



Clinical Exams for Licensure

Dental Career Services

Resources:

CDCA:

<http://www.cdcaexams.org/>

WREB:

<https://www.wreb.org/>

Clinical Examination Requirement

Most states enforce a clinical examination requirement for licensure, and each state board of dentistry determines which exam they will accept. Most state boards rely on a regional testing agency to administer a clinical examination. A regional agency is formed when a group of state boards jointly develop and/or administer a clinical examination.

Five regional agencies currently conduct the examinations used by all but four licensing jurisdictions: [Council of Interstate Testing Agencies](#) (CITA), [Central Regional Dental Testing Services, Inc.](#) (CRDTS), [Commission on Dental Competency Assessments](#) (CDCA) [Previously the NERB], [Western Regional Examination Board](#) (WREB) and the [Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc.](#) (SRTA). Many states are members of multiple clinical testing agencies and a number of states accept results of more than one clinical exam for licensure application.

The CDCA and WREB administer exams at TUSDM and most, though not all, TUSDM students take one or the other to meet the licensure exam requirements for the state they intend to practice in. For this reason, the remainder of this guide will focus on the CDCA and the WREB; however, depending on your unique situation and plans you may need to do further investigation into other regional testing agencies.

CDCA and WREB

The CDCA administers an exam called the ADEX. The ADEX is offered in what is called "Curriculum Integrated Format (CIF)" for fourth year dental students and in "Traditional format" for all other candidates. The CIF is administered in segments over the course of up to 18 months whereas the Traditional version covers all sections over a span of two days. Both versions are identical in content and include five sections: Computer Based Diagnostic Skills Exam (DSE), Endodontic Exam, Fixed Prosthodontic Exam, Periodontal/Scaling Exam and a Restorative Exam. The Endodontic, Fixed Prosthodontic, Periodontal/Scaling, and Restorative are offered at TUSDM while the DSE is offered at Prometric Testing center. Candidates are invited to schedule the DSE once they register for the clinical portion.

The WREB administers the WREB Examination. It is a four part exam which includes three clinical portions (Operative, Endodontics, and Periodontal Treatment) and one computer based portion (the Comprehensive Treatment Planning exam [CTP]). The clinical portions of the WREB are administered at TUSDM. Once registered they will receive instructions for how to schedule their CTP exam through Prometric Testing Centers.

WREB Passing Requirements

Successful completion of the exam requires passing all four sections (i.e., Operative, Periodontics, Endodontics, and CTP) within twelve (12) months. The twelve (12) month window begins with the first attempt at the clinical exam. The clinical exam must be attempted within the same exam year as the CTP exam. For example, if a 2015 CTP exam is taken (registered with a 2015 clinical exam), the first attempt at the clinical exam must be in 2015.

The three (3) clinical sections of the exam must be taken together. Failure to complete all three clinical sections results in failure of the exam. If two or more clinical sections are failed, the three (3) clinical sections must be retaken. Failure of one clinical section allows the opportunity to retake just the failed section within the twelve month window. Exceptions to this policy will apply when the twelve (12) month period spans different testing years and significant changes to the exam occur.

CDCA Passing Requirements

The Prosthodontic and Endodontic Examinations are offered in the CIF format at TUSDM in August during the senior year. If either examination is failed it may be retaken in December (when it is administered in the traditional format at TUSDM or BU). The Restorative and Periodontal Examinations are offered at TUSDM in February during the senior year. If either of these examinations is failed or if the candidate failed the retake of the Prosthodontic and/or Endodontic examinations in December, then the failed examination(s) may be retaken one more time in April of the senior year (when it is offered in the traditional format at TUSDM or BU). Candidates must take all outstanding parts during the next scheduled examination series. All parts of the examination must be completed successfully within 18 months of the date any part of the examination (clinical or computer-based) was begun or the scores will become invalid and the candidate must apply for and take the full Traditional Exam Format. A score of 75 or more is required to pass each Examination.

WREB Application Process:

The WREB is typically offered twice at TUSDM (once in the spring and once in the summer). The registration deadline is typically September 1st for these examinations. Applications received after the deadline will be accepted, though a \$500 late fee will be applied. Once enrolled in the exam, candidates will receive an email with information to register for the CTP exam. More information regarding registration can be found [here](#).

CDCA Application Process:

The CDCA is offered in both CIF and Traditional format at TUSDM every year. The application deadline for the CIF Examination is typically in July and segments of the exam are offered in August and February. The deadline for the Traditional Format is typically in November, with the administration scheduled for December. Applications received after the application deadline will not be accepted. More information regarding CDCA registration can be found [here](#).

Since state licensing board requirements are subject to change it is important that, in addition to using the following resources, you should check the specific requirements of the state you intend to practice in.

- [WREB Member states](#)
- [CDCA Member states](#)
- [State Dental Boards](#)

Information Adapted from:
<http://www.wreb.org/>
<http://www.cdcaexams.org/>