



AMERICAN BOARD_{of} DENTAL EXAMINERS

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Prepared for: Utah Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensing Board

ADEX News & Updates

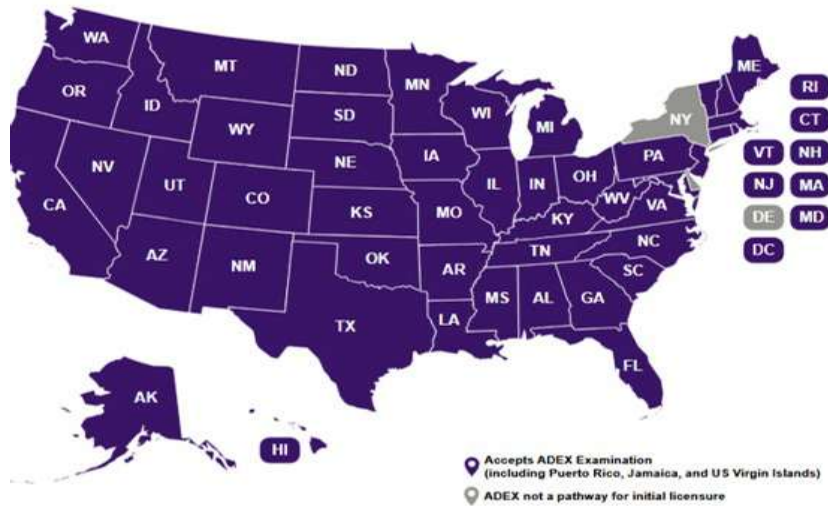
The American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) is a national nonprofit examination organization dedicated to supporting state dental boards' mission to protect the public. ADEX administers fair, valid, reliable, and standardized national licensure examinations in the oral health professions. Its examination system is built around regulator collaboration, trained and calibrated examiners, nationally coordinated scoring, quality assurance, and a governance model that includes state board and educator-examiner participation.

ADEX supports the licensure needs of state dental boards and commissions across more than 50 U.S. states and jurisdictions. In 2025, ADEX offered more than 570 examination dates at 312 testing locations and served more than 466 dental education programs nationwide. ADEX continues to support boards in all 51 jurisdictions where its examinations are accepted through direct outreach, board meeting engagement, secure score reporting, and regulator-informed examination updates.

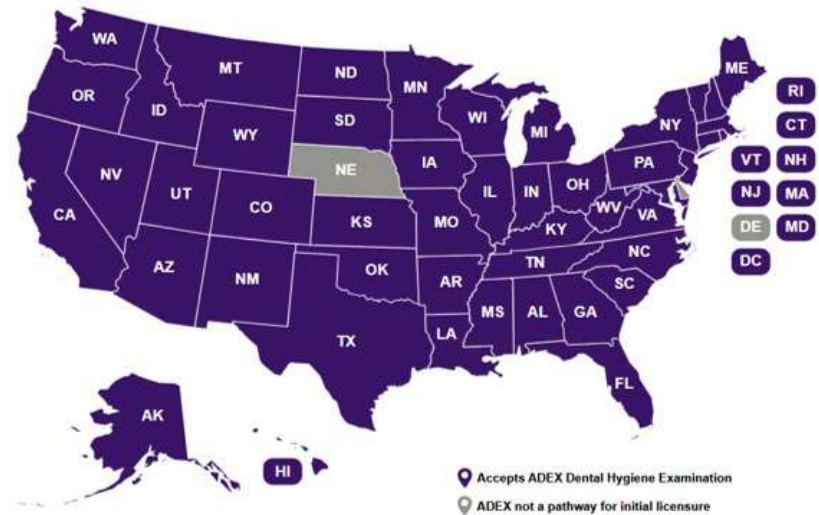
- **Board-centered expertise:** ADEX's regulatory collaboration is grounded in direct experience with state dental board operations, public protection responsibilities, rulemaking realities, and the day-to-day needs of board members and staff. Current and former state dental board members serve throughout ADEX's leadership, examiner network, and advisory structure, giving ADEX a practical and continuous connection to the boards it supports. That board-level experience strengthens ADEX's ability to develop and administer examinations that reflect real regulatory expectations and help ensure entry-level oral health practitioners are prepared to practice safely after completing required education and testing standards.
- **National reach and regulatory visibility:** ADEX has established direct engagement across all 50 states and Washington, DC, creating a strong foundation for consistent communication with boards, administrators, and regulatory stakeholders.
- **Modern examination strategy:** ADEX is positioned to support simulation, OSCE-based assessment, ADA DLOSCE integration, and other modern approaches that move licensure away from outdated, fragmented, and overly variable models.

- Portability and consistency:** A national standard should reduce unnecessary barriers for qualified candidates while preserving the authority of state boards. ADEX gives boards a pathway to support mobility without weakening public protection. The ADEX Exams are the most widely accepted dental and dental hygiene exams for initial licensure in the United States.

National **Dental** Portability



National **Dental Hygiene** Portability



Examiner and Council Participation Opportunity

State dental board members can do more than review examination outcomes; they can directly help shape the national licensure standard. Participation as an ADEX examiner gives regulators firsthand insight into candidate assessment, calibration, scoring, public protection safeguards, and the practical operation of fair and standardized licensure examinations. It also gives board members a way to contribute to national consistency while strengthening their own board's understanding of examination quality.

Through the ADEX Council on Examinations, each ADEX Member state appoints a dentist and dental hygienist to serve three-year terms. Current state dental board members, or individuals who have served within the past five years, are eligible for appointment. Council and committee participation gives state regulators a direct voice in exam development, policy discussion, professional calibration, and the continuing refinement of licensure assessments.

- **Examine:** Former and current state board members, along with educators, participate directly in examination administration and gain firsthand insight into the public-protection framework behind ADEX licensure assessments. **The ADEX examining team includes more than 1,400 calibrated and trained professionals committed to maintaining the highest testing standards and supporting safe, competent practice.**
- **Develop:** Receive training, calibration, and professional development connected to contemporary licensure assessment. Represent the state board perspective in national examination policy and governance discussions on the Council on Examinations.
- **Connect:** Collaborate with regulators, educators, and examiner colleagues across jurisdictions with the Annual Dental Testing & Regulatory Summit.

The integration of the ADA's DLOSCE as the cognitive assessment component within the ADEX Dental Examination is complete as of August 2026. This collaboration is designed to simplify pathways, reduce redundancy, and better align dental licensure with national models used across other health professions.

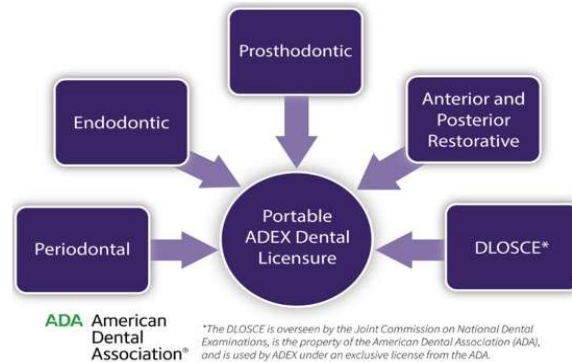
The ADA's **Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE)** was developed by the **Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE)**. It is a unique nationally standardized, case-based examination that evaluates clinical judgment, diagnosis, treatment planning, patient management, and readiness for independent practice. The examination consists of 150 multiple-choice questions based on realistic patient cases and incorporates interactive 3-D images that candidates can rotate, zoom, and manipulate to simulate the evaluation of clinical findings. The DLOSCE assesses the critical thinking and decision-making skills required for safe, competent, and independent dental practice using a valid, reliable, and modern examination format. The examination is administered over 6 hours and 45 minutes, including optional breaks.

The JCNDE is governed by an independent 16-member commission representing a broad range of stakeholders, including dental education, dental practice, state dental boards, dental hygiene, dental students, and public members. These representatives come from ADEA, ASDA, ADHA, AADB, and the ADA.

The JCNDE oversees the following exams:

- Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE)
- National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE)
- Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE)
- Dental Hygiene Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DHLOSCE)

ADEX Dental Exam



The 3rd Annual Dental Testing and Regulatory Summit will take place October 14–18, 2026, at the Gaylord National Harbor just outside Washington, DC. This annual regulatory and testing meeting brings together state dental board leaders, administrators, educators, exam leaders, and national stakeholders for focused discussion on licensure, examination modernization, portability, public protection, and emerging regulatory issues. The Summit includes the Annual Meetings for the American Board of Dental Examiners, the American Association of Dental Administrators, the American Association of Dental Boards, and the Educators' Conference.

ADEX continues to strengthen its collaborative engagement with Utah and state regulatory partners nationwide. These national updates may support the Board as it considers licensure policy, examination acceptance, workforce mobility, and public protection priorities.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

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