



# National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Part II 2022 Candidate Guide



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** COVID-19 continues to have an impact on examination programs implemented by DTS. Candidates testing in 2022 should regularly monitor the DTS COVID-19 update document, posted on the Examination Program website, for its potential impact on the Examination Program.

Candidates are required to read this document before applying to take the examination.

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

Changes in the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) might occur after publication of this Guide and will be posted on the National Board Guides page at [www.ada.org/NBDE](http://www.ada.org/NBDE).

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>OVERVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>
About this Guide	
Purpose of the National Board Examinations	
Examination Fairness	
The Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE)	
Ethical Conduct	
<b>EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS</b>	<b>5</b>
Examination Specifications	
Scope of the Examination	
Sample Item Formats	
Patient Box	
Dental Charts	
Examination Preparation and Resources	
Confidentiality of Examination Materials	
<b>RESULTS INFORMATION</b>	<b>12</b>
Scoring of Examination	
Results Reporting	
Results Reports	
Results Audits	
<b>ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>EXAMINATION INFORMATION</b>	<b>15</b>
Examination Fees	
Extension Request Guide Notice	
Rescheduling Fees	
Examination Schedule	
Application Procedures	
Administration Vendor Test Center Procedures	
Reschedule or Cancel a Testing Appointment	
Emergencies on the Day of a Testing Appointment	
Testing Problems on the Day of a Testing Appointment	
Testing Accommodations	
Unacceptable Forms of Documentation	
<b>EXAMINATION REGULATIONS AND RULES OF CONDUCT</b>	<b>21</b>
Rules of Conduct	
Privacy and Security	
Examination Misconduct	
Irregularities and Appeals	
Arbitration Requirement	

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE AND EXAMINATION PROGRAM

This document is the official candidate guide for the National Board Dental Examination Part II (“NBDE Part II” 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 NBDE Part II is the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (“JCNDE” or “Governing Body”). The NBDE Part II 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 Prometric (“Prometric” 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 “NBDE Part II 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.

## EXAMINATION FAIRNESS

Fairness, diversity, and inclusion are values that are of critical importance to society and to health professions. The Governing Body and DTS have devoted and continue to devote substantial time and energy to these considerations, to comprehensively consider the relevant issues and implement examination programs that are fair, valid, and reliable, providing candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities in support of accurate and valid skill measurement. Fairness efforts are rooted in professional standards as promulgated in the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*<sup>1</sup>. This document—published by the American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, and National Council on Measurement in Education—provides professional guidance on all aspects of testing, and specifically notes that fairness is fundamental to validity.

Fairness considerations are embedded throughout this Examination Program, affecting every aspect of how this examination is constructed, administered, scored, and reported, appropriately recognizing the critical importance of fairness to society and reflecting the core values of those who work closely and care deeply about this program.

## THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL BOARD DENTAL EXAMINATION (INBDE)

Candidates should note that the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) will replace NBDE Parts I and II. The INBDE integrates the biomedical, clinical, and behavioral sciences in its evaluation of candidate dental cognitive skills. Similar to examinations in the current NBDE sequence, the INBDE is designed to assist state boards of dentistry as those boards make decisions about candidates for dental licensure.

The INBDE was successfully launched on August 1, 2020. The NBDE Part I was discontinued on December 31, 2020. The NBDE Part II will be discontinued on July 31, 2022. The preceding indicates that full replacement of the NBDE Part I and Part II sequence will take place by August 1, 2022.

Additional information about the INBDE is available at <https://jcnnde.ada.org/en/inbde>.

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<sup>1</sup> American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, National Council on Measurement in Education. (2014). *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. Washington, DC: Author.

## 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.

Members of the dental profession voluntarily abide by the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct in the interest of protecting patients and maintaining the trust of society. The ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct is found at this link: <https://www.ada.org/en/about-the-ada/principles-of-ethics-code-of-professional-conduct>.

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

The NBDE Part II is a comprehensive examination consisting of 500 items. For each discipline, approximately 80% of the items are stand-alone, while approximately 20% are interdisciplinary and case-based. A case consists of a patient scenario, patient history, and a set of discipline-based items relevant to the scenario. NBDE items are developed by test construction teams composed of subject-matter experts in accordance with examination specifications approved by the JCNDE.

The Universal/National System for tooth notation that has been adopted by the American Dental Association is used on all National Board Examinations. This system is a sequential tooth numbering system, designating the permanent dentition (numbers 1-32), and the primary dentition (letters A-T).

## SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION

### Discipline-Based Component (400 items)

Examination items comprising the discipline-based component cover the following disciplines:

- Endodontics
- Operative Dentistry
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/ Pain Control
- Oral Diagnosis
- Orthodontics/Pediatric Dentistry
- Patient Management
- Periodontics
- Pharmacology
- Prosthodontics

### Case-Based Component (100 items)

The case-based component of the NBDE Part II presents items dealing with actual patients. The patient cases are developed to include the following approximate distribution: adult patients – 70%; child patients – 30%. A minimum of 15% of case-based exam questions will address the medical management of compromised adults and children. A compromised patient is defined as a person whose health status requires modification of standard treatment. Each case presentation in the examination consists of:

- synopsis of a patient's health and social histories,
- patient dental charting,
- diagnostic radiographs, and
- clinical photographs of the patient (when necessary).

Each case contains up to 15 questions about various aspects of the patient's dental care. These questions-- totaling 100 across all cases-- might derive from any of the biomedical sciences and clinical disciplines, including Patient Management. The proportion stemming from any particular discipline depends upon the nature of the case itself. For example, the case of an elderly adult might be based upon Maxillofacial Surgery/ Pain Control, Prosthodontics, and Operative Dentistry, whereas a child's case might derive from Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, and Patient Management. In responding to case-based items, the candidate must:

1. interpret the findings and information provided.
2. identify problems and make diagnoses.
3. select materials, technique, and armamentarium.
4. apply treatment.
5. evaluate progress and complications.
6. establish procedures for prevention and maintenance

# EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

## SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION (continued)

### Endodontics (41 items)

- Case Clinical Diagnosis, Case Selection, Treatment Planning, and Patient Management
- Basic Endodontic Treatment Procedures
- Procedural Complications
- Traumatic Injuries
- Adjunctive Endodontic Therapy
- Post-Treatment Evaluation

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE) Glossary of Endodontic Terms is used in reference to endodontic pathoses. The endodontics diagnostic terminology adopted by AAE as described in the December 2009 Journal of Endodontics [Volume 35, Number 12, p.1634], is incorporated in the NBDE Part II. NBDE Part II forms rely exclusively on these terms.

### Operative Dentistry (59 items)

- Dental Caries
- Examination, Diagnosis, & Treatment Planning
- General Operative Procedures
- Preparation of Cavities
- Restoration of Prepared Cavities

### Oral And Maxillofacial Surgery/Pain Control (61 items)

- Surgery
- Anxiety and Pain Control
- Medical Assessment and Emergency Care
- Treatment Plan
- Diagnosis

### Oral Diagnosis (54 items)

- Oral Pathology
- Oral Radiology

### Orthodontics/Pediatric Dentistry (62 items)

- Individual Tooth Pathology
- Supporting Tissue Pathology
- Dentofacial Variations
- Behavior
- Systemic Pathology

### Patient Management (65 items)

- Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- Anxiety and Pain Control
- Health Behavior Change
- Disabled and Medically Compromised
- Epidemiology
- Prevention of Oral Diseases
- Evaluation of Dental Literature
- Infection Control
- Materials and Equipment Safety
- Professional Responsibility/Liability
- Practice Management

# EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

## SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION (continued)

### Periodontics (57 items)

- Diagnosis
- Etiology
- Pathogenesis
- Treatment Planning
- Prognosis
- Therapy
- Prevention and Maintenance

### Pharmacology (43 items)

- General Principles
- Central Nervous System
- Autonomic
- Cardiovascular
- Local Anesthetics
- Chemotherapy
- Endocrines/Immunosuppressants
- Analgesics
- Antihistamines and Autocoids

### Prosthodontics (58 items)

- General Considerations
- Complete and Removable Partial Denture Prosthodontics
- Fixed Partial Prosthodontics



# EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

## AAE CONSENSUS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED DIAGNOSTIC TERMINOLOGY

### Pulpal:

<b>Normal Pulp</b>	A clinical diagnostic category in which the pulp is symptom-free and normally responsive to pulp testing.
<b>Reversible Pulpitis</b>	A clinical diagnosis based on subjective and objective findings indicating that the inflammation should resolve and the pulp return to normal.
<b>Symptomatic Irreversible Pulpitis</b>	A clinical diagnosis based on subjective and objective findings indicating that the vital inflamed pulp is incapable of healing. Additional descriptors: Lingering thermal pain, spontaneous pain, referred pain.
<b>Asymptomatic Irreversible Pulpitis</b>	A clinical diagnosis based on subjective and objective findings indicating that the vital inflamed pulp is incapable of healing. Additional descriptors: No clinical symptoms but inflammation produced by caries, caries excavation, trauma.
<b>Pulp Necrosis</b>	A clinical diagnostic category indicating death of the dental pulp. The pulp is usually nonresponsive to pulp testing.
<b>Previously Treated</b>	A clinical diagnostic category indicating that the tooth has been endodontically treated and the canals are obturated with various filling materials other than intracanal medicaments.
<b>Previously Initiated Therapy</b>	A clinical diagnostic category indicating that the tooth has been previously treated by partial endodontic therapy (eg, pulpotomy, pulpectomy).

### Apical:

<b>Normal Apical Tissues</b>	Teeth with normal periradicular tissues that are not sensitive to percussion or palpation testing. The lamina dura surrounding the root is intact, and the periodontal ligament space is uniform.
<b>Symptomatic Apical Periodontitis</b>	Inflammation, usually of the apical periodontium, producing clinical symptoms including a painful response to biting and/or percussion or palpation. It may or may not be associated with an apical radiolucent area.
<b>Asymptomatic Apical Periodontitis</b>	Inflammation and destruction of apical periodontium that is of pulpal origin, appears as an apical radiolucent area, and does not produce clinical symptoms.
<b>Acute Apical Abscess</b>	An inflammatory reaction to pulpal infection and necrosis characterized by rapid onset, spontaneous pain, tenderness of the tooth to pressure, pus formation and swelling of associated tissues.
<b>Chronic Apical Abscess</b>	An inflammatory reaction to pulpal infection and necrosis characterized by gradual onset, little or no discomfort, and the intermittent discharge of pus through an associated sinus tract.
<b>Condensing Osteitis</b>	Diffuse radiopaque lesion representing a localized bony reaction to a low-grade inflammatory stimulus, usually seen at apex of tooth.

# EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

## SAMPLE ITEM FORMATS

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

Items with stems that pose questions communicate a problem or set of circumstances. For example:

Which muscle(s) does the phrenic nerve innervate?

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

Which has the potential for undergoing spontaneous malignant transformation?

- A. Albright's syndrome
- B. Osteogenesis imperfecta
- C. Osteomalacia
- D. Paget's disease of bone

Items that present an incomplete statement require the candidate to identify the concept or idea that completes the statement correctly.

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.

Some item stems contain key words such as EXCEPT or NOT, which are capitalized to draw attention to them. Candidates should pay close attention when they encounter these key words.

Each of the following drugs is appropriate for the treatment of cardiac arrhythmia EXCEPT one. Which is the EXCEPTION?

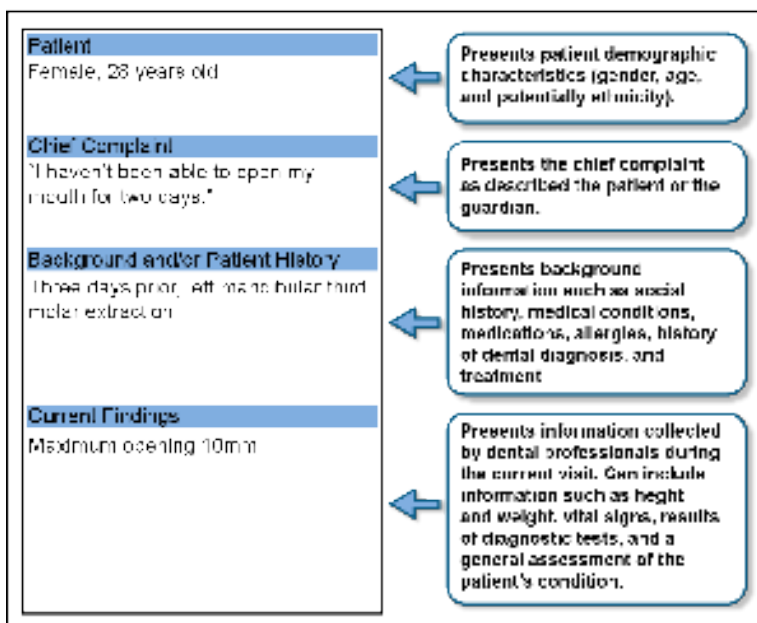
- A. Lidocaine
- B. Phenytoin
- C. Propranolol
- D. Quinidine

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

## PATIENT BOX

Some questions in this examination may 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**

**Current Oral Hygiene Status**

**Supplemental Oral Examination Findings**

- 1.
- 2.

**LEGEND**

Casting Restorations Not Charted

Fractured

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

Partially or Fully Impacted Arrows indicate direction of impaction (vestibular or lingual)

Planned Extraction

Clinically visible carious lesion

Class I Furcation Grade\*\*

Class II Furcation Grade\*\*

Class III Furcation Grade\*\*

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

**ADULT CLINICAL EXAMINATION CHART**

**LEGEND**

Casting Restorations Not Charted

Fractured

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

Partially or Fully Impacted Arrows indicate direction of impaction (vestibular or lingual)

Planned Extraction

Clinically visible carious lesion

Class I Furcation Grade\*\*

Class II Furcation Grade\*\*

Class III Furcation Grade\*\*

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

# EXAMINATION CONTENT AND PREPARATION MATERIALS

## 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 NBDE Part II](#)
- [Technical Report for the National Board Dental Examinations](#)

## 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 are 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 confidential examination materials, and will pursue formal action against anyone who violates examination regulations or federal copyright law. Violations could result in the voiding of examination results, legal action, or other appropriate penalties.**

## 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 <https://jcnde.ada.org>

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 in 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 [www.ada.org/NBDE](http://www.ada.org/NBDE). DTS will provide a history of results to state boards of dentistry and any additional recipients indicated.

# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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

Eligibility requirements differ based on factors such as the candidate's educational background (e.g., educated by a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) vs. not) and current stage of education (e.g., current vs. former student). Additionally, unless otherwise indicated, policies that apply to candidates educated by CODA accredited programs also apply to candidates educated by programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) who are seeking licensure in the US. This occurs through a reciprocal agreement.

Candidates must qualify for examination through one of the following provisions:

## Education through CODA Accredited Programs

### Current Student – CODA Accredited Program

A current student in a CODA accredited program is eligible for examination when the dean (or designee) provides confirmation that the student is prepared in all applicable disciplines.

### Former Student – CODA Accredited Program

A former student who has completed courses in preparation for this examination, but is no longer enrolled in the same program is eligible for examination only if admitted or conditionally admitted to another CODA accredited program in the applicable area of study. Conditionally admitted is defined as admission contingent upon successful completion of this examination. Verification must be in the form of a letter from the dean of the CODA-accredited program.

### Dentist – Graduate of CODA Accredited Program

A dentist who is an active, life, or retired member of the American Dental Association at the time of application is eligible for examination without further documentation.

An affiliate member or nonmember must submit a copy of their diploma or provide other appropriate verification of their degree.

## Education through Programs NOT Accredited by CODA

### General Provisions

ALL candidates from non-accredited dental programs must have their educational degree confirmed through Educational Credential Evaluators Inc. (ECE). ECE prepares reports providing confirmation of candidate educational degrees earned in other countries.

### Current Student – Non-CODA-Accredited Program

A current student attending a non-CODA-accredited program must adhere to the General Provisions indicated above. Additionally, these students must have their status confirmed by their educational program, through the completion of the Certification of Eligibility form. Completed certification forms must be sent by the educational program and must include both the seal of the university and the signature of the dean or registrar.

### Dentist – Graduate of a Non-CODA-Accredited Program

Candidates in this category must adhere to the General Provisions indicated above.

# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

## 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 60 days between each unsuccessful NBDE Part II attempt, with a maximum of four (4) such administrations permitted during any one-year period of time. The preceding restrictions are not subject to appeal.**

**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 INFORMATION

## EXAMINATION FEES

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

FEE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	FEE AMOUNT
NBDE Part II 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.	\$580
Processing Fee for International Candidates	This processing fee applies to candidates who are students or graduates of a dental school not in the United States or Canada.	\$300
Results Report Fee (optional)	This fee covers a single results report for a recipient NOT selected at the time of application.	\$50 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
INBDE Certificate	Candidates can order a full-size (8.5"x11") certificate with optional frames. To purchase a National Board Certificate, candidates must log in with their DENTPIN®.	To purchase a National Board Certificate, candidates must log in with their DENTPIN.
Eligibility Extension Fee	Candidates can extend their eligibility period for a fee. The extension is for 45 days 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, and with appropriate notice given. The rescheduling fee is based on the amount of notice provided. The reschedule date must fall within the authorized eligibility period. Rescheduling fees are subject to change.

# OF DAYS PRIOR TO TESTING APPOINTMENT	RESCHEDULE FEE
30 or more business days* before test date	Reschedule made on or before 6/30/22: \$25 <b>Reschedule made on or after 7/1/22: \$40**</b>
5 – 29 business days before scheduled test date	Reschedule made on or before 6/30/22: \$60 <b>Reschedule made on or after 7/1/22: \$70**</b>
1 – 4 business days before scheduled test date	\$150
Penalty if candidate fails to appear for a scheduled testing appointment OR presents more than 30 minutes after the scheduled start time and is refused admission	Full testing fee will be forfeited

\*Saturday and Sunday are NOT business days

\*\*On July 1, 2022, these rescheduling fees increase



# EXAMINATION INFORMATION

## EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

The following table provides the NBDE Part II administration schedule. The total administration time is 12 hours and 30 minutes, including tutorials, scheduled breaks, and a post-examination survey. NBDE Part II administrations occur over two days, with the second administration day occurring within seven (7) days of the first day of administration (i.e., administration does not need to occur over two consecutive days). Both administration days must occur at the same test center. If a candidate does not test on two days within a 7-day period and at the same test center, they will be required to retest at their own expense.

Taking a break at any time other than a “scheduled break” 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.**

<b>NBDE PART II EXAMINATION SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>DAY 1</b>	
Tutorial	15 minutes (optional)
<b>Discipline-based, stand-alone items (100 items)</b>	<b>Morning Session:</b> 3 hours 30 minutes plus optional 15-minute scheduled break
15-minute scheduled break	
<b>Discipline-based, stand-alone items (100 items)</b>	
30-minute scheduled break	30 minutes (optional)
<b>Discipline-based, stand-alone items (100 items)</b>	<b>Afternoon Session:</b> 3 hours 30 minutes plus optional 15-minute scheduled break
15-minute scheduled break	
<b>Discipline-based, stand-alone items (100 items)</b>	
<b>DAY 2</b>	
Tutorial	15 minutes (optional)
<b>Patient Cases (about 50 items)</b>	<b>Morning Session:</b> 3 hours 30 minutes plus optional 15-minute scheduled break
15-minute scheduled break	
<b>Patient Cases (about 50 items)</b>	
Post-Exam Survey	15 minutes (optional)
<b>TOTAL TIME</b>	<b>12 hours 30 minutes</b>

Candidates must schedule NBDE Part II sessions within 7 days of each other AND at the same test center or results cannot be scored. Partial credit will not be awarded. If a candidate does not test on two days within a 7-day period and at the same test center, they will be required to retest at their own expense.

# EXAMINATION INFORMATION

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

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

Submit an application at [www.ada.org/NBDE](http://www.ada.org/NBDE). 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](mailto: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](http://ADA.org/DENTPIN). This form must be emailed to [dentpin@ada.org](mailto:dentpin@ada.org) along with the candidate's DENTPIN® and any appropriate documentation, such as a marriage certificate or court documents.

## 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 (e.g., retesting).

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 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; please 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](mailto: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 in the family on the exam 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 A 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. If a candidate continues to have issues with their testing experience after having requested such assistance, they should again alert test center staff and request that staff resolve the issue. If the issue persists, the candidate should immediately discontinue testing. Candidates who continue to test despite the presence of continued, significant issues waive their right to appeal for a remedy on the basis of those encountered issues. 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](mailto:testingproblems@ada.org).

Candidates must contact [testingproblems@ada.org](mailto: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, in which case results of the retest will replace the results of the initial test. Candidates who continue to test despite severe issues—and particularly those who continue to test, wait for their results to be released, and call DTS afterwards upon receipt of a poor score—are unlikely to obtain the remedy they seek.

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 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.

## TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS (continued)

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 a candidate qualifies 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, please consult the Testing Accommodations Request area on the Examination Program website (see the section entitled “Application Procedures”).

If you have a documented disability recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require testing accommodations, you must submit the following three documents prior to testing:

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

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](mailto: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.

## TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS (continued)

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)

If the name candidates provide on their examination application does not match the name that appears on their candidate ID exactly, permission to test will be denied at the test center. 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 their application (such as name, birth date, etc.) and submitting corresponding requested updates at least five business days prior to their testing appointment. All changes and corrections should be emailed to [dentpin@ada.org](mailto: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](http://ADA.org/DENTPIN). This form must be emailed to [dentpin@ada.org](mailto: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 and any other examination program implemented through the DTS.**

# 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 Misconduct 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [www.ada.org](http://www.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 not previously approved by the Administration Vendor. 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](mailto: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](http://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.