



American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) Report

ADEX is proud to support the licensure needs of state dental boards and commissions across 50+ U.S. states and jurisdictions. In 2025, ADEX administered more than 570 examination dates at 312 testing locations, serving over 466 individual dental education programs nationwide. ADEX will provide ongoing support for boards in all 51 jurisdictions where its examinations are accepted.

Organizational Highlights and Strategic Initiatives

- **ADEX debuted its Dental Testing System 2.0 (DTS) technology**, further streamlining examination delivery and communication processes.
- **The ADEX Dental examination was administered at King Abdulaziz University (KAU) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in January 2026.** KAU is the first CODA-approved program in the eastern hemisphere.
- **Licensure Compact Monitoring** - ADEX continues to monitor and participate in discussions regarding oral health compacts and national mobility initiatives.
- **The 3rd 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.
- **ADEX is currently conducting an Occupational Job Task Analysis (OJTA) for the ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination.** This process is an important step in ensuring that the examination continues to accurately measure the knowledge and clinical skills required for safe and competent entry-level dental hygiene practice.
- **Strategic Agreement Announced with the American Dental Association (ADA) to license and incorporate the ADA's DLOSCE into the ADEX Dental Exam.**

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.

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American Dental Association and American Board of Dental Examiners Advance Dental Licensure Examinations Through New Agreement

ADEX to incorporate the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) into the ADEX Dental Examination no later than Aug. 1, 2026

CHICAGO, April 14, 2026 – The American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) have finalized an agreement to license the ADA’s Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination ([DLOSCE](#)) for incorporation into the [ADEX Dental Examination](#), marking a significant step forward in modernizing dental licensure and advancing patient safety.

The agreement benefits public health, dental licensure candidates, the dental profession, and licensing boards to help ensure dentists enter the profession with proven competence and uphold the highest standards for patient safety.

The integration of the ADA’s DLOSCE simplifies licensure pathways and supports licensure portability, benefiting candidates seeking to practice in 48 states and other jurisdictions—including Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and the U.S. Virgin Islands — that currently accept or require the ADEX Dental Examination.

“This agreement represents an important milestone for the dental profession,” said Dr. Richard Rosato, D.M.D., president of the ADA. “By aligning pathways to licensure and advancing candidate assessment, we are strengthening licensure portability, supporting a more mobile and responsive workforce, and ensuring that patient safety remains paramount. The ADA has long championed solutions that modernize licensure while protecting the public, and this collaboration reflects our commitment to shaping a strong, sustainable future for dentistry in service to public health.”

The ADEX Dental Examination with its DLOSCE component represents a modernized, evidence-based approach to evaluating clinical competence and readiness for practice. The ADEX Dental Examination will continue to assess candidates’ clinical hand skills alongside their treatment-planning and decision-making abilities. Through inclusion of the DLOSCE, the ADEX Dental Examination will benefit from the DLOSCE’s extensive use of images and 3D models that allow candidates to demonstrate their clinical judgment in scenarios that closely mirror real-world practice.

“ADEX has long served state dental boards to support licensure processes that reflect both public protection and clinical competence,” said Dr. Mark Armstrong, Chair of ADEX. “This agreement

continues that work by strengthening alignment across assessment components while preserving the clinical hand-skills evaluation that remains central to licensure in most U.S. jurisdictions.”

The agreement follows extensive collaboration among the ADA, ADEX, the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE), and the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) that began in 2025. In March 2026, the ADA Board of Trustees and ADEX Board of Directors voted to approve the general terms that led to this joint agreement.

Central to discussions was a shared commitment to ensuring that dental licensure assessments continue to evolve in step with advancements in clinical education, technology, and patient care. Both organizations emphasized the importance of strengthening public protection while also enhancing the portability of dental licensure for candidates navigating an increasingly mobile profession.

ADEX will sunset its DSE OSCE no later than Aug. 1, 2026. Upon sunset of the DSE OSCE, all ADEX Dental Examination administrations will include the DLOSCE.

The DLOSCE will no longer be offered or administered as a standalone examination to new DLOSCE candidates, except in conjunction with the ADEX Dental Examination, after August 1, 2026. All standalone administrations of the DLOSCE will cease after October 9, 2026.

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About the American Dental Association

The not-for-profit ADA is the nation's largest dental association, representing more 152,000 dentist members. The premier source of oral health information, the ADA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. The ADA's state-of-the-art research facilities develop and test dental products and materials that have advanced the practice of dentistry and made the patient experience more positive. The ADA Seal of Acceptance has long been a valuable and respected guide to consumer dental care products. [*The Journal of the American Dental Association \(JADA\)*](#), published monthly, is the ADA's flagship publication and the best-read scientific journal in dentistry. For more information about the ADA, visit [ADA.org](#). For more information on oral health, including prevention, care and treatment of dental disease, visit the ADA's consumer website [MouthHealthy.org](#).

About the American Board of Dental Examiners

The American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting dental boards in their mission to protect the public through the licensure of qualified oral health professionals. Established in 1969, ADEX administers independent competency examinations developed and approved by representatives of state dental boards. ADEX examinations are accepted or required by law in 51 U.S. jurisdictions and serve as the initial licensure pathway for 98% of dental and 85% of dental hygiene candidates nationwide. Through ongoing collaboration with dental boards and educators, ADEX continues to advance innovative, evidence-based assessment methods that uphold the highest standards of fairness, clinical competence, and public protection. Learn more at [adextesting.org](#).



AMERICAN BOARD of
DENTAL EXAMINERS

SUPPORTING STATE BOARDS' MISSION TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC

- Accepted or required by law in 51 U.S. states and territories
- Hundreds of trained and calibrated examiners
- Exams accessible to all dental & dental hygiene candidates
- Nationally coordinated scoring and quality assurance



Administering fair, valid, and standardized national licensure examinations in the oral health professions.



Who We Are

The American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the public through close collaboration with state dental boards. Together, we develop and administer evidence-based licensure assessments that support safe and competent dental practice.

ADEX upholds the highest standards of fairness, validity, and reliability through uniform computer-based and clinical manikin hand skills examinations, trusted by state boards to evaluate candidates' readiness for licensure. Today, ADEX examinations are accepted across nearly all U.S. jurisdictions and are utilized by the vast majority of dental and dental hygiene candidates.

ADEX administers a comprehensive portfolio of clinical examinations used by dental boards across the United States and internationally. The Council on Examinations, representing every U.S. state and territory, continuously reviews and refines these assessments to ensure clinical relevance, fairness, and accuracy.

Our organization is led by a national network of state dental board and educator-examiners, united by a shared commitment to integrity, consistency, and public protection.

Our Mission

➤ Assess

Deliver psychometrically sound clinical examinations in dental and dental hygiene licensure. ADEX delivers more than 24,000 assessments annually.

➤ Support

Support state regulatory agencies in standardizing and evaluating candidate competence.

➤ Strengthen

Strengthen public trust in the licensure process while enabling portability for professionals.

WHY BECOME AN EXAMINER?

State dental board members play a critical role by participating in the examination administration process. Participation in the American Board of Dental Examiners allows regulators to uphold public protection and contribute to national consistency in dental and dental hygiene competency standards. Engagement ensures that the licensure pathways align with real-world practice, regulatory priorities, and evolving standards of care.

► Examine

All members of state boards may participate in administering ADEX examinations at 400+ sites nationwide as available.

► Lead

Opportunity to serve on the ADEX board of directors or other committees.

► Develop

States select representatives to the Council on Examinations, participating in exam development and policy.

► Connect

Represent your state board at meetings, conferences, and regulatory summits.



QUICK FACTS FOR PROSPECTIVE EXAMINERS



Honorarium and travel reimbursement



Training and calibration offered on demand



Professional development opportunities

PURSUE EXCELLENCE IN LICENSURE

Offering trusted, reliable examinations backed by professional expertise and a collaborative governance model, the American Board of Dental Examiners provides regulators with the tools they need to determine readiness for practice and standards for licensure.

JOIN
TODAY

Ask your Executive Director to get started.



WHAT IS THE COUNCIL ON EXAMINATIONS?

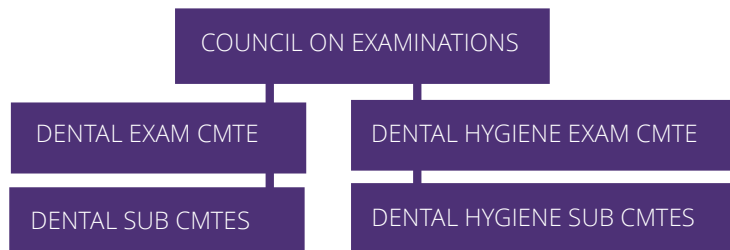


State dental board members play a critical role in the examination process. Through participation with the American Board of Dental Examiners, regulators directly support public protection while serving as stewards of a consistent, national standard for dental and dental hygiene licensure.

Examiner engagement provides the opportunity to collaborate with fellow state board members and respected professionals from across jurisdictions, fostering shared insight and alignment. It also ensures that licensure pathways remain grounded in real-world clinical practice, aligned with regulatory priorities, and responsive to evolving standards of care.

➤ Council Appointment Eligibility & Term Length

Each state is asked to appoint a dentist and dental hygienist to the Council to serve three year terms. Persons who are current members of their state dental board, or have served within the past five years, are eligible to be appointed to the Council. Appointees will onboard with ADEX to access materials, information and be invited to examine. Active ADEX participation of five years or more is required to hold an office on the Council.



➤ Council Member Commitments & Expectations

The Council will meet in person during the ADEX Annual Meeting. Exam Committees will meet virtually in advance and may gather in person at the Annual Meeting event as well. Virtual meetings typically last one to two hours. The time requirement can vary slightly depending on what (if any) subcommittees the person is appointed to serve.



Participation in the examining process, and the Council on Examinations provides state board members insight into how their service protects the public, firsthand. Ask for a presentation to your board to learn more.