DAT Update and Trends

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American Dental Association

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March 17-21, 2012

Orlando, Florida
Agenda

1. Questions about the DAT

2. DAT Trends
Questions about the DAT

Questions posted on the AFAFSA Listserv
February 2012

ADA American Dental Association®
When was the last DAT Review?

- Review process is ongoing
- Test constructors review
  - Items
  - Content
    - science textbooks
    - science courses
New questions are developed using the Test Item Development Guide.
How is the implementation of critical thinking content progressing?

- Proposed changes accepted
- Critical thinking content included in Quantitative Reasoning Test (QRT) by
  - Elimination of numerical calculations, conversions, geometry, and trigonometry
  - Addition of data analysis, data interpretation, data sufficiency, quantitative comparison, more critical thinking items in probability and statistics.
Time Table for Implementing Critical Thinking Content

• **2013** - Critical thinking items will be pretested.

• **2013-2014** - Pretesting data collected, item performance and quality evaluated.
  – Pretested items scores will not be part of QRT score.

• **2015** critical thinking included in QRT score.

Check the *DAT Newsletter* for project progress.
What and Who is DAT Advisory Committee?

- Committee on Educational Measurement and Testing (F) oversees policies and procedures of the DAT Program.

- Five members have knowledge and experience in
  - Dental school admission procedures
  - Testing
  - Dental education

- Members appointed for four years

- Liaisons to Committee
  - National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions
  - Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
  - Canadian Dental Association
How are Committee F members selected?

- **Committee F**
  - Solicits nominations
  - Reviews nominations
  - Makes recommendations
  - Sends recommendations to CDEL

- **CDEL**
  - Reviews Committee F recommendations

- **ADA Trustees and House of Delegates**
  - Approves Committee F appointments
Does the DAT predict success in dental school?

Yes - significant DAT predictors include:

- DAT science scores
- Two DAT composite scores
- Reading comprehension score
- Perceptual ability score

Can DAT demographic listings be made available earlier in the admissions cycle?

Currently available: December

Contact DAT for earlier date
Trends: Number of Test Administrations, 2002-2011
Trends: Number of Examinees, 2002-2011

- 2002: 6,341
- 2003: 7,282
- 2004: 7,986
- 2005: 8,712
- 2006: 8,934
- 2007: 8,893
- 2008: 8,964
- 2009: 8,737
- 2010: 8,585
- 2011: 8,732
Trends:
Percentage of Test Administrations by Gender 2002-2011

- 2002: Male 53.1, Female 46.9
- 2003: Male 53.4, Female 46.6
- 2004: Male 52.8, Female 47.2
- 2005: Male 52.0, Female 48.0
- 2006: Male 51.0, Female 49.0
- 2007: Male 49.8, Female 50.2
- 2008: Male 50.0, Female 50.0
- 2009: Male 51.0, Female 49.0
- 2010: Male 49.4, Female 50.6
- 2011: Male 49.5, Female 50.5
Trends: Percentage of Examinees by Race, 2002-2011

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Trends:
First-time Examinee Performance, 2002-2011

SNS  PAT  ACA

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Trends:
All Examinee Performance, 2002-2011

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DAT Resources


Acknowledgments

- Dr. Teresa A. Dolan
  Chair, Committee on Educational Measurement and Testing
  Council on Dental Education and Licensure
  Professor and Dean, University of Florida College of Dentistry

- Ms. Karen M. Hart
  Director, Council on Dental Education and Licensure
  American Dental Association

- Dr. David M. Waldschmidt
  Director, Department of Testing Services
  American Dental Association

- Dr. Carol (Nikki) Vanek
  Manager, Test Development
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- Ms. Nanci G. Yokom
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Questions?

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