



AMERICAN BOARD OF
DENTAL EXAMINERS

SUPPORTING STATE BOARDS' MISSION TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC



Administering fair, valid, and standardized national licensure examinations in the oral health professions.

- Accepted or required by law in 51 U.S. states and territories
- Hundreds of trained and calibrated examiners
- Exams accessible to all dental & dental hygiene candidates
- Nationally coordinated scoring and quality assurance



Who We Are

The American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the public through close collaboration with state dental boards. Together, we develop and administer evidence-based licensure assessments that support safe and competent dental practice.

ADEX upholds the highest standards of fairness, validity, and reliability through uniform computer-based and clinical manikin hand skills examinations, trusted by state boards to evaluate candidates' readiness for licensure. Today, ADEX examinations are accepted across nearly all U.S. jurisdictions and are utilized by the vast majority of dental and dental hygiene candidates.

ADEX administers a comprehensive portfolio of clinical examinations used by dental boards across the United States and internationally. The Council on Examinations, representing every U.S. state and territory, continuously reviews and refines these assessments to ensure clinical relevance, fairness, and accuracy.

Our organization is led by a national network of state dental board and educator-examiners, united by a shared commitment to integrity, consistency, and public protection.

Our Mission

➤ Assess

Deliver psychometrically sound clinical examinations in dental and dental hygiene licensure. ADEX delivers more than 24,000 assessments annually.

➤ Support

Support state regulatory agencies in standardizing and evaluating candidate competence.

➤ Strengthen

Strengthen public trust in the licensure process while enabling portability for professionals.

WHY BECOME AN EXAMINER?

State dental board members play a critical role by participating in the examination administration process. Participation in the American Board of Dental Examiners allows regulators to uphold public protection and contribute to national consistency in dental and dental hygiene competency standards. Engagement ensures that the licensure pathways align with real-world practice, regulatory priorities, and evolving standards of care.

➤ Examine

All members of state boards may participate in administering ADEX examinations at 400+ sites nationwide as available.

➤ Lead

Opportunity to serve on the ADEX board of directors or other committees.

➤ Develop

States select representatives to the Council on Examinations, participating in exam development and policy.

➤ Connect

Represent your state board at meetings, conferences, and regulatory summits.



QUICK FACTS FOR PROSPECTIVE EXAMINERS



Honorarium and travel reimbursement



Training and calibration offered on demand



Professional development opportunities

PURSUE EXCELLENCE IN LICENSURE

Offering trusted, reliable examinations backed by professional expertise and a collaborative governance model, the American Board of Dental Examiners provides regulators with the tools they need to determine readiness for practice and standards for licensure.

JOIN
TODAY

Ask your Executive Director to get started.



WHAT IS THE COUNCIL ON EXAMINATIONS?

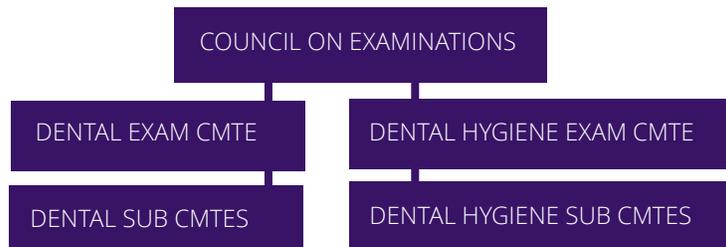


State dental board members play a critical role in the examination process. Through participation with the American Board of Dental Examiners, regulators directly support public protection while serving as stewards of a consistent, national standard for dental and dental hygiene licensure.

Examiner engagement provides the opportunity to collaborate with fellow state board members and respected professionals from across jurisdictions, fostering shared insight and alignment. It also ensures that licensure pathways remain grounded in real-world clinical practice, aligned with regulatory priorities, and responsive to evolving standards of care.

➤ Council Appointment Eligibility & Term Length

Each state is asked to appoint a dentist and dental hygienist to the Council to serve three year terms. Persons who are current members of their state dental board, or have served within the past five years, are eligible to be appointed to the Council. Appointees will onboard with ADEX to access materials, information and be invited to examine. Active ADEX participation of five years or more is required to hold an office on the Council.



➤ Council Member Commitments & Expectations

The Council will meet in person during the ADEX Annual Meeting. Exam Committees will meet virtually in advance and may gather in person at the Annual Meeting event as well. Virtual meetings typically last one to two hours. The time requirement can vary slightly depending on what (if any) subcommittees the person is appointed to serve.



Participation in the examining process, and the Council on Examinations provides state board members insight into how their service protects the public, firsthand. Ask for a presentation to your board to learn more.