

# Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE™)

## QUICK FACTS



The **Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE)** is a high-stakes licensure examination requiring candidates to use their clinical skills to successfully complete dental problem-solving tasks. The DLOSCE is designed to fulfill the clinical skills requirement for licensure, focusing exclusively on the tasks performed by dentists during direct patient care. The DLOSCE excels in testing clinical competency, providing a comprehensive and accurate measurement of a candidate's abilities. Unlike legacy clinical examinations, which are subject to numerous problems, the DLOSCE capitalizes on a proven psychometric process to improve validity and reliability in the assessment process.

### The DLOSCE

The DLOSCE is a comprehensive examination consisting of 150 questions covering the following topic areas:

- Restorative 24%
- Prosthodontics 19%
- Oral Pathology, Pain Management, and Temporomandibular Dysfunction 13%
- Periodontics 10%
- Oral Surgery 9%
- Endodontics 8%
- Orthodontics 6%
- Medical Emergencies 6%
- Prescriptions 5%

Diagnosis and Treatment Planning – as well as Occlusion – are covered across the listed topic areas.

The DLOSCE includes questions involving patients of various types and backgrounds, including pediatric, geriatric, special needs, and medically complex. Some DLOSCE questions involve life-like three-dimensional (3D) models. An online tutorial is available at [ADA.org/DLOSCE](https://ada.org/DLOSCE).



### Eligibility

The DLOSCE is now accepted in eight states as fulfilling all or part of the clinical examination requirements for licensure. Please refer to each state board's website for specific details, clarifications, and updated policies. Download the DLOSCE Candidate Guide and Technical Report at [ADA.org/DLOSCE](https://ada.org/DLOSCE).

### Administration Time and Schedule

The total administration time for the DLOSCE is six hours and 45 minutes. The DLOSCE is administered in testing windows, with candidates permitted one administration per window.



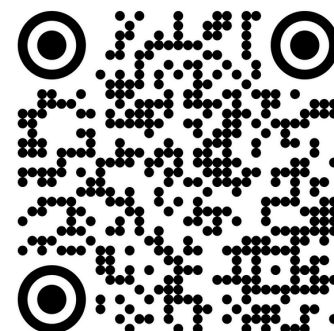
### Examination Results

National Board Examination results are reported as either “pass” or “fail,” based on whether the candidate's performance demonstrates that the candidate possesses the level of clinical skills required for safe practice.



### Practice Questions

Sharpen your skills with questions created by DLOSCE test constructors. Visit [ADA.org/DLOSCE](https://ada.org/DLOSCE) to learn more.





## FAQs

### **What is an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)?**

#### **Where and how are OSCEs used?**

OSCEs are widely used in the health sciences, since their inception in the 1970s. OSCEs were developed to help accurately assess the complex notion of clinical competence in the medical field. More specifically, Harden, Stevenson, Downie, and Wilson (1975) indicated that they introduced the OSCE format to avoid many weaknesses and disadvantages of traditional clinical examinations.

OSCEs are part of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination for all medical graduates. The OSCE format often includes stimulus materials such as radiographs, photographs, models, and prescription writing. Standardized patients (actors) have been used in medical OSCEs. The National Dental Examining Board (NDEB) of Canada uses an OSCE for dental licensure throughout Canada.

### **How is DLOSCE content determined?**

DLOSCE content is determined by subject matter experts in dentistry, based on practice analysis findings and in accordance with industry best practices and professional standards such as the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (AERA, APA, & NCME, 2014). The JCNDE and the Department of Testing Services follow rigorous development procedures rooted in psychometrics.

### **Is the DLOSCE a regional examination?**

No. The DLOSCE is a national examination measuring the clinical judgment and skills required to perform clinical dental tasks identified through a national dental practice analysis.

### **How do candidates apply to take the DLOSCE?**

Application procedures mirror procedures currently in place for the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE). Candidates register for the examination online via the JCNDE website. The examination is offered during specific testing windows.

