* The hours and days the associate is expected to work, and how annual holidays, vacations, maternity leave and other exceptions are to be handled.
* A description of how patients will be allocated to the associate, and the discretion of the host to request that the associate provide treatment to particular patients (i.e. emergency).
* Obligations of the host dentist to market and promote the associate's presence in the practice for the purpose of establishing a suitable patient flow to the associate.
* Obligations of the associate dentist to market and promote the host's practice for the purpose of maintaining suitable patient flow to the practice.
* How the associate will be compensated, when advances will be forwarded by the host, and how often accounts reconciliation occurs.
* Obligations to both parties with respect to record keeping and reporting for the purpose of determining compensation.
* Obligations of the host for billing and collecting for work performed by the associate.
* Right of the associate to independently exercise their professional judgment when diagnosing patient treatment needs.
* How referrals of patients to other practitioners will be handled.
* General provisions relating to the conduct and obligations of the associate, like dress code or abiding by management decisions.
* A restrictive covenant, non-competition and confidential information clause that protects the host's ownership of the practice and patient base.
* The right of the associate dentist to make an offer to purchase the host's practice if the host dentist chooses to sell.
* How the host or associate may terminate the associateship with cause (i.e. breach of contract by the other party).
* How the agreement may be terminated by either party without cause (i.e. three month notice).
* A clause protecting each from professional liability in event of malpractice or poor treatment by the other party.