



# AMERICAN BOARD of DENTAL EXAMINERS

American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX)

Report of the ADEX Licensure Examinations

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Prepared by: American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX)

Prepared for: Utah Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensing Board

## 1. Executive Summary

The American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) is pleased to announce the successful completion of the organizational merger between CDCA-WREB-CITA and ADEX. The unified organization now operates exclusively as the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX), further linking national licensure exam development and administration, examiner calibration, candidate services, and state board support within a single, streamlined structure.

This combination strengthens ADEX's capacity to deliver a consistent, nationally recognized standard for psychomotor licensure examinations in dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental therapy. It also expands and formalizes state dental board representation in the licensure process. Each ADEX member state and jurisdiction is now eligible to appoint both a dentist and a dental hygienist to the **ADEX Council on Examinations**, reinforcing a licensure framework that is board-driven, evidence-based, and focused on public protection.

ADEX and the **American Dental Association (ADA)** have recently engaged in conversations that reflect a shared commitment to ensure that dental licensure assessments continue to evolve alongside advancements in clinical education, technology, and patient care. Through this collaboration, the ADEX and the ADA aim to identify opportunities for alignment in examination content, evaluation methods, and candidate experience—ultimately strengthening the process by which new dentists demonstrate their readiness for practice.

“By working together, we are advancing our mutual goal of ensuring every licensed dentist enters the profession with proven competence and the highest standards of patient safety,” said Dr. Richard Rosato, President, ADA.

ADEX Chair Dr. Mark Armstrong adds, “Our dialogue with the ADA highlights our commitment to a modern, equitable licensure standard—grounded in rigorous clinical hand skills assessment and reflective of today's dental practice.”

We anticipate continued engagement over the coming months as both organizations explore best practices and potential innovations to further the dental licensure examination standards nationwide.

## 2. Strengthening Direct Engagement with State Dental Boards

ADEX is deepening direct engagement with state dental boards as licensure standards and regulatory expectations evolve. To advance this work, ADEX has strengthened its leadership resources with the addition of **Stephen Prisby as Regulatory and Educational Affairs Director**, bringing significant prior state dental board executive experience to enhance regulator-informed support.

ADEX will continue targeted outreach focused on open dialogue, collaboration, and alignment. We remain committed to providing high-quality examinations, transparent communication, and data-driven licensure resources, while working closely with state boards to ensure licensure pathways protect the public and support the profession.

## 3. National Candidate Activity and Exam Utilization

ADEX is proud to support the licensure needs of dental boards and commissions across 50+ U.S. states and jurisdictions. In 2025, ADEX offered more than 570 examination dates at 312 testing locations, serving over 466 individual dental education programs nationwide.

### *ADEX Examinations Utilized Nationally:*

ADEX Dental Licensure Examination
ADEX Dental Hygiene Licensure Examination
Dental Therapy Clinical Examination
Local Anesthesia Examination for Dental Hygienists
Dental Assisting (where applicable)

### *2025 Statistical Report*

#### **All Candidates Tested**

Dental	13,859
Dental Hygiene	7,209
Local Anesthesia (+DA)	2,934
DH Restorative	183
Auxiliary	73
Dental Therapy	47
Nitrous Oxide	607

**Dental Exam Pass Rate  
(2025 Grads only)**

	# Cands	First Attempt	End of Yr
DSE OSCE	6,694	99.48%	99.91%
Endodontics	6,750	77.10%	99.29%
Prosthodontics	6,752	87.81%	99.50%
Periodontics	6,738	99.23%	99.99%
Anterior Rest.	6,725	93.77%	99.69%
Posterior Rest.	6,726	88.91%	99.49%

**Dental Hygiene Exam Pass Rate  
(2025 Grads only)**

	# Cands	First Attempt	End of Yr
CSCE OSCE	5,330	99.47%	99.77%
DH Clinical Exam, SPTCE	5,470	95.76%	99.63%

**4. Licensing and Examination Updates**

*National Score Database:*

ADEX provides state dental boards with secure access to candidate performance data for all ADEX and legacy CDCA, WREB, CITA and NERB exams.

*The National Standard in Examination Acceptance & Portability:*

ADEX represents the most widely accepted licensure examination pathway nationwide, serving 98% of dental candidates and approximately 85% of dental hygiene candidates.

**5. Organizational Highlights and Strategic Initiatives**

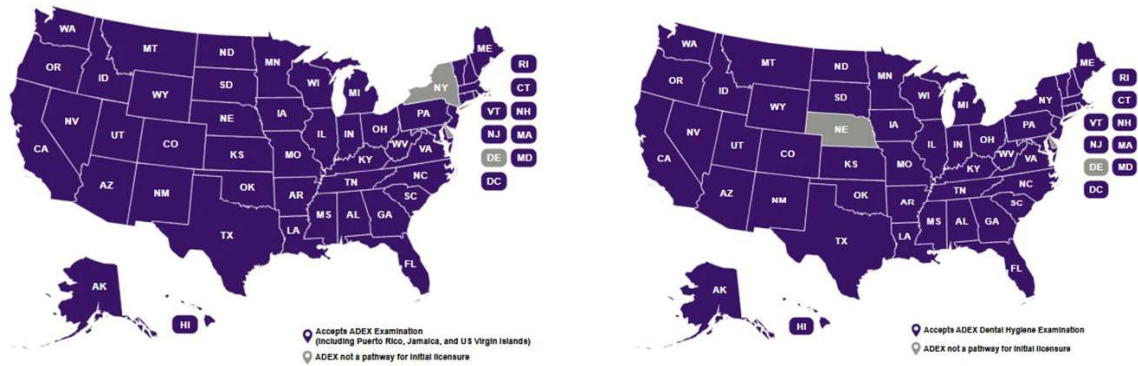
- ADEX debuted its Dental Testing System 2.0 (DTS) technology, further streamlining examination delivery and communication processes.
- The American Board of Dental Examiners administered the first-ever ADEX Dental examination at King Abdulaziz University (KAU) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in January 2026. KAU is the first CODA-approved program in the eastern hemisphere.

**6. Licensure Compact Monitoring**

ADEX continues to monitor and participate in discussions regarding oral health compacts and national mobility initiatives.

**7. Upcoming Priorities**

- ADEX will provide ongoing support for boards in all 51 jurisdictions where its examinations are accepted.



- Materials regarding examining with the American Board of Dental Examiners and serving on the Council on Examinations are currently in production and will be shared with boards in the coming weeks.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dental Testing and Regulatory Summit will take place October 14-18, 2026, at the Gaylord National Harbor just outside of Washington, DC. The Summit includes the Annual Meetings for the American Board of Dental Examiners, the American Association of Dental Administrators and the American Association of Dental Boards. Additional details about the Summit will be shared in the coming months.

**For questions or additional information, please contact:**

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