AMERICAN BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

CANDIDATE GUIDE

Administrative Policies Applicable to All Candidates



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American Board of Dental Examiners

EXAM YEAR
2026-2027

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CONTENTS

Addendum 3

General Information 4

Computer-based & Clinical Exams 5

Exam Eligibility & Requirements 6

Candidate Profile & Administrative Policies 10

Professional Conduct 15

The ADEX Examination Series 17

Exam Preparation 19

Infection Control 20

Examination Results & Reporting 21

Results Review & Appeals 22

ADDENDUM

Candidates are responsible for understanding content included in the Candidate Guide, Candidate Manuals, criteria sheets, forms and website regarding examination procedures, protocols and processes applicable at the time of testing. Candidates are encouraged to periodically review these publications for changes or updates.

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

- Effective January 1, 2027, the **EFDA-Restorative (Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary-Restorative) Examination series** replaces the EFDA Restorative Clinical and Computer Examinations and Dental Hygiene Restorative Clinical Examination.
- Effective January 1, 2027, the **Local Anesthesia Clinical Examination** will be conducted on a simulated patient manikin (typodont) provided by the American Board of Dental Examiners.
- **"Exam Eligibility & Requirements", ADEX Dental Examination. Internationally-trained Dentist, 2.5** Clarification of dental education and documentation requirements. (07/23/2026)
- **"Candidate Identification Requirements"**. Clarification of required primary forms of U.S. government-issued identification and secondary forms of identification for computer-based exams. (07/22/2026)

GENERAL INFORMATION

The American Board of Dental Examiners administers examinations for initial licensure for the dental professions. This Candidate Guide covers general policies and administrative procedures applicable to all examinations. Refer to the respective Candidate Manual ***for content, criteria, and scoring information for each exam to be challenged.***

MISSION

The American Board of Dental Examiners serves jurisdictions in the pursuit of public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that safe and competent dental care is provided by qualified dental practitioners.

PHILOSOPHY

Examinations (exams) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners are developed to provide a reliable clinical assessment for state dental licensing board and jurisdiction use in making valid licensing decisions. Efforts have been made to make the exam unbiased with respect to regional practice and educational differences. The American Board of Dental Examiners seeks educational diversity in the makeup of the exam review committees, including practitioners and educators from across the member states who evaluate test content and develop the scoring criteria for independently developed examinations. Examiners are individually calibrated and tested prior to each exam to ensure that they evaluate candidate performance according to the established clinical examination criteria.

CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITY

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that all registration requirements (e.g. eligibility, identification, documentation, fees) are met by no later than the registration deadline for a given clinical examination. During the examination, candidates are expected to present themselves in appropriate clinical attire and conduct themselves in an ethical manner befitting that of a dental professional. See "Professional Conduct" and "Candidate Attestation" sections of this Candidate Guide for conduct expectations and violations.

Candidates are subject to policies and procedures in effect at the time of testing. Candidates are responsible for reading and understanding guides, manuals, forms, materials, webpages, and communications published by the American Board of Dental Examiners for the respective examination. Only those official resources branded and published by the American Board of Dental Examiners or ADEX Testing Media are valid sources of information. Changes may occur after publication. Candidates are encouraged to periodically review the website for changes or updates to official publications. (See "Exam Preparation" for an overview of available official resources.)

The American Board of Dental Examiners does not sponsor nor endorse examination preparation courses. Candidates bear all risk of any misunderstanding resulting from the use of or reliance on unofficial, non-authorized or third-party information, methodologies or materials of other organizations, agencies, companies, or individuals.

Licensure. The onus is on the Candidate, not the testing agency, to ensure that all requirements for licensure in a given state are met. Before registering for, attempting or re-attempting any exam, candidates are strongly encouraged to contact the state board or jurisdiction from which licensure is sought for clarification of licensure requirements (e.g. education, testing, remediation, results reporting).

COMPUTER-BASED & CLINICAL EXAMS

American Board of Dental Examiners administered exams are series based (e.g. ADEX Dental Examination) or stand-alone (e.g. Nitrous Oxide). An "examination series" is comprised of multiple exam components consisting of single or multiple procedures. All components and procedures of a given examination series must be successfully completed (passing scores) in order to achieve an overall passing score of that series.

- **Computer-based exams** are administered at **Prometric Test Center** locations unless otherwise noted.
- **Clinical exams** are administered at various locations throughout the United States, and limited locations in Jamaica, Mexico, Nova Scotia, Puerto Rico and Saudi Arabia. Refer to the Exam Calendars page of the ADEXtesting.org website for a list of clinical exam locations.

Refer to the respective Candidate Manual or Exams page of the ADEXtesting.org website for more information regarding the following computer-based and clinical exams.

- **ADEX Dental Examination series components:**
  - **Computer-based**
    - Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) [Required component effective 6/1/2026]
  - **Clinical**
    - Periodontal Examination**
    - Endodontic Examination
    - Prosthodontic Examination
    - Anterior Restorative Examination
    - Posterior Restorative Examination

    **Required components effective August 1, 2026
- **ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination series components:**
  - **Computer-based**
    - Computer Simulated Clinical Examination (CSCE OSCE)
  - **Clinical**
    - Simulated Patient Treatment Clinical Examination (SPTCE)
- **Dental Therapy Examination series components:**
  - **Computer-based**
    - Dental Therapy Examination (DT OSCE)
  - **Clinical**
    - Pediatric Manikin Examination
    - Restorative Examination
- **EFDA-Restorative (Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary-Restorative) Examination series components** (Effective January 1, 2027):
  - **Computer-based (where required)**
    - EFDA-Restorative Computer Examination
  - **Clinical**
    - EFDA-Restorative Clinical Examination
- **Local Anesthesia Examination series components:**
  - **Computer-based**
    - Local Anesthesia Didactic Examination
  - **Clinical (where required)**
    - Local Anesthesia Patient-based Clinical Examination
    - Local Anesthesia Clinical Examination (manikin-based)**

    **Effective January 1, 2027
- **Dental Hygiene Nitrous Oxide Computer-based Examination**
- **Florida Laws and Rules Computer-based Examinations**
  - Dental
  - Dental Hygiene

EXAM ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

EDUCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

All candidates must present authorization or documentation from a CODA-accredited U.S. or CDAC-accredited Canadian dental or dental hygiene educational institution or from a licensing jurisdiction is required prior to an attempt of any exam. Refer to the respective exam type for education and documentation requirements.

Documentation must reflect the candidate's registration name, or supporting name change document (e.g. marriage certificate, dissolution decree, naturalization document, or court order).

Types of Qualifying Documentation:

- Designated school representative authorization (limited to current students/residents)
- Diploma (indicating degree earned and date of graduation)
- Official Transcript (indicating degree earned and date of graduation)
- Certificate of Completion (indicating program name and date of completion)
- State Board Authorization Letter (indicating exam specific eligibility)

Authorizing Institutions. Authorization implies that the current student or current resident is eligible to attempt an exam series or component (e.g. good standing, on track for graduation/program completion). As a reminder, the authorizing institution retains the authority to rescind or revoke current student/resident eligibility prior to graduation/program completion.

Verification of Documentation. All submitted documentation is subject to verification. Additional documentation may be required. Substantiated alteration or falsification of documentation is a violation of professional conduct and subject to American Board of Dental Examiner (ADEX) policies (see "Professional Conduct").

INTERNATIONALLY-TRAINED GRADUATES of non-accredited non-U.S. or non-Canadian dental or dental hygiene schools are required to submit a state board **authorization letter** from those state(s) in which licensure is sought, indicating exam specific eligibility (e.g. ADEX Dental Examination, ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination, Florida Laws & Rules Exam). Eligibility is limited to only those exam types specified within the authorization letter. Authorization valid for up to 18 months from letter date; certain exclusions apply. Contact the state dental board or licensing jurisdiction from which licensure is sought for authorization assistance.

DENTAL

ADEX Dental Examination

1. **United States (U.S.) or Canada.** Current student or graduate of a U.S. or Canadian predoctoral general dentistry program (DDS/DMD degree) of a dental education school/program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) at the time of enrollment and graduation.

   Required documentation:

   a. **Student**: Designated school representative authorization
   b. **Graduate**: Diploma or official transcripts indicating degree earned and date of graduation

   1.1) **Also, CODA-accredited:**

   - **King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia**, eligibility limited to graduation after August 1, 2019 [date of CODA accreditation]
   - **Yeditepe University, Turkey**, eligibility limited to graduation after February 1, 2024 [date of CODA accreditation]

   Required documentation:

   a. **Student**: Designated school representative authorization
   b. **Graduate**: Diploma or official transcripts indicating degree earned and date of graduation

2. **Internationally-trained Dentist.** Graduate of a predoctoral general dentistry program from a **non-CODA accredited** dental education school, **AND** one of the following:

   2.1) **Current student** of a U.S. predoctoral general dentistry program (DDS/DMD degree, including Advanced Standing programs) of a dental education school/program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) at the time of enrollment. **Advanced Standing students**: Select your Advanced Standing program (e.g. Advanced Standing – Colorado University).

   During account set-up, select ENROLLED.

   a. **Current**: Designated school representative authorization

   2.2) **Current resident** in their final academic year of a CODA-accredited U.S. dental **2-year GPR** or **AEGD** residency program.

   During account set-up, select RESIDENT.

   a. **Current Residency**: Designated school representative authorization

   2.3) **Former resident** who has successfully completed a CODA-accredited U.S. dental **2-year GPR** or **AEGD** residency program.

   During account set-up, select NOT-ENROLLED, and upload the following required documentation:

   a. **Completed Residency**: Diploma/certificate or official transcripts

   2.4) **Current enrollment or completion** of a CODA-accredited U.S. dental **specialty certificate program** (i.e. prosthodontic, oral and maxillofacial, orthodontic, etc.).

   During account set-up, select NOT-ENROLLED, and upload the following required documentation:

   a. **State Board Authorization Letter** (indicating exam specific eligibility)

   2.5) **Current enrollment or completion** of a hospital residency, fellowship, or postdoctoral program that is affiliated with a CODA-accredited U.S. dental program.

   During account set-up, select NOT-ENROLLED, and upload the following required documentation:

   a. **State Board Authorization Letter** (indicating exam specific eligibility)

DENTAL HYGIENE

ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination

Applicant must be a graduate or current student in their final semester of a CODA-accredited U.S. or CDAC-accredited Canadian dental hygiene school. Required documentation or authorization consists of:

- **Current Student:** Program director or designated school representative authorization.
- **Graduate:** Official transcript or diploma indicating dental hygiene AA, AS or BS degree earned, or current valid U.S. state-issued dental hygiene license.

DENTAL THERAPY

Dental Therapy Examination

Applicant must be a graduate or current student in their final year of a CODA-accredited U.S. or CDAC-accredited Canadian program. Required documentation or authorization consists of:

- **Current Student:** Program director or designated school representative authorization.
- **Graduate:** Official transcript or diploma indicating dental therapy AAS, BS or MS degree earned or current valid U.S. state-issued dental therapy license.

EFDA-RESTORATIVE

EFDA-Restorative Examination

Completion of dental hygiene restorative coursework from a CODA-accredited U.S. or CDAC-accredited Canadian dental hygiene school/program, or Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) program, or U.S. state-authorized expanded function restorative course for dental auxiliaries/assistants. (Refer to respective licensing jurisdiction for additional eligibilities.) Required documentation or authorization consists of:

- **Current Student:** Program director or designated school representative authorization.
- **Non-Student:**
  - **Official Transcript.** Official dental hygiene transcript indicating degree earned and restorative courses listed.
  - **Certificate.** Official course completion certificate indicating expanded function restorative course name and date of completion. Additional supporting documentation may be required.

Questions?
Contact Us

LOCAL ANESTHESIA

Local Anesthesia Computer Examination

Completion of local anesthesia coursework from a CODA-accredited U.S. or CDAC-accredited Canadian dental hygiene** school, or U.S. state-authorized program or course provider. Required documentation applicable to computer-based exam attempt only:

- **Current Student:** Program director or designated school representative authorization.
- **Non-Student:**
  - **Official Transcript:** Official dental hygiene transcript indicating degree earned and local anesthesia courses listed.
  - **Certificate.** Official course completion certificate indicating local anesthesia courses and date of completion. Additional supporting documentation may be required.

****Minnesota Eligibility Exception:** Minnesota licensed dental assistant who completes a state-approved, (three-part) Local Anesthesia for the Dental Assistant program; proof of course completion and current dental assistant license required.

Local Anesthesia Clinical Examination

Completion of local anesthesia coursework from a CODA-accredited U.S. or CDAC-accredited Canadian dental hygiene school or state-authorized local anesthesia course provider.

Coursework must consist of didactic instruction, supervised clinical instruction, and practical experience in the administration of local anesthesia, including but not limited to, posterior superior alveolar (PSA) and inferior alveolar (IA) nerve block injections on a patient. Required documentation or authorization consists of:

- **Current Student:** Program director or designated school representative authorization.
- **Non-Student:**
  - **Official Transcript.** Official dental hygiene transcript with local anesthesia courses listed.
  - **Certificate.** Official course completion certificate indicating local anesthesia course name and date of completion. Additional supporting documentation may be required.

NITROUS OXIDE

Nitrous Oxide Computer-based Examination

Completion of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation coursework from a CODA-accredited U.S. or CDAC-accredited Canadian dental or dental hygiene school or state-authorized course provider. Coursework must consist of didactic instruction, supervised clinical instruction, and practical experience in the administration of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation. Required documentation or authorization consists of:

- **Current Student:** Program director or designated school representative authorization.
- **Non-Student:**
  - **Official transcript** with nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation courses listed, degree earned and date of graduation.
  - **Certificate.** Official course completion certificate indicating nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation course name and date of completion. Additional supporting documentation may be required.

CANDIDATE PROFILE & ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

CANDIDATE PROFILE REQUIREMENTS

A candidate profile is required to register for any computer-based or clinical examination. Navigate to the Candidates/Login section of the ADEXtesting.org website to Login to an existing account or follow the prompts to create an account using a valid email address.

Required Components of a Candidate Profile

- **Personal Information:**
  - **Name**. Your **profile name** must accurately reflect your **legal First and Last names** as displayed on your **primary form of U.S. government-issued identification**. Avoid using accent marks or tildes.
  - **Email**. Use an email that you check regularly or will have access to after graduation. Add @ADEXtesting.org to your contacts list to ensure receipt of important communications.
  - **Phone number**
  - **Mailing address**
  - **Social Security Number (SSN)****
  - **DENTPIN****
  - **Birth date**
  - **Photo** (recent head/shoulders pose)

  ** Required information for results reporting and licensure application in some states.
- **Education Record:** program type, location, school, date of graduation or anticipated graduation date
  - **Current Enrollment Status: Enrolled, Resident or Not Enrolled** (See "Exam Eligibility & Requirements" for more information)
    - **Internationally-trained Dentists**. Refer to "ADEX Dental Examination" on page 7 for eligibility and documentation requirements.
- **Documentation**
  - (See "Exam Eligibility & Requirements" for more information)
  - **Name Change.** If your profile name differs from your eligibility documentation (e.g. diploma, transcript), upload a copy of the supporting name change document (e.g. marriage certificate, dissolution decree, naturalization document, or court order) to your online Candidate Profile **at least 10 business days prior** to your scheduled examination. Once uploaded, Contact Us for further assistance.

Questions?
Contact Us

CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Identification, as described below, is required for admittance to any American Board of Dental Examiners administered examination. Your **profile name** must accurately reflect your **legal First and Last names** as displayed on your **primary form of U.S. government-issued identification**.

Candidates who do not present the **required valid form(s) of identification** will forfeit their examination attempt and registration fees (see Candidate Attendance & "No Show" Policy).

- **CLINICAL EXAMS.** Upon arrival at the clinical exam location, you must present **one (1) original form** of identification—**one primary ID OR one secondary ID**—as described below.
- **COMPUTER-BASED EXAMS.** Upon arrival at the **Prometric Test Center location**, you must present **two (2) original forms** of identification—**one primary ID AND one secondary ID**—as described below.**

** **DLOSCE Candidates**. See DLOSCE Candidate Manual for additional **Candidate Identification Requirements**, policies and protocols (e,g, biometric data collection) for testing at Prometric Test Center locations.

VALID FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION

PRIMARY ID REQUIREMENTS

Must be a valid form of **U.S. government-issued photo ID** containing your name, photograph, and signature. All IDs, except passports, must be in English.

- Examples include:
  - Driver license
  - Military ID
  - Passport
  - Passport card

SECONDARY ID REQUIREMENTS

Must contain your name and signature.

- Examples include:
  - Credit card
  - Debit card
  - Library card

IMPORTANT ID REMINDERS

Applicable to ALL Identification Forms

- IDs must be current and unexpired.
- Original physical forms of identification only.

NOT Acceptable

- Expired IDs (e.g. driver license) are **not** valid for testing purposes, even if accompanied by temporary renewal documentation.
- Digital IDs, photographs or paper copies of IDs are **not** valid for testing purposes.

CANDIDATE ANONYMITY during Clinical Examinations. Examiners responsible for making clinical grading decisions do not interact with Candidates (with exception of the clinical Local Anesthesia examination).

To further **maintain candidate anonymity** during the clinical examination:

- A **Candidate ID Number** is used in lieu of the candidate's name on all badges, labels, forms and typodonts.
- **Avoid** clothing bearing any **personal or school identifying information** (e.g. name, logo, mascot).
- **Mask** personal or school identifiers on instruments or equipment with tape.
- **Observe** all **signs and instructions** relating to the designated examining areas.

EXAM REGISTRATION & FEES

Exams registration is fee-based. Payment in full is required at the time of registration (Visa/MasterCard only). Clinical exam registration may incur a separate **Facility Fee** assessed by the exam site host to cover their expenses (fees varies by clinical exam location). Refer to the respective Exams page of the ADEXtesting.org website for a list of clinical locations, dates and fees.

Login or Create an Account to access the "**Register for an Exam**" button of your online profile and view current clinical availability for those exams for which you are eligible or authorized.

EXAM CANCELLATION. The American Board of Dental Examiners reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any clinical examination in the event of an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance beyond this testing agency's control. In such cases, candidates will be apprised of their testing options.

TRANSFER, WITHDRAWAL & REFUNDS

Clinical Exam Transfer or Withdrawal & Refund Eligibility. Once registered for a clinical exam, the following policies apply. Refund eligibility not applicable if attempt of any component of the examination series—clinical or computer-based—has been attempted. Candidate notification of exam withdrawal must be submitted via Contact Us – Cancellation and Refund Request.

- Transfer ***after*** the Clinical **Registration Deadline** for a given exam incurs an Extended Registration & Transfer Fee.
- Withdrawal **prior to** the **Registration Deadline** = receives a full refund.
- Withdrawal **after** the **Registration Deadline** = receives refund minus an Extended Registration & Transfer Fee.

Computer-based Exam Cancellation or Reschedule & Refund Eligibility. Candidates may reschedule or cancel their computer-based exam appointment via their Candidate Portal with the noted exceptions. Once the exam appointment has been scheduled at a Prometric Test Center location, the following Prometric cancellation/reschedule policies apply.

- **<24 hours prior to exam appointment** = not permitted; forfeiture of exam attempt and registration fee; no refund
- **1-5 days prior to exam appointment** = incurs $100 fee
- **6-30 days prior to exam appointment** = incurs $50 fee

EXAM SCHEDULING

Clinical Scheduling Requests. Scheduling requests may be submitted via Contact Us prior to the Registration Deadline for a given exam for consideration. However, scheduling requests are not guaranteed due to limited availability.

Clinical Schedule Release. Preliminary schedules are subject to change. Candidates are notified via email once their official individual **examination schedule and Q&A Session** information are posted in their Candidates.ADEXtesting.org profile, approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the clinical exam. Candidates assume all risk and responsibility for making travel or lodging arrangements in advance of receiving their official individual examination schedule.

Computer-based Scheduling. Candidates manage their computer-based Prometric exam appointment scheduling, re-scheduling or cancellation through the green "**Schedule My Exam**" button or "**My Registration**" button of their online profile.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION: COMPUTER-BASED EXAMS

American Board of Dental Examiners administered examinations are designed to provide an equal opportunity and access for all candidates to demonstrate their clinical knowledge and skills.

The American Board of Dental Examiners will provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations for candidates with documented disabilities or medical conditions in those cases where the requested accommodation would not fundamentally alter the measurement of the skills or knowledge the exam is intended to test. The American Board of Dental Examiners reserves the right to authorize the use of any modifications in such a way as to maintain the integrity and security of the examination.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:
Accommodation requests and supporting documentation from an appropriate health provider (e.g. physician, psychologist, etc.) must be submitted, reviewed and approved in advance of scheduling of a computer-based exam appointment. The documentation must support the testing accommodation requested (e.g. extended time, separate room). Candidates are notified via email if the accommodation is approved or denied. Once approved, testing accommodation documentation is not retained. Any granted special accommodations are non-transferable and must be requested for each computer-based exam registration.

Submitting an Accommodation Request for Computer-based Exams

- **Login** to your Candidate Portal
- Click the green "**Schedule My Exam**" button and follow the "**Do you need an Accommodation Request**" prompts to **submit** your request
- **Upload** supporting documentation (PDF)

Do NOT schedule an appointment until after the testing accommodation request(s) has been approved or denied.

- Any granted accommodation is not applicable to appointments scheduled prior to approval.
- Appointments scheduled prior to accommodation approval are subject to the Prometric Test Center cancellation policy and any applicable fees. (See "TRANSFER, WITHDRAWAL & REFUNDS" for more information.)

CANDIDATE ATTENDANCE & "NO SHOW" POLICY

Clinical Examination & "No Show" Policy. Candidates are expected to arrive onsite—*timely and prepared*—for their scheduled clinic entrance time. Time adjustments for late candidate arrival are NOT permitted.

- **Late Clinical Arrival.** A candidate arriving late must complete clinic set-up or assigned examination procedures within the allotted time remaining, or are recorded as a "No Show" and forfeit their scheduled clinical examination attempt and registration fees.
- **Missing Items or Improper Clinical Attire.** Candidates who do not have the required items (e.g. identification, instruments, armamentarium) or are not dressed in proper clinic attire at assigned clinic time must obtain the necessary items or attire and complete clinic set-up or assigned examination procedures within the allotted time remaining, or are recorded as a "No Show" and forfeit their scheduled clinical examination attempt and registration fees.

Computer-based Examination & "No Show" Candidate. Candidates are expected to arrive onsite—timely and prepared—**at least 30 minutes in advance** of the scheduled check-in/start of their computer-based examination appointment. Refer to the respective Computer-based Candidate Manual (e.g. DLOSCE, CSCE, etc.) for additional requirements and policies.

- **Late Arrival.** Candidates late for the scheduled start of their computer-based examination appointment will be recorded as a "No Show" and forfeit their examination attempt and registration fees.
- **Missing Items.** Candidates who do not have the required valid form(s) of identification are recorded as a "No Show" and forfeit their examination attempt and registration fees.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY CANCELLATION POLICY

Exceptions may be made only in the case of a documented medical emergency occurring within 72 hours of the scheduled clinical exam date. Documentation of the medical emergency must be received within 30 days of the emergency occurrence.

In the case of a medical emergency occurring within 72 hours of the scheduled clinical exam date, a compromise policy has been adopted. The candidate must submit documentation (depending on the emergency) in one of the following ways: (a) a letter from the treating physician [on the treating physician's letterhead stationery] and attached to a Contact Us message, attesting to the specific medical condition [with consideration to HIPAA regulations] which resulted in the candidate's inability to attend the exam; or (b) records from the emergency room; or (c) a copy of the published death announcement (obituary, funeral service program, or death certificate) of an immediate family member.

The American Board of Dental Examiners will review submitted documentation on a case-by-case basis to determine if an exception to the published cancellation policy is warranted.

Questions?
Contact Us

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Integrity of the examination depends on fairness, accuracy and consistency. Established standards of conduct ensure that these principles are adhered to by candidates, examiners, and all individuals and entities involved in examination administration. Participants are expected to present themselves in appropriate clinical attire and conduct themselves in an ethical manner befitting that of a dental professional.

Dismissal, failure of the examination or a reduction in an examination score may result from unethical and/or unprofessional conduct relative to established procedural skills and/or professional judgment standards.

UNETHICAL AND/OR UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Examples of unethical and/or unprofessional conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Submission of falsified, altered, misleading, or fraudulent documentation (including but not limited to identification, eligibility, qualification, etc.) may result in immediate disqualification and permanent ineligibility to attempt any ADEX examination.
- Use of electronic devices in the testing area, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, etc., to photograph, record or communicate any aspect of the examination process or materials.
- Cheating, dishonesty or falsification intended to subvert exam rules, obtain unfair advantage or mask clinical competence.
- Falsification of documentation; altering Patient or Simulated-Patient records, radiographs, examination forms, or treatment records.
- Dissemination of computer-based test item information to other candidates, individuals, or agencies.
- Use of unauthorized, non-American Board of Dental Examiners aids or reference material(s) during the examination.
- Any conduct that compromises the standards of professional behavior or patient care.
- Misappropriation of equipment, materials and/or restricted information (theft) from candidates, American Board of Dental Examiners, exam personnel, or exam host School.
- Unprofessional attitude, rude or abusive language, uncooperative or disruptive behavior toward Patients, Candidates, Examiners, or other Exam or School personnel or administrative staff.
- Violation of examination standards, rules or guidelines.
- Failure to complete an assigned procedure within the stated guidelines of the examination or schedule.
- Critical lack of clinical judgment/diagnostic skills; performance grossly inadequate in the validated judgment of the Examiners.
- Treatment of teeth or surfaces other than those approved or assigned by examiners.
- Demonstrating blatant disregard for oral structures.
- Removal of the mounted typodont, arches or simulated patient during the examination without examiner authorization.
- Intentionally loosening or replacing typodont or teeth without examiner permission.
- Violation of universal precautions; failure to adhere to proper infection control procedures.; failure to recognize or respond to proper handling of biohazardous or pharmaceutical material(s).
- Inability or unwillingness to return all examination materials at the end of the examination.

SUBSTANTIATED MISCONDUCT

Substantiated evidence of unethical and/or unprofessional conduct prior to, during or after the examination, may result in automatic failure of the entire examination series and forfeiture of registration fees. Permission from the American Board of Dental Examiners is required before registration or re-examination; a waiting period of up to one-year or more from the time of the violation may be imposed.

An examination result may be withheld or canceled due to suspected misconduct or any irregularity that threatens the integrity of the result. The American Board of Dental Examiners reserves the right to take any reasonable action deemed appropriate for the severity of the violation, including, but not limited to, reporting to (i) state licensing boards and jurisdictions, (ii) school(s), (iii) other dental or dental hygiene testing organizations, or (iv) other professional organizations.

CANDIDATE ATTESTATION

As a component of profile creation, Candidates are required to review, acknowledge and attest that that they will read, understand and comply with established protocols and guidelines in order to register for and attempt an examination administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners.

By accessing my Candidate Account and/or submitting a [exam] Registration, I acknowledge and agree that:

a) **I will read and ensure that I understand** the Candidate Guide and the applicable Candidate Manual(s) prior to attempting any part of the examination.
b) **I will comply** with all of the policies and protocols set forth in the Candidate Guide and applicable Candidate Manual(s).
c) **I will conduct myself** professionally at all times, including in all interactions with all individuals and organizations associated with the examination (e.g. examiners, dental and dental hygiene schools, American Board of Dental Examiners staff).
d) **I understand there are penalties** for unethical or unprofessional conduct related in any way to American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) or the examination, and that the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) may, in its sole discretion, take any action set forth in the Candidate Guide and applicable Candidate Manual(s) as a result of my unethical or unprofessional conduct.
e) **I understand by registering for this examination** that I authorize the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) to release information about me and my examination results to state licensing agencies, my school [current students only], and other entities that have a need to know such information.

Questions?
Contact Us

THE ADEX EXAMINATION SERIES

The ADEX Examination Series & 18-Month Rule

The ADEX Dental and Dental Hygiene Examinations are developed by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX). The ADEX Dental Examination and ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination series consist of both computer-based and clinical exam components. All components or parts of the respective ADEX Examination series must be successfully completed (passing scores) **within 18 months of the initial attempt of any component** of the series.

- **ADEX Dental Examination series components:**
  - **Computer-based**
    - Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE)
  - **Clinical**
    - Periodontal Examination**
    - Endodontic Examination
    - Prosthodontic Examination
    - Posterior Restorative Examination
    - Anterior Restorative Examination

    **Required component effective August 1, 2026
- **ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination series components:**
  - **Computer-based**
    - Computer Simulated Clinical Examination (CSCE OSCE)
  - **Clinical**
    - Simulated Patient Treatment Clinical Examination (SPTCE)

10-Day Retake Waiting Period

Per policy, a **10-day waiting period** is required between the date of failure and the re-attempt of **any computer-based or clinical part** of the ADEX examination or any examination administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners.

Retake/Reattempt of Failed Dental Clinical Exam Component/Procedure:

- The **Fixed Prosthodontic Examination and Endodontic Examination** consist of multiple procedures, which are graded and reported as a singular exam part or component. Successful completion of all parts of the respective examination is required to achieve an overall passing score. Failure of one or more procedures of an exam part (e.g. ceramic crown prep) requires a retake of all procedures of the exam part (e.g. Prosthodontic Exam).
- The **Anterior Restorative Examination** and **Posterior Restorative Examination** are graded and reported as separate exam parts or components. Failure of a Restorative exam part requires a retake of only the failed exam part. For each examination part, the preparation and restoration procedures must be challenged together and cannot be challenged independently.

ADEX 3-Time Fail Policy

Three successive failed attempts of the same component or part of the ADEX Dental or Dental Hygiene Examination will result in failure of the entire ADEX Examination series, regardless of the status of any other component of the series.

A candidate who makes three failed attempts of the same exam part must restart the examination series, including payment for and re-attempt of all computer-based and clinical parts of the entire examination series regardless of any successful attempts completed as part of that same series.

ADEX Examination Remediation

Statistical analysis of examination results has shown that after successive unsuccessful attempts, a candidate will continue to fail that exam part unless additional training is received to improve their skills. After any failed attempt, it is assumed that candidates will participate in some form of remediation prior to reattempting the failed exam section again. **Re-attempts are prohibited for a minimum of 10 days** to help ensure a candidate's opportunity for remediation.

Most Licensing jurisdictions require remediation after a specific number of unsuccessful attempts (e.g. completion of remedial education in the areas of deficiency after an initial failed attempt or successive failed attempts). Candidates are strongly encouraged to contact the state board or jurisdiction from which licensure is sought for clarification regarding any additional requirements (e.g. remedial education prior to re-testing). **The onus is on the Candidate to ensure that all requirements for licensure in a given state are met.**

Unless required by a given state dental board, ADEX does not require documentation of completed remediation before reattempting any component of the ADEX Dental or Dental Hygiene Examination series.

ADEX Dental Exam Formats

The ADEX Dental Examination is administered in two formats: Curriculum Integrated Format (CIF) and Traditional Format. All components or parts of the ADEX Dental Examination series must be successfully completed (passing scores) within 18 months of the initial attempt of any component of the series.

- **Curriculum Integrated Format (CIF)** examinations are administered exclusively to current dental students of record over the course of their D3 or D4 or final year at the school where the exam is administered.

  For Curriculum Integrated Format (CIF) students, the 18-month countdown begins July 1 of the year prior to the class graduation date. A CIF exam component is not considered a failure until the student has unsuccessfully attempted that exam component three times. Opportunity for remediation is inherent within dental school curriculum.

- **Traditional Format** examinations—identical in content, criteria, and scoring—are available to all dental students, residents, graduates or state-authorized candidates. All components or parts of the respective ADEX Examination series must be successfully completed (passing scores) within 18 months of the initial attempt of any component of the series.

EXAM PREPARATION

OFFICIAL RESOURCES

Candidates are responsible for reading and understanding manuals and materials published by the American Board of Dental Examiners. Candidates bear all risk of any misunderstanding resulting from the use of or reliance on unofficial, non-authorized or third-party information or materials.

Refer to the respective Exams and Test Prep pages of the ADEXtesting.org website for official resources.

Candidate Guide, Exam Manuals, Criteria Sheets & Forms for Exam Use

Official resources available for candidate use in preparation for the examination.

- Refer to the Candidate Guide for American Board of Dental Examiners policies and procedures regarding eligibility requirements, candidate conduct, infection control protocols, results release, and exam administration.
- Refer to the respective Candidate Manual for exam protocols, procedures, materials, and performance expectations.
- Downloadable ***Criteria Sheets*** for Dental exams provide the criteria used to evaluate a candidate's performance.
- Downloadable ***sample examination forms*** are available for candidate reference only, not for exam use. Official printed examination forms are provided at the exam site during check-in or workstation set-up.

Typodonts & Manikins

All ***simulated patient*** examination assignments are performed on the ***magnetically retained typodonts and proprietary teeth*** provided by the American Board of Dental Examiners during the examination. Manikin, oral cavity cover or facial shroud, articulator and mounting post are also provided for candidate use during the examination.

Similar products for candidate practice in advance of the clinical exam are available at Acadental.com

Questions?
Contact Us

Site Info Sheets

Visit the Calendar section of the ADEXtesting.org website for ***Site Info Sheets*** regarding host-provided supplies and equipment, infection control protocols, PPE, equipment rental, and other valuable information for each clinical exam location. Contact site host directly with questions regarding information listed in their ***Site Info Sheet.***

Submit questions regarding exam availability, registration and fees to American Board of Dental Examiners via Contact Us.

Q&A Session

The ***Q&A Session*** affords Candidates the opportunity to ask questions about exam processes or other exam-related concerns, including host site-specific protocols, in advance of their clinical examination.

Registered Candidates are notified of their scheduled Q&A Session date and time via email 2-3 weeks prior to the exam; participation is strongly encouraged. Sessions may be ***virtual or onsite***, depending on host site preference/ availability. Q&A Sessions are not recorded by the American Board of Dental Examiners.

Video Tools

Visit the Test Prep page to access ***videos*** highlighting the examination day experience. Only videos branded and published by ADEX Testing Media are valid sources of information. However, these videos are for demonstration purposes only, not a replacement for information contained within the ***Candidate Manuals***.

INFECTION CONTROL

Candidates are required to adhere to current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) infection control guidelines and recommendations for all clinical patient-based and simulated patient (manikin) examinations. However, the **exam site host may impose additional requirements or restrictions.** Refer to the Site Info Sheet of the respective clinical exam location for a list of school-provided materials, equipment, PPE requirements, and plan accordingly.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Candidates are responsible for following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements for all clinical examinations as outlined by the American Board of Dental Examiners and the Candidate Manual for the respective exam procedure.

- Face mask
- Gloves
- Protective eyewear, loupes or prescription eyewear

Protective Clothing. Candidates are expected to wear appropriate **clinical attire (e.g. scrubs) and close-toed shoes** during the examination. Protective clothing (e.g. gown, jacket, lab coat) that covers skin and personal clothing is required during procedures or activities where contact with blood, saliva, other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), or airborne particulates is anticipated.

Minimum infection control requirements:

- Hand hygiene
- Gowns or laboratory coats, as required by exam site host
- Exam site host is responsible for providing any necessary clinic **barriers and disinfection supplies**, and site-specific protocols regarding clinical disinfection procedures (Site Info Sheet).
- **Instruments: Simulated Patient.** Instruments must be clean and disinfected, but sterilization is not required. Refer to the respective Candidate Manual as penalties may apply when a contaminated instrument is used without identifying proper procedure for patient care.
- **Instruments: Patient-based.** Standard Precautions (CDC.gov) are followed throughout all aspects of patient treatment. To mitigate the spread of infectious diseases all patients shall be treated as if they are infectious. **Proper disinfection and sterilization of instruments is required for all patient-based exams.**
- Used sharps are placed in a spill-proof, puncture resistant container.
- Candidates are responsible for cleaning their operatory and disposing of waste using infection control procedures as outlined by the exam site host.

EXAMINATION TEAM MEMBERS

- **Chief Examiner** - oversees exam administration in both Candidate and Grading Examiner clinics/areas
- **Clinic Floor Examiner (CFE)** - oversees Dental Candidate functions
- **Grading Team Captain/Grading Team Lead/Grading Examiners** - evaluate Candidate performance according to published criteria; no candidate interactions
- **Support Staff (ETA, ETC)** - provides exam administration support in both Candidate and Grading Examiner clinic/areas

EXAMINATION RESULTS & REPORTING

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Examination results are reported as pass/fail only, not numeric values. Clinical examination results reported to the candidate include any criteria errors applicable to the evaluated performance as defined in the published rubric for the respective failed procedure.

Results Release. Official examination results release time frames are approximate, excluding holiday closures.

- **Computer-Based Exams**, up to 1-2 business days
- **Clinical Exams**. Grading location determines the availability of examination results release. Simulated patient (manikin-based) exams may be evaluated on-site at a clinical location (up to 1-3 business days after exam completion) or off-site at a central grading location (3-4 weeks** after exam completion).
    - Dental Perio/Endo/Prosth Exams**
    - Dental Restorative Exams
    - Dental Therapy Pediatric Exams
    - Dental Therapy Restorative Exams**
    - EFDA-Restorative Exam**
    - Dental Hygiene Exam**
    - Local Anesthesia Exam

Candidates. Candidates are notified via email once examination results have been posted to their Candidates. ADEXtesting.org online profile.

Schools. Student of record results are accessible to authorized school personnel via their Educator Portal.

Dental Boards. Results are accessible to all authorized dental boards and licensing jurisdictions that accept American Board of Dental Examiners and ADEX examinations.

RESULTS REPORTING

ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE APPLICATION

An official **Score Results Report** is a cumulative record of all historical results for any American Board of Dental Examiners administered computer-based and/or clinical exams attempted.

Although most state dental boards have direct access to examination results through our secure portal, **additional reporting by the Candidate may be required**. The onus is on the Candidate to ensure that all requirements for licensure are met in a given state. Refer to the license application of the state board from which you are seeking licensure for their reporting requirements.

If an **official results report** is required for licensure application, visit the Scores page to submit your fee-based Candidate Score Results Report.

Questions?
Contact Us

RESULTS REVIEW & APPEALS

As a testing agency, the American Board of Dental Examiners reports to the candidate only those criteria errors applicable to the evaluated performance as defined in the published rubric for the respective clinical procedure. Post-exam images, details or explanation beyond the stated criteria are not reported to candidates.

Prior to each clinical examination, grading examiners complete both standardization and calibration exercises based on established performance criteria to avoid potential bias and to further ensure an understanding of and adherence to the published criteria.

Examination results are based on independent evaluations completed by three (3) separate calibrated examiners using the published criteria as outlined in the candidate manual and any applicable criteria sheets. Examiners do not discuss or share their evaluations with each other.

Each deficiency that leads to a failure must be independently corroborated by two or more examiners. Meaning that a minimum of three calibrated dental examiners or two calibrated dental hygiene examiners independently and anonymously validated an identified deficiency in the stated performance category *before* a point deduction or penalty was applied. After this is completed, the result is reviewed and verified prior to release to the candidate.

With this evaluation, review, and verification process in place, along with careful examiner calibration, there is no process by which a candidate's performance is re-evaluated or regraded (i.e. preparations, restorations, treatment teeth).

Opinions or allegations regarding the examiners' judgment are not a factual basis for an appeal.

Appeals. An appeal is a **formal, fee-based review** of extraordinary onsite **conditions reported and documented** during exam administration, which the candidate believes may have adversely affected the final outcome of the their examination attempt. It is **not a re-evaluation, nor a regrading** of candidate performance (i.e. preparations, restorations, treatment teeth). Opinions or allegations regarding the examiners' judgment are not a factual basis for an appeal.

Refer to the Scores page of the ADEXtesting.org website for more information regarding submission criteria, fees, deadlines, and processes.

Also, refer to the respective Clinical Candidate Manual to further ensure a complete understanding of examination procedures and retake options. Contact Us with any questions or concerns you have regarding exam publications and information.



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