

Dentistry

Licensure Requirements

Please read all application instructions, and the laws and rules governing the practice of Dentistry before completing your application.

Licensure Methods and Exam Requirements

An applicant shall be entitled to take the examination required in this section to practice dentistry in Florida if he/she:

- Is 18 years of age or older;
- Is a graduate of a dental school accredited by the American Dental Association the Commission on Dental Accreditation or its successor agency, if any, or any other dental accrediting entity recognized by the United States Department of Education; or is a dental student in the final year of a program at such an accredited school who has completed all the coursework necessary to prepare the student to perform the clinical and diagnostic procedures required to pass the examinations. With respect to a dental student in the final year of a program at a dental school, a passing score on the examinations is valid for 365 days after the date the examinations were completed. A dental school student who takes the licensure examinations during the student's final year of an approved dental school must have graduated before being certified for licensure pursuant to s. 466.011, F.S.;
- Has successfully completed the American Dental Association National Board of Dental Examiners dental examination.

If an applicant is a graduate of a dental college or school not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of American Dental Association or of a dental college or school not approved by the board, the applicant is not entitled to take the examinations required in this section to practice dentistry until she or he satisfies one of the following:

- Completes a program of study, as defined by the board by rule, at an accredited American dental school and demonstrates receipt of a D.D.S. or D.M.D. from said school; or
- Submits proof of having successfully completed at least 2 consecutive academic years at a full-time supplemental general dentistry program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. This program must provide didactic and clinical education at the level of a D.D.S. or D.M.D. program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Once qualified, an applicant must successfully complete the following to be licensed as a dentist in this state:

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A written examination on the laws and rules of the state regulating the practice of dentistry;

A practical or clinical examination, which shall be the American Dental Licensing Examination produced by the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc., or its Successor entity, if any, that is administered in this state and employed by the department for just that purpose. A passing score on the American Dental Licensing Examination administered in this state and graded by dentists who are licensed in this state is valid for 365 days after the date the official examination results are published.

As an alternative to the requirements stated above, an applicant may submit scores from an American Dental Licensing Examination previously administered in a jurisdiction other than this state after October 1, 2011, and such examination results shall be recognized as valid for the purpose of licensure in this state. A passing score on the American Dental Licensing Examination administered out-of-state shall be the same as the passing score for the American Dental Licensing Examination administered in this state and graded by dentists who are licensed in this state. The examination results are valid for 365 days after the date the official examination results are published. The applicant must have completed the examination after October 1, 2011.

The practical examination shall include, at a minimum:

1. A comprehensive diagnostic skills examination covering the full scope of dentistry and an examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning in dentistry for dental candidates;
2. Two restorations on a live patient or patients. The board by rule shall determine the class of such restorations;
3. A demonstration of periodontal skills on a live patient.
4. A demonstration of prosthetics and restorative skills in complete and partial dentures and crowns and bridges and the utilization of practical methods of evaluation, specifically including the evaluation by the candidate of completed laboratory products such as, but not limited to, crowns and inlays filled to prepared model teeth.
5. A demonstration of restorative skills on a mannequin which requires the candidate to complete procedures performed in preparation for a cast restoration; and
6. A demonstration of endodontic skills; and
7. A diagnostic skills examination demonstrating ability to diagnose conditions within the human oral cavity and its adjacent tissues and structures from photographs, slides, radiographs, or models pursuant to rules of the board. If an applicant fails to pass the diagnostic skills examination in three attempts, the applicant shall not be eligible for reexamination unless she or he completes additional educational requirements established by the board.

If the applicant fails to pass the clinical examination in three attempts, he/she shall not be eligible for reexamination unless he/she completes additional educational requirements established by the board.

The board may by rule provide for additional procedures which are to be tested, provided such procedures shall be common to the practice of general dentistry. The board by rule shall determine the passing grade for each procedure and the acceptable variation for examiners.