

Virginia Board of Dentistry
Policy on
DENTAL HYGIENE CLINICAL COMPETENCY EXAMINATION
REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE

Notice of Policies on Acceptable Clinical Examinations Effective January 1, 2023

Effective January 1, 2023, the Board will only accept from applicants who apply for licensure by examination, the ADEX Exam, for dental hygiene applicants. This policy applies to all examinations completed in calendar year 2023 and thereafter, regardless of the dates portions of the examination were taken.

Effective January 1, 2023, the Board will only accept from dental hygiene applicants who apply for licensure by credentials, a Clinical Competency Exam that is substantially equivalent to the required clinical exam components. This policy applies to all examinations completed regardless of the date or dates an examination was taken.

Acceptable Clinical Examinations Effective March 19, 2021

Definitions to Applied Terms

- **“Clinical Competency Exam”** means a formal test of knowledge and competence in the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of dental conditions and the prevention of dental diseases which includes live patient and/or manikin based testing methods to demonstrate the skills needed to safely provide care and treatment of patients.
- **“Compensatory Scoring”** is a scoring methodology which allows for strong performance in one content area to compensate for poor performance in another content area as long as the overall score meets the performance standard.
- **“Conjunctive Scoring”** is a scoring methodology which requires that performance standards be met for each specified content area.
- **“Substantially Equivalent”** means any examination taken for another jurisdiction which is equivalent in content and degree of difficulty, respectively, to those requirements for licensure by examination.

Dental Hygiene Applications by Examination

Every candidate who examines with CDCA, CITA, CRDTS, SRTA, or WREB shall pass each individual component listed below with only conjunctive scoring (not compensatory scoring) and a minimum passing score of 75% for each of the following required components for an exam to be accepted by the Board:

- **Treatment Clinical Examination**, including calculus detection and removal, periodontal pocket depth measurements, and tissue management.
- **Computer Simulated Clinical Examination**, including assessing various levels of diagnosis and treatment planning knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Dental Hygiene Applications by Credentials

For dental hygiene applicants who apply for licensure by credentials, the Board will accept a passing score of the Clinical Competency Exam required in the state in which the dental hygienist was originally licensed.

Additionally, an applicant must be currently licensed to practice dental hygiene in another jurisdiction of the United States and have clinical, ethical, and active practice for 24 of the past 48 months immediately preceding application for licensure. 18VAC60-25-150.2

Acceptable Score Cards and Reports for Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure

- An original and detailed score card or report is required from the testing agency documenting passage of a clinical competency examination. Candidate's score cards are not acceptable. All score cards or reports must be requested by the applicant. The original and detailed score card or report must be mailed to the Board. Or, the applicant must contact the testing agency to request that the test results be made available to the Virginia Board of Dentistry via online access portal. For WREB you must request an IPR detailed report. The Board does not accept certificates or Canadian exams.
- Score cards shall show conjunctive scoring of the required clinical competency exam components. The score cards must show a pass (equivalent to at least a score of 75%) or a fail.
- Applicants shall submit score cards for each attempt of a clinical competency exam. If an applicant has failed any clinical competency exam, a score card is still required to be submitted. The applicant shall notify the Board of all previously failed attempts of any clinical competency exam.
- Applicants who successfully completed a clinical competency examination five or more years prior to the date of receipt of their applications for licensure by this board may be required to retake an examination or take clinical continuing education as evidence of continuing competence that meets the requirements of 18VAC60-25-190 unless they demonstrate that they have maintained clinical, ethical, and legal practice in another jurisdiction of the United States or in federal civil or military service for 48 of the past 60 months immediately prior to submission of an application for licensure. 18VAC60-25-140.C.

Excerpts of Applicable Laws and Regulations Addressing Clinical Examinations

- **Dental Hygiene Applicants**

- An application for such license shall be made to the Board in writing and shall be accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant has successfully completed a clinical examination acceptable to the Board. §54.1-2722.B (iv)
- The Board may grant a license to practice dental hygiene to an applicant licensed to practice in another jurisdiction if he meets other qualifications as determined in regulations promulgated by the Board. §54.1-2722. C (iv)
- An applicant for dental hygiene licensure by credentials shall have successfully completed a clinical competency examination substantially equivalent to that required for licensure by examination. 18VAC60-25-150.4