

JCNDE JOINT COMMISSION
ON NATIONAL
DENTAL EXAMINATIONS



National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) 2021 Candidate Guide



IMPORTANT NOTE: COVID-19 continues to have an impact on examination programs implemented by DTS. Candidates testing in 2021 should regularly monitor the DTS COVID-19 update document, posted on the Examination Program website, for its potential impact on the Examination Program.

You are required to read this document before you apply to take the examination.

At the time of application, you will be required to confirm that you have read this document, understood its contents, and agree to the policies and procedures contained herein.

Changes in the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) might occur after publication of this Guide and will be posted on the [National Board Guides](#) page at [ADA.org/NBDHE](#). You will be subject to the policies and procedures currently in effect at the time of your test administration

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE AND EXAMINATION PROGRAM

This document is the official candidate guide for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (“NBDHE” or the “Examination”). It provides information about application and examination procedures, program policies, examination content, test security, ramifications of rule violations, and scoring. The governing body of the NBDHE is the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (“JCNDE” or “Governing Body”). The NBDHE is implemented by the Department of Testing Services (“DTS”). The JCNDE is an agency of the American Dental Association (“ADA”), while DTS is a shared service of the ADA. Examinations are administered by Pearson VUE (“Pearson VUE” or “Administration Vendor”). Collectively, the Governing Body, DTS, and the set of activities, policies, and procedures occurring in support of this examination are referred to as the “NBDHE Program” or simply the “Examination Program.”

PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL BOARD EXAMINATIONS

The purpose of the National Board Examinations (NBE) is to assist dental boards in determining the qualifications of those who seek licensure to practice dentistry or dental hygiene. These examinations assess the ability to understand important information from the biomedical, clinical, and/or dental sciences, and apply this information in a problem-solving context. Dental boards use the information provided by the NBE Program to help protect the public health.

Currently, all United States licensing jurisdictions recognize NBE results; these jurisdictions include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the US Virgin Islands.

DENTAL HYGIENE LICENSURE AND THE NBDHE

Licensure of dental hygienists in the United States is the responsibility of the individual state, district, or jurisdiction. State government agencies administer dental hygiene licensure under laws adopted by state legislatures. These agencies are typically referred to as state boards of dentistry. A list of state boards can be found at www.dentalboards.org.

Specific dental hygiene licensure requirements vary among jurisdictions, but all jurisdictions have three basic requirements: an educational requirement, a written examination requirement, and a clinical examination requirement. All jurisdictions accept graduation from a dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) as fulfilling the educational requirement. Most jurisdictions also accept graduation from a Canadian dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC).

The NBDHE is intended to fulfill or partially fulfill the written examination requirement. Acceptance of National Board Examination results is completely at the discretion of the individual state. A state can place any limit on acceptance of NBDHE results that it deems appropriate.

The JCNDE is responsible for the development and administration of the NBDHE and the National Board Dental Examinations (NBDE). A standing committee of the JCNDE includes other dental hygienists who act as consultants regarding the NBDHE. The Department of Testing Services is a shared resource of the ADA that implements the NBEs.

ETHICAL CONDUCT

Oral health care professionals play an important role in society by providing services that contribute to the health and well-being of individuals and their communities. In light of this responsibility, oral health care professionals must behave ethically at all times. This obligation begins at the time of application to school and continues through the educational process, the licensure process, and the entirety of professional practice.

As professionals devoted to the prevention of disease and the promotion and improvement of the public's health, dental hygienists hold a position of trust within society. The American Dental Hygienists' Association's Code of Ethics for Dental Hygienists establishes standards of behavior to guide the public's expectations and support dental hygiene practice, laws, and regulations. By holding themselves accountable to the standards stated in the Code, dental hygienists enhance the public's trust on which their professional privilege and status are founded.

Applicants are expected to abide by these ethical standards and to read, understand, and comply with the examination regulations and rules of conduct guiding this examination. The obligation to abide by the ethical standards of the profession includes a commitment to honesty, truthfulness, full disclosure, accuracy, fairness, and integrity in completing the examination application, in the examination process itself, and in applying for licensure.

The purpose of this Examination Program is to provide state boards with information as to whether a candidate possesses the necessary skills to safely practice at an entry-level. Accordingly, all candidates are expected to pass the examination on their own merit without assistance and are expected to maintain confidentiality with respect to examination content.

Behavior that results in misconduct or irregularity in the examination process is a very serious matter. Violation of the rules of conduct or examination regulations may result in civil liability, voiding of examination results, retest penalties, or other appropriate penalties.

Under certain circumstances, misconduct or irregularity in the examination process may be reported to the relevant licensing authority. A candidate who acts unethically risks potential delay, denial, suspension or loss of licensure.

The Examination Program Governing Body, state boards, and the profession expect strong ethical behavior from all candidates. The Governing Body annually publishes policies and procedures applicable to misconduct and irregularities in the application and examination process. This information is available in later sections of this document. The Governing Body expects all candidates to carefully read and understand this information and their obligations as candidates for this examination.

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

EXAMINATION SPECIFICATIONS

Examination items (i.e., test questions) are developed by test construction teams composed of subject-matter experts in accordance with examination specifications approved by the JCNDE. Examination constructors are appointed based on expertise in six areas: biomedical sciences, radiology, periodontics, dental hygiene curriculum, clinical dental hygiene, and community dental health.

The Universal/National tooth notation system is used on all National Board Examinations. This system is a sequential tooth numbering system, designating the permanent dentition with numbers 1-32, and the primary dentition with letters A-T.

In November 2017, the American Heart Association released new guidelines for blood pressure. The NBDHE as administered in 2020 reflects the 2017 guidelines.

Important note concerning periodontics terminology: In 2017, the American Academy of Periodontology introduced new periodontal classifications. These new classifications will be implemented in the fall of 2021 for the NBDHE. During the transition period, it is recommended that individuals become knowledgeable with both sets of classifications, because individual researchers, practitioners, and existing textbooks can communicate information using either set of classifications. Periodontal educators recommend that individuals refer to the following aids:

- [2017 World Workshop On the Classification of Periodontal and Peri-implant Diseases and Conditions](#)
- [Classification at a Glance](#)
- [2017 World Workshop on Disease Classification FAQs](#)
- [Staging and Grading Periodontics](#)

SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION

The NBDHE is a comprehensive examination consisting of multiple-choice items covering functions that a dental hygienist is expected to be able to perform. Only functions that can be delegated to a dental hygienist in a majority of states are included in the examination. The examination contains a discipline-based component and a case-based component.

The full-length NBDHE contains 350 items and requires a full day to administer. In recognition of the difficulties that COVID-19 has created for dental hygiene students, faculty and administrators, the JCNDE has worked to identify approaches that will expand the opportunities for candidates to take the NBDHE, while also maintaining the psychometric rigor of the NBDHE Program. As part of this effort, the JCNDE has implemented a 155-item version of the NBDHE – referred to as the short-form-NBDHE – to facilitate candidates' ability to challenge the examination during a difficult time. Content appearing in the short-form-NBDHE is proportionally representative of the standard full-length NBDHE test specifications, and the shortened version of the examination continues to display strong psychometric properties.

For more information about the shortened NBHDE, please visit <https://www.ada.org/en/jcnde/examinations/national-board-dental-hygiene-examination>.

The test specifications for the NBDHE are as follows:

Discipline-Based Component (Full-length: 200 items; Short-form: 85 items)

The discipline-based component includes items addressing three major areas:

- Scientific Basis for Dental Hygiene Practice
- Provision of Clinical Dental Hygiene Services
- Community Health/Research Principles

The distribution of items in this component is presented below.

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

Scientific Basis for Dental Hygiene Practice (Full-length: 61 items; Short-form: 25 items)

- Anatomic Sciences
 - Anatomy
 - Head and neck anatomy
 - Dental anatomy
 - General anatomy
 - Root anatomy
 - Histology and Embryology
- Physiology
- Biochemistry and Nutrition
- Microbiology and Immunology
- Pathology
 - General
 - Oral
- Pharmacology

Provision of Clinical Dental Hygiene Services (Full-length: 115 items; Short-form: 50 items)

- Assessing Patient Characteristics
 - Medical and dental history
 - Head and neck examination
 - Periodontal evaluation
 - Oral evaluation
 - General
- Obtaining and Interpreting Radiographs
 - Principles of radiophysics and radiobiology
 - Principles of radiologic health
 - Technique
 - Recognition of normalities and abnormalities
 - General
- Planning and Managing Dental Hygiene Care
 - Infection control (application)
 - Recognition of emergency situations and provision of appropriate care
 - Individualized patient education
 - Planning of individualized instruction
 - Provision of instruction for prevention and management of oral diseases
 1. Dental caries
 2. Periodontal disease
 3. Oral conditions
 - Anxiety and pain control
 - Recognition and management of compromised patients
 - Dental hygiene treatment strategies
 1. Diagnosis
 2. Treatment plan
 3. Case presentation
 - General
 - Performing Periodontal Procedures
 - Etiology and pathogenesis of periodontal diseases
 - Prescribed therapy
 - Periodontal debridement
 - Surgical support services
 - Chemotherapeutic agents
 - General
 - Reassessment and maintenance (e.g., implant care)

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

- Using Preventive Agents
 - Fluorides - systemic and topical
 - Mechanisms of action
 - Toxicology
 - Methods of administration
 - Water fluoridation
 - Self-administered
 - Pit and fissure sealants
 - Mechanisms of action
 - Techniques for application
 - Other preventive agents
- Providing Supportive Treatment Services
 - Properties and manipulation of materials
 - Polishing natural and restored teeth
 - Making of impressions and preparation of study casts
 - Other supportive services (e.g., tooth desensitization)
 - General
- Professional Responsibility
 - Ethical principles, including informed consent
 - Regulatory compliance
 - Patient and professional communication
 - General

Community Health/Research Principles (Full-length:24 Items; Short-form: 10 items)

- Promoting Health and Preventing Disease Within Groups
- Participating in Community Programs
 - Assessing populations and defining objectives
 - Designing, implementing, and evaluating programs
- Analyzing Scientific Literature, Understanding Statistical

Case Based Items (Full-length: 150 items; Short-form: 70 items)

The case-based component includes 150 items involving 12 to 15 dental hygiene patient cases. These cases present information dealing with adult and child patients by means of patient histories, dental charts, radiographs, and clinical photographs. Each examination includes at least one case regarding patients of the following types: geriatric, adult-periodontal, pediatric, special needs, and medically compromised. A medically compromised patient is one whose health status may require modification of standard treatment or special consideration.

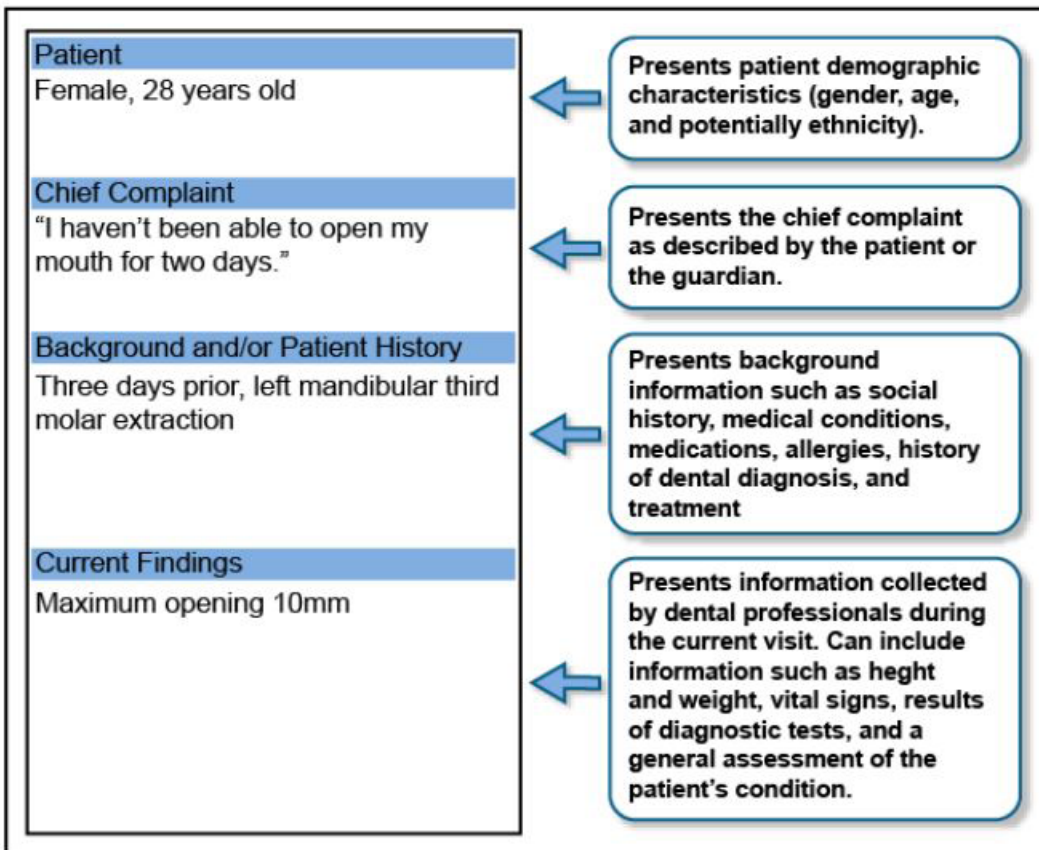
Case-based items address knowledge and skills required in the following areas:

- Assessing patient characteristics
- Obtaining and interpreting radiographs
- Planning and managing dental hygiene care
- Performing periodontal procedures
- Using preventive agents
- Providing supportive treatment service
- Professional responsibility

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

PATIENT BOX

Some questions in this examination involve a Patient Box. The Patient Box presents information available to the dentist and dental hygienist at the time of the visit. If no information is presented in a given area of the Patient Box, assume the information is either unknown or is not available. For example, if no allergies are listed, assume the patient has no known allergies at the time of visit. Always consider information presented in the Patient Box when answering questions and pay close attention to all provided patient information.



EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

DENTAL CHARTS

Some cases in this test involve dental charts. Below are samples of the types of dental charts used within the test.

ADULT CLINICAL EXAMINATION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Probe 2

Probe 1

facial

R

palatal

Probe 1

Probe 2

lingual

R

facial

Probe 1

Probe 2

32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
R										
R										
R										
R										
	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K

Current Oral Hygiene Status

Supplemental Oral Examination Findings

-
-

LEGEND

Existing Restorations Not Charted

Fractured

Mobility* I, II, III *Mobility (M) may be represented on the periodontal chart as numbers (1, 2, or 3)

Partially or Fully Impacted
Arrows indicate direction of impaction (mesial or distal)

Planned Extraction

Clinically visible carious lesion

Class I Furcation Grade**

Class II Furcation Grade**

Class III Furcation Grade**

**Furcation grade (FG) may be represented on the periodontal chart as numbers (1, 2, or 3) rather than shapes

ADULT CLINICAL EXAMINATION CHART

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

R

L

32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17

LEGEND

Existing Restorations Not Charted

Fractured

Mobility* I, II, III *Mobility (M) may be represented on the periodontal chart as numbers (1, 2, or 3)

Partially or Fully Impacted
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Class I Furcation Grade**

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**Furcation grade (FG) may be represented on the periodontal chart as numbers (1, 2, or 3) rather than shapes

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

TESTLET

A testlet consists of a case study or problem with a set of associated test questions. The testlet format is used for items appearing in the Community Health/Research Principles and Case-Based sections of the NBDHE. A sample NBDHE testlet appears below.

*Please note that the current NBDHE offers three to five answer options for each question.

SAMPLE TESTLET ON COMMUNITY HEALTH/RESEARCH PRINCIPLES

A dental hygienist employed at a public health clinic in a rural county of the United States is assigned the project of developing a preventive dental health program for a sub-group of the population.

COMMUNITY PROFILE: The primary employers in this county have been coal mining companies. The unemployment rate in the county has increased by 32 percent since the closing of the coal mine companies.

- The median age of the population is 46. In the county there are five general dentists, three dental hygienists, and one public health-centered dental clinic. The clinic employs a full-time dentist and dental hygienist. The public health clinic sees low-income children and senior citizens on a sliding-fee schedule
- The dental hygienist employed by the public health clinic conducts dental screenings for the kindergarten students each year. The mean deft scores for the kindergarten students for the last three years are: $d = 1.02$, $e = 0.87$, $f = 4.22$.
- The community does not have water fluoridation because of multiple water sources. The state funds a 0.2%-sodium fluoride rinse program in grades K-5. The state mandates that a dentist or a dental hygienist perform deft/dmft/DMFT and GI indices on all students in grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 10. On a yearly basis, all pathology is brought to parents' attention and referred to a dental professional.

1. Which population group is dentally underserved in this community?
 - A. Adult age
 - B. Geriatric age
 - C. Early childhood age
 - D. Elementary school age
2. What would be the next step for the dental hygienist to take in program planning after selecting the target population?
 - A. Appraise the program
 - B. Define goals for the program
 - C. Compile data on the target group population
 - D. Develop educational components
3. Each of the following is perceived as a barrier to dental care for this community EXCEPT one. Which is the EXCEPTION?
 - A. Lack of water fluoridation
 - B. Maldistribution of providers
 - C. Lack of affordable services
 - D. Loss of income and insurance
4. What can be stated about the deft scores of the kindergarten students?
 - A. Early exfoliation
 - B. High decay rate
 - C. Late eruption pattern
 - D. Treatment needs are being met
5. How often should the fluoride rinse for grades K-5 be performed?
 - A. Daily
 - B. Weekly
 - C. Monthly
 - D. Three times a week
 - E. Based on the caries rate of the child

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

SAMPLE ITEM FORMATS

A multiple-choice examination item consists of a stem, which poses a problem, followed by a list of possible answers. The stem of an examination item is usually either a question or an incomplete statement. For NBDHE purposes, an item must have at least three and not more than five possible responses. Only one of the responses is considered the correct or best option.

Completion items require the correct completion of a concept or idea.

The sensation of touch, pain, pressure, or temperature is determined by the

- A. degree of myelination of a nerve fiber.
- B. frequency of the stimulation to a nerve fiber.
- C. method of stimulation of a nerve fiber.
- D. strength of the stimulation to a nerve fiber.

Question items communicate a problem or set of circumstances.

Which muscle(s) does the phrenic nerve innervate?

- A. Abdominal
- B. Diaphragm
- C. Internal intercostal
- D. Sternocleidomastoid

Negative items are characterized by a word such as EXCEPT or NOT in the stem. These key words are capitalized.

Each of the following is affected by saliva EXCEPT one. Which is the EXCEPTION?

- A. Carbohydrate breakdown
- B. Dental caries
- C. Oral microflora
- D. Protein digestion

EXAMINATION PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

The JCNDE recommends that candidates use textbooks and lecture notes as primary sources for study. A number of resources are used by subject matter experts to create examination questions and may be useful study tools, including:

- [Reference Texts for the NBDHE](#)
- [Technical Report for the NBDHE](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXAMINATION MATERIALS

Examination items represent confidential, copyrighted intellectual property. Obtaining, using, or distributing examination items is strictly prohibited, regardless of the method employed (memorization, recording, copying, or other means). This prohibition includes the discussion, distribution, or online posting of remembered examination questions or answers, in whole or in part.

The use or sharing of examination items violates the examination regulations and rules of conduct of this testing program. Such activities could provide an unfair advantage to individuals, or groups of individuals, and threaten the validity and credibility of the examination. Since all examinations copyrighted property, these prohibited activities also violate federal copyright laws.

The Department of Testing Services investigates all reports and allegations of candidates' alleged generation, misuse, or sharing of current examination materials, and will pursue formal action against anyone who violates the Examination Regulations or federal copyright law. Violations could result in the voiding of exam results, legal action, or other appropriate penalties.

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

PRACTICE TEST

The NBDHE practice test modules are intended to help candidates understand the types of questions and question formats that will be asked on the NBDHE. However, the modules/sections have fewer items than the actual exam.

These practice modules should only be used as a personal resource when studying and preparing for the NBDHE. The practice modules are not intended to provide an indication of how students will perform on the official NBDHE. The number of correct answers will be reported upon completion of each practice test module and have not been correlated with scores on the NBDHE. Therefore, practice test results should not be used to make comparisons with actual NBDHE results. In both the practice test and the official administration, there is no penalty for guessing. The results include the total number of items as well as the number of correct responses (raw scores) for each of the major areas covered on the Practice NBDHE. Results are for personal use only.

The NBDHE practice modules are protected by U.S. copyright laws. The practice items are intended for use by students for individual study. They may not be reproduced in any format, whether paper or electronic, without the expressed written permission of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE). Any unauthorized disclosure of practice module content could result in civil liability, criminal penalties, or other appropriate penalties.

Candidates may choose to complete individual modules and/or comprehensive practice tests. There are two forms available for each module and for the full practice test.

Candidates may choose to complete individual modules and/or comprehensive practice tests. The modules are available for purchase at [ADA.org/JCNDE](https://www.ada.org/JCNDE).

The JCNDE does not endorse or recommend any specific texts or other teaching aids (e.g., review courses) that are identified as NBDHE preparation materials.

At the [Pearson VUE](#) test center, candidates will be given an opportunity to take a brief optional tutorial before beginning the actual examination. The tutorial provides the opportunity to become familiar with the steps involved in proceeding through the examination.

SCORING OF EXAMINATION

Scale scores range from 49 to 99, with a score of 75 representing the minimum passing score. Because the NBEs are criterion-referenced examinations, the minimum passing score is determined by experts through standard-setting activities. Examination passing standards are reviewed and updated by subject matter experts and the JCNDE on a periodic basis so the passing standard in place continues to reflect the level of skills required to safely practice. When standards are updated, a corresponding modification is made to the score scale, so that a score of 75 continues to reflect the minimum passing score.

Candidate scores are computed based on the responses provided by the candidate, considered against the examination form scoring key. Candidate scores are converted to scale scores, which adjust for any minor differences in difficulty across examination forms.

Each examination includes questions that enable the testing program to place different forms of the exam on a common measurement scale, thereby adjusting the forms for minor differences in difficulty. This adjustment enables candidate results to have the same interpretation and meaning, regardless of the particular examination form administered.

Some questions on the examination are experimental and are not scored. Data collected on unscored questions is used to determine whether the question could be appropriate for use as a scored question in a future operational test form. Unscored questions will look the same to candidates as scored questions.

RESULTS REPORTING

NBE results are reported as pass/fail; results are reported only as “pass” for candidates who achieve passing scores. For remediation purposes, candidates who fail the examination receive information about their performance in each of the major disciplines or subject areas covered on the examination. With respect to candidates who tested prior to 2012, numerical scores for prior attempts are still reported.

The status of “pass” is reported for candidates who achieve a scale score of 75 or higher. The status of “fail” is reported for candidates who achieve a scale score below 75.

RESULTS REPORTS

National Board Examination results are typically available approximately three to four weeks after the examination date. Results can be viewed online by logging into the My Account Summary page on [ADA.org/JCNDE](https://www.ada.org/JCNDE).

By signing the application, candidates from accredited programs (either currently enrolled or who have graduated within the last five years) give express permission for their results to be shared with the dean and their designee(s). Results are provided to others if permission is granted in the form of a results report request from the candidate. If misconduct has occurred concerning a past administration, at the discretion of the JCNDE results reports may contain information concerning the incident (see Examination Regulations and Rules of Conduct).

After receiving the results report, candidates may request that additional reports be sent to other entities. Candidates must confirm the accuracy of results report requests.

Fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

A results report request can be made at [ADA.org/NBDE](https://www.ada.org/NBDE). DTS will provide a history of results to state boards of dentistry and any additional recipients indicated.

RESULTS AUDITS

As a routine part of the overall results verification process, candidate examination responses and results are audited for accuracy before results are distributed. Candidates can request to have examination results audited or rechecked for accuracy. To request a results audit, login to your account and follow the audit request instructions. There is an additional charge to audit your results (see the Examination Fees section of this Guide). Audits require approximately four to six weeks to complete, and must be requested within 30 days of the reporting date indicated on the official report of results.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The JCNDE does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status.

To participate in the NBDHE, a candidate must qualify through one of the following provisions:

Dental Hygiene Student

A student in a dental hygiene program accredited by CODA is eligible for examination when the dental hygiene program director (or a designee) certifies that the student is prepared in all NBDHE disciplines. If the dental hygiene program is accredited by CODA, the approval of the director (or the designee) meets this requirement.

Visit CODA's website at [ADA.org/CODA](https://ada.org/coda) and select "Find a Program" for a list of accredited allied dental programs.

Graduate of an Accredited Program

A dental hygienist who is a graduate of a dental hygiene program accredited by CODA during the time the dental hygienist was enrolled is eligible for examination following the JCNDE's receipt of evidence of graduation.

To fulfill this NBDHE eligibility requirement, one of the following is required: a copy of a dental hygiene program diploma or a copy of a final transcript with the conferred degree. If a candidate submits an application without proof of graduation, the application will not be processed. Recent graduates who are retaking the examination must also provide proof of graduation.

Graduate of a Nonaccredited Program

A dental hygienist who is a graduate of a U.S. or Canadian dental hygiene education program that was not accredited during the time the dental hygienist was enrolled is eligible for examination only if the program was equivalent to an accredited program (see summary of accreditation standards). Accreditation standards in effect at the time the candidate applies for examination are used in evaluating the program.

To fulfill this NBDHE eligibility requirement, the following is required:

1. a letter of recommendation from the dean of an accredited dental school or the director of an accredited dental hygiene program, certifying that the nonaccredited program met each of the requirements in terms of length of study, subjects, functions, and hours.
2. a letter of recommendation from the secretary of a board of dentistry of a U.S. licensing jurisdiction, certifying that the nonaccredited program met each of the requirements in terms of length of study, subjects, functions, and hours.

The following provisions are required for the verification of educational credentials obtained from nonaccredited dental hygiene schools — schools not accredited by the CODA or the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC).

- Candidates must have official dental hygiene school transcripts verified by Educational Credential Evaluators Inc. (ECE).
- If a candidate does not have a DENTPIN®, they must register for one through the DENTPIN® homepage at [ADA.org/DENTPIN](https://ada.org/dentpin) prior to submitting an ECE report. The Department of Testing Services will discard ECE reports that cannot be matched to a DENTPIN® using candidate supplied name and date of birth.

ECE prepares evaluation reports that identify U.S. equivalents of educational qualifications earned in other countries.

Educational Credential Evaluators Inc.
P.O. Box 514070, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3470
414.289.3400 or www.ece.org

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

(continued)

1. Contact Educational Credential Evaluators Inc. (ECE) and request a General Report. The ECE evaluation report request will describe what documents are required, the manner in which to submit them to ECE, and the applicable fee. To request an evaluation report, visit ECE.org and request that a General Evaluation report be sent to the JCNDE.
2. Only official reports electronically transmitted from ECE to the Department of Testing Services will be accepted. Personal copies are not acceptable.
3. The Department of Testing Services will not process an examination application before the ECE Evaluation Report is received.
4. The name on the ECE report must match the name on the application exactly. Any name changes must be accompanied by legal documentation.

The full accreditation standards for dental hygiene education programs is available to download from the Current Accreditation Standards page on ADA.org/CODA. Graduates must be competent in problem solving strategies related to comprehensive patient care and management of patients.

A dental student from an accredited dental school is eligible for examination if the dean of the dental school certifies that the student has completed the equivalent of a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program. The means of fulfilling this requirement is a letter from the dean of the accredited dental school.

Dental Student

A dental student is eligible for examination if the eligibility requirements for the NBDE are met. This does not apply to a graduate of a nonaccredited dental program currently enrolled in an accredited program.

Dentist (Graduate of an Accredited or Nonaccredited Dental Program)

A dentist is eligible for examination if the eligibility requirements for the NBDE are met. This does not apply to a graduate of a nonaccredited dental program currently enrolled in an accredited program.

ELIGIBILITY FOR RE-EXAMINATION

Candidates who have passed the NBDE Part II may not retake the examination unless required by a state board or relevant regulatory agency.

Candidates who have not passed may apply for re-examination. An examination attempt is defined as any examination administration where the candidate has been seated at a computer at a test center and electronically agreed to the confidentiality statement to start the examination.

Candidates must wait a minimum of 90 days between test attempts.

Under the JCNDE's Five Years/Five Attempts Eligibility Rule, candidates must pass the examination within a) five years of their first attempt or b) five examination attempts, whichever comes first. Subsequent to the fifth year or fifth attempt, candidates may test once every 12 months after their most recent examination attempt.

The Five Years/Five Attempts Eligibility Rule applies to examination attempts occurring on or after January 1, 2012. Examination attempts occurring prior to this date are not considered under this regulation.

EXAMINATION FEES

Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. All fees are in U.S. dollars.

FEE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	FEE AMOUNT
NBDHE Fee	This fee includes official results reporting to the candidates and the dean of an accredited dental school. Reports are delivered electronically to dental schools through the DTS Hub.	\$490
NBDHE Processing Fee for Candidates From Non-Accredited Programs	This handling or processing fee is for candidates who are students or graduates of a dental or dental hygiene school that is not accredited by CODA.	\$235
Results Report Fee (optional)	This fee covers a single results report for a recipient NOT selected at the time of application.	\$45 per report
Results Audit Fee (optional)	DTS is willing to audit a candidate's results if the request is received within 30 days of the reporting date on the official results report.	\$65
NBDHE Certificate	Candidates can order a full-size (8.5" x 11") certificate with optional frames.	To purchase a National Board Certificate candidates must login with their DENTPIN
Eligibility Extension Fee	Candidates can extend their eligibility period for a fee. The extension is for 45 days within the designated testing window and is available once per application.	\$125

EXTENSION REQUEST GUIDE NOTICE

Candidates may request a 45-day extension (weekends and holidays included) to their eligibility window by logging into their My Account page.

Candidates may request only one extension per application and cannot have an examination appointment currently scheduled. Any candidate with a scheduled appointment must cancel that appointment before proceeding with an extension request; failure to do so will result in the extension request being denied. The eligibility extension request does not supersede any other rules regarding a candidate's eligibility.

The fee for the 45-day extension is \$125. The fee must be paid at the time the extension request is submitted, and is non-refundable and non-transferable.

RESCHEDULING FEES

Candidates may reschedule testing appointments for a fee, provided notice of at least one full business day (24 hours) is given before the original appointment, and the rescheduled date falls within the authorized eligibility period.

RESCHEDULE FEE	FEE AMOUNT
Candidates may reschedule testing appointments for a fee, provided at least one full businessday (24 hours) of notice is given before the appointment, and the rescheduled date falls within the authorized eligibility period.	\$25

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

The JCNDE recognizes the challenges faced by dental hygiene students, faculty and administrators due to circumstances involving COVID-19. As indicated previously, the JCNDE has implemented a psychometrically rigorous short-form-NBDHE to facilitate candidates' ability to challenge the NBDHE during a difficult time.

For more information about the shortened NBHDE, please visit <https://www.ada.org/en/jcnde/examinations/national-board-dental-hygiene-examination>

The following table provides the administration schedule for the standard full-length NBDHE. The total administration time is nine hours, including the tutorial, scheduled break, and post-examination survey.

NATIONAL BOARD DENTAL HYGIENE EXAMINATION	
Optional Tutorial	15 minutes
Session one: Discipline-based items (100 items)	3 hours 30 minutes plus optional 15-minute scheduled break
Optional 15-minute scheduled break after the 100 th question	
Session one: Discipline-based items (100 items)	30 minutes
Optional scheduled break	
Session two: 7-8 Patient cases (approximately 75 items)	4 hours plus optional 15-minute scheduled break
Optional 15-minute scheduled break	
Session two: 7-8 Patient cases (approximately 75 items)	15 minutes
Optional Post-examination Survey	
Total Time	9 hours

The following table provides the administration schedule for the short-form-NBDHE. The total administration time is less than four hours, including the tutorial and scheduled break.

NBDHE SHORT FORM SCHEDULE	
Tutorial	15 minutes (optional)
Session one: Discipline-based, stand alone items (85 items)	1 hour 30 minutes
15-minute scheduled break	15 minutes (optional)
Session two: Patient cases (70 items)	1 hour 50 minutes
TOTAL TIME:	3 hours and 50 minutes

Taking a break at any other time will be considered an unscheduled break. During an unscheduled break, candidates may NOT access personal belongings or prohibited items, study, refer to notes or texts, use a telephone, eat or drink any food or beverages, or leave the test center. Locker access during an unscheduled break is strictly prohibited.

IMPORTANT NOTE: COVID-19 continues to have an impact on examination programs implemented by DTS. Candidates testing in 2021 should regularly monitor the DTS COVID-19 update document, posted on the Examination Program website, for its potential impact on the Examination Program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Before proceeding with an application for this examination, candidates must register for a DENTPIN® or retrieve their existing DENTPIN® at [ADA.org/DENTPIN](https://ada.org/DENTPIN).

Submit an application on [ADA.org/NBDHE](https://ada.org/NBDHE). A new application and fee must be submitted every time a candidate applies to take an examination. Applications will be processed if a candidate meets all eligibility requirements for testing: this processing takes place Monday through Friday during normal business hours. After the application has been processed, candidates will be eligible to test for a six-month period, unless other considerations (including retest rules and requirements) limit the eligibility period to a shorter timeframe.

Candidates who do not schedule a testing appointment and take the examination during the eligibility period will have to submit a new application and fee to take the examination. All information provided when registering for the DENTPIN® or submitting the application must be accurate. If the name provided on the examination application and the candidate's IDs do not match exactly, permission to test will be denied. As a result, the testing appointment and application fee will be forfeited and a new application will be required.

Candidates are responsible for identifying any changes and corrections to the application (such as name, birth date, etc.) and must complete these updates at least five business days prior to the testing appointment. All changes and corrections should be emailed to dentpin@ada.org. Name changes and birth date corrections require completing a separate DENTPIN® Form, which is available under "Change Your DENTPIN Information" on [ADA.org/DENTPIN](https://ada.org/DENTPIN). This form must be emailed to dentpin@ada.org along with the candidate's DENTPIN® and any appropriate documentation, such as a marriage certificate or court documents.

If it is determined that a candidate deliberately falsified personal information (name, DENTPIN®, etc.) in the DENTPIN® system, examination application, or at the test center, the candidate's results will be voided and all necessary parties – including state boards and school programs – will be notified. Possible repercussions from this action include a required two year waiting period before taking the examination again, or a complete banning from the examination program.

ADMINISTRATION VENDOR TEST CENTER PROCEDURES

The Administration Vendor will electronically capture the identity of each candidate biometrically (e.g., through fingerprint, palm vein print, photograph) before candidates can proceed with testing. Candidates must consent to these procedures before they are permitted to test. Electronic capture of biometric data allows for an easier and quicker return to testing after breaks. Biometric and other identification information will be retained by the Administration Vendor and will be utilized for identity verification at potential future test administrations related to dental education and licensure.

Administration Vendor staff will visually inspect eyeglasses and hair accessories as part of check-in procedures. Staff may also use a detection wand to scan for electronic devices. Jewelry, except for wedding and engagement rings, is prohibited. Updates to security protocol at check-in may change with little to no advance warning. Candidates can view the current check-in procedures at the Administration Vendor's website.

Administration Vendor staff will observe candidates at all times during the testing appointment; this observation will include staff walking through the secure testing room, as well as video recording of the candidate's examination session. Administration Vendor staff are required to report behavior that might represent a violation of the rules and regulations.

Administration Vendor staff are not authorized to answer questions from candidates regarding examination content, examination software, or scoring.

RESCHEDULE OR CANCEL A TESTING APPOINTMENT

To reschedule or cancel a testing appointment, candidates must contact the Administration Vendor in advance of the testing appointment. Additional fees apply, and must be paid directly to the Administration Vendor (see the Examination Fees section of this Guide). To reschedule an appointment, contact the Administration Vendor. The local test center cannot schedule, reschedule, or cancel your appointment. Appointments must be canceled or rescheduled by the business day prior to the test (at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled appointment). Candidates will receive a confirmation notification when rescheduling their testing appointment; make sure to retain a copy of this confirmation.

No Show Policy

Candidates who do not appear for a scheduled testing appointment and do not cancel or reschedule their appointment by the required time in advance of the test date will forfeit all testing fees, be required to submit a new application, and must pay the fee to schedule a new appointment.

EMERGENCIES ON THE DAY OF A TESTING APPOINTMENT

If an emergency occurs on the day of a testing appointment that prevents a candidate from sitting for their examination, a written request for relief must be submitted to DTS. This request should include applicable documentation and be sent to testingproblems@ada.org within five business days of the appointment.

Examples of emergencies and applicable documentation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sudden illness on the examination day. Provide a doctor's note or hospital records confirming that you were treated on the day of the examination.
- Death of a member of the family on the examination day. Provide a copy of an obituary, prayer card, funeral service program, or death certificate confirming that the relative passed away or services were held on the day of the examination.

Testing appointments affected by emergencies occurring prior to the day of the actual testing appointment should be handled through the Administration Vendor's rescheduling and cancellation process indicated previously.

TESTING PROBLEMS ON THE DAY OF THE TESTING APPOINTMENT

If a candidate encounters a problem during their examination, the administration should not be resumed until the issue has been documented and resolved by the test center administrator. Concerns not resolved at the time of testing must be submitted in writing within five business days of the testing appointment to testingproblems@ada.org.

Candidates must contact testingproblems@ada.org directly, and state the specific relief being requested. Upon receipt of directly communicated information, DTS will conduct an investigation and notify the candidate of the outcome. Candidates with documented, unresolved testing issues could be offered the opportunity to retest within 30 days. Results of the retest will replace the results of the initial test.

Test center incident reports submitted on behalf of the candidate, and comments submitted by the candidate via post examination surveys are considered indirect communication to the DTS. These indirect communications may be considered by DTS as part of its general quality assurance procedures, but would not result in specific relief for the candidate.

Scores cannot be canceled or adjusted under any circumstances.

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

The Examination Program provides reasonable and appropriate testing accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. These accommodations occur for individuals with documented disabilities or medical conditions who demonstrate a need for accommodation, request an accommodation prior to testing, and who are approved by the Examination Program to receive accommodations based on the information submitted.

Testing accommodations are offered to those with a qualified disability or a medical condition in order to offer equal access to testing. Candidates must request testing accommodations with each application, but—for subsequent administrations—will not be required to submit additional documentation covering the same disability or condition.

Information concerning specific accommodations provided will not be shared outside of DTS, the test center, and the Examination Program, and will not be indicated on examination results.

In considering a request from a candidate with a disability, the Examination Program is guided by a focus on validity. Testing accommodations are provided so all candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, as opposed to having the measurement of their knowledge and skills inappropriately reflect a disability.

The following information will be used to help determine whether candidates qualify for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or as a result of a current medical condition.

The Examination Program requires a complete evaluation of the candidate as well as a completed and signed Testing Accommodations Request Form. A health care professional appropriately qualified to evaluate the disability or medical condition must conduct the evaluation. For more information on accommodations and an explanation of how to request testing accommodations consult the Testing Accommodations Request of the Examination Program website (see the section entitled “Apply to Take ...” the Examination).

Candidates with a documented disability recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act that testing accommodations must submit the following three documents prior to testing:

1. an application to test,
2. the Testing Accommodations Request Form, and
3. the supporting documentation.

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS (continued)

Procedures for submitting a request for testing accommodations are as follows:

- In the electronic application to take the Examination, select “Yes” when asked whether testing accommodations are requested.
- Submit the following documents to testingaccommodations@ada.org:
 - Testing Accommodation Request Form found on the Examination Program website, signed and dated, indicating the disability, and the request for accommodations. Accommodations should align with the identified functional limitation so that the adjustment to the testing procedure is appropriate.
 - Current evaluation report (from within the past five years) from the appropriate health care professional. The document must be on official letterhead and should include the professional’s credentials, signature, address, and telephone number. The report must indicate the candidate’s name, date of birth, and date of evaluation. The report should include:
 - information concerning the specific diagnostic procedures or tests administered. Diagnostic methods used should be appropriate to the disability and in alignment with current professional protocol.
 - the results of the diagnostic procedures and tests, and a comprehensive interpretation of the results.
 - the specific diagnosis of the disability, with an accompanying description of the candidate’s limitations due to the disability.
 - a summary of the complete evaluation with recommendations for the specific accommodations and how they will reduce the impact of the identified functional limitation.
 - Documentation of any previous accommodations provided by educational institutions or other testing agencies. If no prior accommodations were provided, the licensed professional should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodations were given in the past and why accommodations are needed now.

Candidates can schedule a testing appointment ONLY after testing accommodation requests have been approved. Testing accommodations cannot be added to a previously scheduled testing appointment. If candidates schedule testing appointments before testing accommodations are approved, candidates will be required to cancel the appointment and pay a rescheduling fee. Candidates requesting accommodations must receive their eligibility email (with approved accommodations) before scheduling a testing appointment.

UNACCEPTABLE FORMS OF DOCUMENTATION

Please do not submit the documents indicated below. They will not be accepted.

- Handwritten letters from health care professionals
- Handwritten patient records or notes from patient charts
- Diagnoses on prescription pads
- Self-evaluations
- Research articles
- Original documents (submit copies only)
- Previous correspondence to the Examination Program (DTS maintains copies of all correspondence)

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS AND RULES OF CONDUCT

RULES OF CONDUCT

Rules have been established that govern the administration of this examination to ensure results accurately reflect candidates' skills. Examination regulations and rules of conduct help preserve the integrity of the examination process and provide standardized examination administration conditions that yield valid and reliable results.

The Examination Program bears no responsibility for inaccurate information or inappropriate permissions received from test center administrators. It is your personal responsibility to understand and comply with the Examination Regulations indicated in this guide. If a candidate's conduct is determined to violate the terms set forth in this Guide, the Examination Program will act to strictly enforce its policies and procedures.

Accessing official examination content prior to testing, breaching the confidentiality of examination content, or any attempt to subvert the examination process represent violations of test regulations. Conduct occurring before, during, or after testing that violates the examination regulations and rules of conduct could result in invalidation of examination results and other penalties.

Candidates must be truthful in completing the application and must abide by all instructions regarding examination conduct. **Failure to comply with the examination regulations and rules of conduct could result in a determination of the presence of an irregularity, and examination results could consequently be voided. If results are voided as a result of an irregularity, candidates could be prohibited from testing for a specified time period or, in egregious cases, from retesting at all. Additionally, candidates could face civil or criminal prosecution.**

By applying for the examination, candidates agree to abide by the following Rules of Conduct:

1. The candidate certifies that they are registering for this examination for the purpose indicated in the Examination Purpose section of this Candidate Guide. The examination may not be taken on behalf of anyone else or for any reason other than for the purpose indicated. Candidates may not take the examination to practice or to obtain an advance review of the content
2. Candidates are not allowed to complete an examination for any reason other than that indicated by the Examination Purpose. If available information suggests a previously eligible candidate might be completing an examination for other purposes, the Examination Program may revoke the candidate's eligibility, and the candidate could be required to re-establish eligibility to take the examination.
3. Candidates will not give, receive, or obtain any form of unauthorized assistance prior to the examination, during the examination (e.g., in the testing room or when on a break), or subsequent to the examination.
4. Candidates will maintain the confidentiality of examination content at all times. Candidates will not reproduce or attempt to reproduce examination materials through memorization, recording, copying, or other means. Candidates will not provide information concerning examination content that might affect the examination's ability to accurately assess candidates' skills, or that might provide unfair advantage to other candidates. For example, Candidates will neither make use of nor participate in the sharing or distribution of information regarding examination content or answers (via electronic means or otherwise).
5. Candidates will not bring any unauthorized materials, as listed in the Examination Regulations and Prohibited Conduct section of this Guide, into the secure testing area. All unauthorized materials must be placed in an assigned locker and may not be accessed during testing.
6. Candidates will not remove information about the exam (written, printed, recorded, or other) from the test center.
7. Candidates will comply with Administration Vendor test center policies and procedures and will not create a disturbance in the test center.
8. Candidates will not tamper with the computer testing equipment and facilities.
9. Candidates will cooperate fully with any investigations involving testing irregularities and agree to have their examination analyzed to detect aberrancies.
10. This Examination is a secure examination protected by U.S. copyright laws. Any unauthorized disclosure of the examination's content could result in civil liability, criminal penalties, voiding of examination results, or other appropriate penalties.

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS AND RULES OF CONDUCT

RULES OF CONDUCT (continued)

Test content (in whole or in part) is prohibited from being disclosed before, during, or after the test to anyone, including but not limited to: family, friends, classmates, colleagues, or test preparation organizations. This applies to any content disclosed through discussions, emails, in writing, online (e.g., blogs, social media, websites), or otherwise.

Candidates who receive unreleased test items should immediately contact DTS at testsecurity@ada.org, and should NOT review the materials they have received. Candidates who have been found to be in possession of such information—or to have participated in the distribution of this information—may have examination results voided. Penalties might be imposed subsequent to discovery and investigation of the original incident, which could occur years after the incident itself.

Candidates are encouraged to report any activities where information about examination questions is disclosed, so that DTS can investigate and take any necessary action. Report such activity to DTS at testsecurity@ada.org.

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The Examination Program will maintain the privacy and security of candidates' personal information using industry standard methods. DTS will collect and retain personal information to serve candidate needs, administer the examination, fulfill Examination Program responsibilities (e.g., to maintain the integrity of the test and detect and prevent unlawful activity), and fulfill legal requirements. Examination results shall be retained indefinitely, along with testing records and candidates' personal information.

Before the examination is administered, candidates will be required to provide a written release concerning the collection of their biometric information. Biometrics are collected by the Administration Vendor for purposes of verifying identity and detecting and preventing unlawful activity; the data is stored securely by the Administration Vendor.

As applicable and in accordance with the purpose of the Examination Program, examination results will be released or reported to state boards, education programs, or other entities upon written candidate authorization or designation by electronic means through the electronic application or score report request form. Examination results may be released or reported in the absence of such authorization when policies indicate that such notification is appropriate (e.g., notification of state boards concerning an irregularity). Examination results may be released to education programs to enable those programs to understand student outcomes. For research and policymaking purposes, examination results may be released—with personally identifying information removed—to individuals or entities that the Examination Program deems legitimately interested. Information regarding privacy policies is made available to all candidates and the public.

The ADA provides technical support for the Examination Program and uses data security procedures to protect the integrity of personal and exam information. Security safeguards include administrative, technical, and physical safeguards over data and data processing systems. For information on policies relating to your use of the ADA website, please refer to the Privacy Notice and Terms of Use available at ADA.org.

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS AND RULES OF CONDUCT

EXAMINATION MISCONDUCT

The Examination Program strives to report results that accurately reflect the skills and performance of each candidate. The standards and procedures for administering each examination are intended to provide candidates with a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate their skills, and to facilitate accurate evaluation of those skills.

The Examination Program reserves the right to withhold, void, or invalidate any result when, in the Examination Program's judgment, it is reasonable to question the validity of the result. Reasons for withholding, voiding, or invalidating results, or for imposing other appropriate penalties, could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Unusual answer patterns
- Atypical score increases from one examination attempt to another
- Discrepancy in, or falsification of, a candidate's identification
- Information indicating that a candidate has engaged in misconduct or a violation of the examination regulations, rules of conduct, or test center procedures
- Sharing of remembered exam questions or answers. This includes sharing through social media platforms, online discussion forums, or other means
- Taking an examination on behalf of another individual, or having another individual take an examination on your behalf
- Falsification of application information or supporting documents
- Falsification of a candidate's results or results report
- Inconsistent performance on different sections of the exam from one examination attempt to another
- Improper access to secure exam content
- Evidence is available concerning the presence of an examination administration irregularity
- Any other information indicating the results might not be valid.

When examination results are voided or invalidated, the candidate is notified in writing. This notice includes information about the decision and the procedure for appeal. Results will remain voided until an appeal process has been completed, or the time for appeal has expired.

When previously reported results are voided, the score report recipient will be notified in writing that the result has been voided.

If it is determined a candidate has engaged in irregular behavior, information regarding this determination becomes a part of the candidate's record. At its sole discretion, the Examination Program may elect to send a summary report documenting the incident to legitimately interested parties. This would include all parties to whom a candidate has instructed results be sent (both currently and in the future).

In situations where an irregularity has occurred, individuals who are involved or implicated with respect to the occurrence of the irregularity, or who are reasonably believed to have witnessed the irregularity, could be asked to provide information concerning the irregularity.

The Examination Program reserves the right to pursue other remedies, including prosecution of anyone whose conduct unlawfully undermines the security of the examination or the integrity of the examination process.

No personal items are permitted in the secure testing area. Any personal belongings brought to the test center must be stored in a designated locker; storage is limited. Personal belongings may be inspected. Notes or any materials accessed during the examination or on an unscheduled break could be confiscated. Accessing personal belongings or a locker during an unscheduled break violates the examination regulations. Test administrators are **not** authorized to provide permission to candidates to access personal belongings or lockers during an unscheduled break.

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS AND RULES OF CONDUCT

EXAMINATION MISCONDUCT (continued)

Items that are prohibited from the secure testing area include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Books, notes, study materials, scratch paper, tissues, and markers
- Personal earplugs and headphones NOT provided by the Administration Vendor
- Dental instruments, models, or materials
- Slide rules, paper, calculating devices, rulers, and other measuring devices (except those items approved in advance under testing accommodations)
- Electronic devices such as cell phones, recording devices, iPods, tablets, and headsets
- Tote bags, purses, wallets, backpacks, and briefcases
- Highlighters, pens, erasers, pencils, dictionaries, and translators
- Food, candy, gum, and beverages (except those items approved in advance under testing accommodations)
- Outerwear, such as coats, jackets, gloves, or head coverings (religious attire is allowed)
- Good luck charms, statues, religious or spiritual items, and similar objects
- Watches (digital, analog, or smart) or timing devices (a timer is provided on the computer screen during the examination)
- Magnifying devices
- Jewelry (except for wedding and engagement rings)

The test center will provide two note boards (without graph lines) and two low-odor fine tip markers during the examination. Used note boards will be replaced by test center staff upon request. Scratch paper, pencils, and markers not furnished by the testing center are prohibited. You are not guaranteed to receive graph lines on your provided materials.

Candidates may not write on the note boards before the test begins or during scheduled breaks. The note boards should not be folded, bent, distorted, or modified in any manner. Markers cannot be used any surface other than the note boards. Candidates may not touch the monitor during the examination. All items provided must be returned to the test administrator before leaving the test center. Test center note boards will not be stored for multiple day examination use. Any notes taken will be surrendered at the end of each testing day and erased.

Candidates may not engage in conversation with others during testing or while on an unscheduled break. Discussing the examination is strictly prohibited.

Test center administrators will report the activity of candidates who take unscheduled breaks.

During an unscheduled break, candidates may NOT access personal belongings or prohibited items, study or refer to notes or texts, use a telephone, eat or drink any food or beverages from lockers, or leave the test center. Test administrators are NOT authorized to provide permission to engage in these activities.

Although the examination is administered under strict supervision and security, examination irregularities can sometimes occur. Examination results could be voided based upon a breach of examination security, invalid examination conditions, or candidate violations of the examination regulations, rules of conduct, or test center procedures. If irregularities are detected during the examination, or evidence of irregular behavior is disclosed when the examination is scored or afterward, those involved will have their examination results voided and face appropriate penalties.

Failure to comply with examination regulations, rules of conduct, and test center procedures could result in a determination of the presence of an irregularity, and examination results could be withheld, canceled, considered invalid, or another appropriate penalty could be imposed. Candidates might also be directed to leave the test center before the examination is completed. If results are withheld or invalidated, or other penalties are proposed or imposed as the result of an irregularity, candidates could be prohibited from testing and other appropriate penalties could be imposed.

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS AND RULES OF CONDUCT

IRREGULARITIES AND APPEALS

An irregularity is defined as a situation in which there could be a question about the validity of examination results in accurately reflecting the ability and skills of a candidate.

For example, such questions could be raised when:

- there is communication between candidates during the testing session.
- unauthorized assistance occurs.
- candidates have inappropriate access to examination content (e.g. remembered questions or answers are shared by email, online posting, or other means).
- conduct prohibited by the examination regulations, rules of conduct, or test center procedures occurs or examination administration disruptions are present, including natural disasters and other emergencies.

When an irregularity is identified, results for the candidate(s) involved will be voided pending resolution of the corresponding appeal(s). If an appeal is denied or no appeal is filed, the results of the candidate(s) involved could remain voided and/or other appropriate remedies imposed.

Candidates whose results are subject to being voided are notified by written correspondence and provided with a copy of the Limited Right of Appeal for Examination Candidates. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 30 days of notification of the irregularity. Appeals must clearly state the specific relief being requested and include corresponding arguments, evidence, and documentation in support of the request.

The candidate will be notified of the appeal decision within 60 days after receipt of the appeal.

When considering an appeal, the Examination Program strives to ensure that examination results accurately reflect candidates' skills, and that the appealing candidate has an opportunity equal to, but not greater than, the opportunity provided to other candidates.

Results will be voided when there is a reasonable and good faith basis to do so. If it is determined that voiding results is not warranted under the circumstances, the results will be released.

Candidates should be aware that irregularities - other than natural disasters and emergencies beyond the control of the candidate - are considered to be a serious breach of the examination process.

The Examination Program strives to handle irregularities and their investigation in a confidential, professional, fair, and objective manner.

Candidates should be aware that reports of irregularities may have consequences beyond the voiding of results or the imposition of other appropriate penalties.

- Information regarding the irregularities may be brought to the attention of school authorities, regulatory agencies, or other entities, by other sources.
- Additional information concerning a candidate may surface within the context of an investigation into an irregularity.

Candidates are encouraged to report suspicious activity or observations of violations of the examination regulations to DTS at testsecurity@ada.org.

EXAMINATION IRREGULARITIES AND MISCONDUCT

ARBITRATION REQUIREMENT

Arbitration has become an increasingly common way to resolve legal differences. Generally speaking, the advantages of arbitration over traditional lawsuits are that arbitration is less expensive and issues are resolved in less time. If a candidate wishes to pursue a dispute that has not been resolved by the appeal process mentioned above and detailed in the Limited Right of Appeal for Examination Candidates, the candidate must use the procedure described in the following Agreement to Arbitrate.

AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE

1. In the event that any legal dispute arises between you and the Examination Program, in connection with your participation in this Examination Program, where that dispute is not resolved by the appeals process detailed in this Guide and elsewhere, you agree that the exclusive means for resolving the dispute shall be Binding Arbitration as described by the terms of this Agreement. This means that you waive the rights you may have to resolve the dispute in a court of law, or by any other means that might otherwise be available to you.
2. The American Dental Association (“ADA”) agrees to be similarly bound except that the ADA reserves its full rights to pursue injunctive and other appropriate relief in any state or federal court in cases of unfair competition or violations of, or threats to violate, any intellectual property rights of the ADA. With respect to any action filed by the ADA pursuant to this paragraph 2, you consent to submit to the jurisdiction of the state or federal court in which the ADA seeks relief.
3. Arbitration proceedings initiated pursuant to this Agreement to Arbitrate shall be conducted in accordance with the then current Consumer Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. The arbitrator’s award shall be binding and may be entered as a judgment in any court of competent jurisdiction. Information about the American Arbitration Association, its rules, and its forms are available from the American Arbitration Association website, www.adr.org.
4. In the event of Arbitration, and except to the extent the Consumer Arbitration Rules provide otherwise, the parties shall bear their own costs and attorneys’ fees associated with the Arbitration proceedings, unless the arbitrator directs one of the parties to pay the other’s costs, or attorneys’ fees, or both.
5. To the fullest extent permitted by law, no Arbitration brought pursuant to this Agreement shall be joined to any Arbitration involving any other party whether through “Class Arbitration” proceedings or otherwise.
6. This Agreement is part of the application to take this examination. Your assent to be bound by it is a requirement for taking the examination, but you can only sit for the examination if you also fulfill all other conditions imposed by the Examination Program.