

Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA)

- **Auxiliary Computer-based Examination (ACE)**
- **Auxiliary Restorative Examination (ARE)**

2026 CANDIDATE MANUAL



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ADDENDUM

Candidates are responsible for understanding content included in the Candidate Guide, Candidate Manuals, criteria sheets and materials regarding simulated-patient examination procedures, protocols and processes applicable to the **January 1 through December 31, 2026 exam season**. Candidates are encouraged to periodically review these publications for changes or updates.

Any additions or modifications after initial publication will be noted below.

- **Candidate Worksheet** replaces the previously titled “Progress Form.” 4/16/2026)
- **Anterior and Posterior Restorations Criteria:**
 - **Margin Integrity and Surface Finish - Margin Excess/Deficiency (Subsection B Updates)**
 - **ACC |** The restoration-tooth interface may be detectable visually or with the tine of an explorer.
 - **SUB | EXCESS:** There is evidence of marginal excess less than or equal to 1.0 mm of thickness perpendicular to the tooth surface (overhang) and/or extending laterally beyond the margin of the preparation greater than 1.0 mm but equal to or less than 2.0 mm. [formerly: marginal excess > 0.5 mm but ≤ 1.0 mm without distinction between overhanging thickness and lateral over extension of the restoration]
 - **DEF | EXCESS:** There is marginal excess greater than 1.0 mm in thickness perpendicular to the tooth surface (overhang) and/or extending laterally beyond the margin of the preparation greater than 2.0 mm (excluding bonding agent or unfilled resin). [formerly: marginal excess >1.0 mm without distinction between overhanging thickness and lateral over extension of the restoration]

EXAMINATION OVERVIEW

The American Board of Dental Examiners administers the **Expanded Functions Dental Auxiliary Examination series**, which consists of both computer-based and clinical exam components, as a pathway to **EFDA Licensure**. Examinations are based on specific performance criteria developed to measure the clinical competency of candidates in providing restorative procedures as allowed by state statute.

All components of the **EFDA Examination series** must be successfully completed (passing scores) within 12 months of the initial attempt of any component in the series. In conjunction with this manual, refer to the [Candidate Guide](#) available on the [ADEXtesting.org](#) website for more information regarding the **3-Time Fail Policy**, exam eligibility, registration, and other administrative policies.

- The **Auxiliary Computer-based Examination (ACE)** is a multiple-choice exam which assesses various levels of candidate comprehension and skill.
- The **Auxiliary Restorative Examination (ARE)** is a simulated patient exam performed on typodont teeth in a clinic or simulation laboratory. (Refer to the **Examination Timeline** section for guidelines and restrictions.) Candidate performance is evaluated according to the published criteria for the respective procedure (see [Criteria Sheets](#)).

The 2.5-hour Clinical examination consists of restoration procedures performed on three separate tooth preparations, which are evaluated and reported as a singular exam component. Successful completion of all three procedures is required to achieve an overall passing score of the Clinical examination component.

Exam Eligibility

Refer to the [Candidate Guide](#) available on the [ADEXtesting.org](#) website for exam eligibility requirements. School verification or course completion certificate required.

Official Resources. Candidates are responsible for reading and understanding the **Candidate Manual** in conjunction with the [Candidate Guide](#), [Criteria Sheets](#) and noted materials published by American Board of Dental Examiners. Candidates bear all risk of any misunderstanding resulting from the use of or reliance on unofficial information or materials. Refer to the [EFDA Examination Overview](#) page of the [ADEXtesting.org](#) website for official resources.

- **Candidate Guide.** Refer to the [Candidate Guide](#) for information regarding exam eligibility, education requirements, identification requirements, candidate conduct/misconduct policies, computer-based testing accommodations, and more.
- **Candidate Manual.** Exam protocols, procedures, materials, and performance expectations.
- **Site Info Sheet.** If applicable, site-specific information pertaining to the exam site host, such as school-provided supplies, rental equipment, infection control protocols, etc. can be found in the *Site Info Sheet* for the respective exam site host on the [ADEXtesting.org](#) website.
- Submit any **exam-related questions** via [Contact Us](#) prior to the exam, or onsite to American Board of Dental Examiners clinical exam personnel.

Standards of Conduct

Integrity of the examination depends on fairness, accuracy and consistency. Established standards of conduct ensure that these principles are adhered to by examiners, candidates, and all individuals and entities involved in examination administration.

Dismissal, failure of the examination or a reduction in an examination score may result from improper performance or unethical conduct (misconduct).

Candidates are required to adhere to these standards of conduct while participating in any American Board of Dental Examiners administered clinical or computer-based examination. Refer to the [Candidate Guide](#) for conduct and examination guidelines resulting in penalties or automatic failure of the examination and/or examination series (e.g. use of prohibited electronic devices **including smartphones**, etc.).

AUXILIARY COMPUTER-BASED EXAMINATION (ACE)

The computer-based examination assesses candidate knowledge in the noted content areas. Candidates have up to 150 minutes to complete the 100-item multiple-choice test. A maximum of 100 points is possible and final score of 75 or higher is required to pass.

EXAM CONTENT	POINTS
Amalgam Restorations	20
Composite Restorations	20
Dental Anatomy	10
Occlusion	10
Matrices and Wedges	10
Bases and Liners	10
Rubber Dam	5
Cavity Classifications	5
Sealants	5
Crown and Bridge Provisionals	5

Test Center. The computer-based examination is administered at a **PSI Test Center** location. Refer to the [PSI Candidate Information Bulletin](#) available on the [ADEXtesting.org](#) website for test center protocols and sample test questions.

Exam Appointment Scheduling. After registration, allow up to 2-3 business days for processing and authorization. Once authorized, candidates receive their **Eligibility Number** via email along with instructions to schedule their PSI exam appointment. Eligibility Number valid for up to 12 months prior to exam attempt; new authorization required if exam not attempted within 12 months.

Valid Identification. Only valid, non-expired forms of **signature-bearing U.S. government-issued photo identification** (e.g. driver license, passport, military ID) are accepted at PSI Test Center locations. Candidates who do not have the required valid form(s) of identification risk forfeiture of their examination attempt and registration fees (see [Candidate Guide, Candidate Attendance & “No Show” Policy](#)).

Notification of Results. Provisional results are available upon exam completion. Candidates are notified via email once official examination results are available within their online [Candidates.ADEXtesting.org](#) candidate portal. Generally, within 10 business days of exam completion.

Computer-based Exam Retake. Eligible candidates may apply for a fee-based retake via their online [Candidates.ADEXtesting.org](#) candidate portal same as initial process. New registration and Eligibility Number required per attempt.

Exam References

Delmar's Dental Assisting: A Comprehensive Approach, 2007, 3rd edition, Donna J. Phinney & Judy H. Halstead, Cengage Delmar Publishing, ISBN #1418048739.

Dentistry for the Restorative Expanded Function Dental Assistant, 2006 Timothy L. Hotel & Linda S. Ruggiero, 3750 Hacks Cross Road, #102-139, Memphis, TN 38125, thottel@uthsc.edu.

Modern Dental Assisting, 2015, 11th Edition, Bird and Robinson, Elsevier

AUXILIARY RESTORATIVE EXAMINATION (ARE)

Examination Timeline

The examination timeline below is for **example only**; actual schedules may vary. Candidates are notified via email once their individual **examination schedule and Q&A Session** information are available in their Candidates.ADEXtesting.org profile approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the clinical exam. The Chief Examiner or Clinic Floor Examiner announces the start of examination.

1-2 Sessions	AM Session	PM Session
Candidate Check-In, Workstation Setup, Test Materials Distribution (typodont arches, tooth preparations, Candidate ID Labels, Candidate Worksheet)	8:00 am – 9:00 am	12:00 pm – 12:30 pm
Manikin set-up approval by Chief or Clinic Floor Examiner	8:30 am – 9:00 am	12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
Clinical exam procedures. Restoration of three prepared teeth: • Anterior composite (Tooth #8 ML) • Posterior amalgam (Tooth #14 MOD) • Posterior composite (Tooth #29 DO)	9:00 am – 11:30 am	1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Dismount typodont. Return typodont arches, Candidate Worksheet, unused Candidate ID Labels to Check-Out Desk	11:30 am	3:30 pm

Clinical Exam Admission. A government-issued or school-issued photo identification (ID). Acceptable forms of non-expired photo identification include such documents as current, valid driver license, passport, military ID, or official school ID.

Assigned Operatories/Workstations. Candidates are permitted to work only in assigned operatories or laboratory spaces. Notify the Chief Examiner immediately of any school equipment malfunction.

Examination Procedures. Treatment procedures must be completed within the allotted timeframe. Treatment procedures initiated before the established start time or continued after the finish time will result in failure of the examination.

Outside assistance is not permitted during any aspect of the examination. Communication between candidates is not permitted during established examination times.

Assigned Teeth. Only one prepared tooth per procedure is distributed, unless a validated concern is identified (e.g., crown separates from root). Substitutions of exam teeth are not permitted after the exam start. Do not remove teeth or dismount typodont without examiner authorization.

Patient Management. The manikin must be maintained in a physiologically acceptable operating position.

Infection Control Guidelines. Candidates are required to adhere to current **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** infection control guidelines and recommendations for all simulated patient (manikin) examinations.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Candidates are responsible for following basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements for all clinical examinations as outlined by American Board of Dental Examiners.

- Mask
- Appropriate clinical attire/scrubs
- Protective eyewear, loupes or prescription eyewear with side shields
- Gloves
- Close-toed shoes

Refer to the [Candidate Guide](#) for additional information regarding minimum infection control requirements.

Scoring Overview

The criteria gradations of competence are described across a 3-level rating scale. Those criteria appear on the respective [Criteria Sheet](#) and are the basis for the evaluation. The three rating levels are as follows:

- **ACC (Clinically Acceptable):** The treatment is of acceptable quality, demonstrating competence in clinical judgment, knowledge, and skill.
- **SUB (Marginally Substandard):** The treatment is of marginal quality, demonstrating less than expected clinical judgment and/or skill.
- **DEF (Critically Deficient):** The treatment is of unacceptable quality, demonstrating critical areas of incompetence in clinical judgment, knowledge, and/or skill.

Examination results are based on the **independent evaluations completed by three (3) separate calibrated examiners** according to the published criteria as outlined in the candidate manual and criteria sheets. Each "critical deficiency" that leads to a failure must be independently corroborated by two or more examiners. If a criterion is assigned a "critically deficient" rating, the candidate will fail that procedure. Successful completion of all three procedures is required to achieve an overall passing score of the Clinical examination attempt.

Result Details. A score of 75 or greater is required to pass each restoration; however, results are reported as Pass/Fail to candidates and licensing jurisdictions. Applicable criteria are provided to candidates of failed clinical attempts. Post-exam details or explanation beyond the stated criteria are not reported to candidates.

Clinical Retake. Eligible candidates may apply for a retake via their online Candidates.ADEXtesting.org candidate portal.

Official Results Reporting for Licensure Application. American Board of Dental Examiners is a testing agency, not a licensing authority. Successful completion of an examination does not constitute licensure. It is illegal to render patient treatment until a license or certificate is issued by the state or jurisdiction. Contact the respective licensing authority directly for their reporting requirements. See [Candidate Guide](#) and [Scores](#) page of ADEXtesting.org website for additional information.