

Dental Admission Test Frequently Asked Questions

Applying for the Test

I completed an electronic application, but did not receive a confirmation e-mail.

First, confirm with your credit card company that you were billed for the test. If so, please wait until after Tuesday, which is the next application processing day for the DAT. Then call the Department of Testing Services at 800.232.2162 to determine if your application has been processed.

What is my eligibility number?

Your eligibility number is your Social Security number or Social Insurance number. If you do not have one, an ID number will be assigned to you.

My credit card was charged for my application, but I cannot register through Prometric.

DAT applications are processed on Tuesdays. It can take up to 48 hours from the time your application is approved by the Department of Testing Services (DTS) for Prometric to upload your application into their system, thereby allowing you to schedule your testing appointment. If you are unable to register after the following processing day, you should call the Department of Testing Services to verify that your application has been processed.

I was billed twice for my electronic application. How do I get a refund?

Fax a brief explanation and copy of your credit card statement to 312.587.4105. Please include your name (as it appears on your application) and daytime contact information. Address the fax to the attention of DAT Refund Request.

Corrections/Changes to My Application

I have not yet taken my test, can I update my address?

Fax the request for an address change to 312.587.4105; address it to the attention of DAT Address Update Request.

I have already taken my test, can you update my address?

Fax the request for an address change to 312.587.4105; address it to the attention of DAT Score Report Address Update. Score reports will be mailed to the address indicated on the initial application.

My name is reversed or has changed. Can you correct it?

Fax the request for a name correction to 312.587.4105 (with any appropriate documentation such as a marriage certificate or court documents); address it to the attention of DAT Name Change Request.

General Information

Can you send me information about the test?

The Dental Admission Testing Program *Examinee Guide* is available as a downloadable PDF document at www.ada.org. Print copies are available by written request to the Department of Testing Services, American Dental Association, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 600, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2678.

What is on the test?

The Dental Admission Test consists of 280 multiple-choice items distributed across a battery of four tests: the Survey of the Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability Test, Reading Comprehension Test, and Quantitative Reasoning Test. The Test Specifications list the topic areas covered in each of the four tests and are located in the *Examinee Guide* at <http://www.ada.org>.

How many questions are in each section of the test?

The Survey of the Natural Sciences consists of Biology (40 items), General Chemistry (30 items), and Organic Chemistry (30 items) for a total of 100 items.

The Perceptual Ability Test is comprised of six subtests: apertures, orthographic projections, angle discriminations, paper folding items, cube-counting items, and spatial form development items. Each subtest has 15 items for a total of 90 items.

The Reading Comprehension Test consists of 50 test items distributed across three reading passages.

The Quantitative Reasoning Test consists of 40 test items, 10 of which are word problems and 30 are computation problems.

What types of test questions are on the test?

All items on the Dental Admission Test are in the multiple-choice format. Sample test items are in the *Examinee Guide* at <http://www.ada.org>.

How long does the test take?

The DAT is a computer-based examination, which consists of four tests with a 15-minute optional break provided after the first two tests. The examinee is given 90 minutes to complete the Survey of the Natural Sciences, consisting of 100 test items distributed across Biology (40 items), General Chemistry (30 items), and Organic Chemistry (30 items). The Perceptual Ability Test consists of 90 items distributed across six subtests. The examinee has 60 minutes to complete this test before an optional 15-minute break. After the optional break, the Reading Comprehension Test is administered for 60 minutes across three reading passages with a total of 50 items. The final test is the Quantitative Reasoning Test, in which the examinee is given 45 minutes to complete 40 items.

Please refer to the *Examinee Guide* for detailed information on the administration of the examination: <http://www.ada.org>.

Where can I find study materials?

The *Examinee Guide* includes sample test items and test specifications. Tutorials, located on the test pages at <http://www.ada.org> are designed to familiarize examinees with the format of the questions on the computerized tests. Reference texts are cited at <http://www.ada.org>.

Examinees are cautioned that obtaining or sharing confidential, unreleased test content violates *Examination Regulations* and carries significant penalties. Further, material obtained from sources such as Internet chat rooms, blogs or information-sharing sites may be inaccurate and/or out-dated and could mislead or disadvantage test-takers.

Retesting

How long do I have to wait to retest?

You must wait 90 days between testing attempts. Examinees who have attended three or more tests must apply for special permission to take the test again. In order to take the DAT again, you must demonstrate that you are applying to dental school. Please refer to the *Examinee Guide* for specific details on this additional eligibility requirement.

Refunds

Are refunds available?

Test fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Scheduling a Testing Appointment

When is the DAT offered?

The DAT is a computer-delivered test administered by Prometric test centers in the United States and its territories including Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Testing appointments are available year-round. Most centers have evening and weekend appointments.

How do I schedule a testing appointment with Prometric?

You will receive an e-mail that contains instructions for scheduling your test date after your application has been processed (Tuesdays). If you do not receive an e-mail, contact the Department of Testing Services to verify that your application has been approved. Scheduling can be completed by contacting the Prometric Call Center at 800.688.5804 or at www.prometric.com.

I called the Prometric 800 number, but I cannot get through. What can I do?

You can schedule electronically at www.prometric.com. Otherwise, please call Prometric when call volume is lower. Call volume is higher on Monday and Tuesday of each week and hold times are considerably less after Tuesday of each week. The Call Center is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Prometric says I am not in their system, what can I do?

If your application has been approved, your name and Social Security number/Social Insurance number are correct, and it has been more than 48 hours since your application has been processed, please contact Prometric's Candidate Care hotline at 800.853.6769.

Scoring/Score Reports

How is the test scored?

DAT scores are based on the number of correct responses, and reported as standard scores, not raw scores. Standard scores allow the comparison of one examinee's performance with the performance of other DAT examinees. Standard scores range from 1 to 30; a score of 17 typically signifies the average national performance. There are no passing or failing scores. Percentile equivalents are shown for each standard score on the examinee's score report. Please refer to the *Examinee Guide* at www.ada.org for detailed scoring information.

Is the DAT scored on a curve?

DAT performance is based on an ability-referenced system and reported in standard scores. Standard scores also provide normative information about knowledge or problem-

solving skills that examinees have demonstrated thereby allowing a direct comparison of an examinee's ability with other examinee's abilities.

When will I receive my score report?

Unofficial score reports, generated at the test center, are provided for the examinee upon completion of the test. Official score reports are sent directly to those schools requested on the application approximately three to four weeks after the test.

If I take the DAT and do not do as well as I would like, can I get my scores voided?

Once an examinee has tested, those scores become a part of the examinee's permanent record and cannot be voided.

How can I check to see which schools I requested to receive my scores?

When completing your DAT application or score report request, please print a copy of your confirmation page to ensure that you have a record of which schools you requested to receive score reports. There is no other method or opportunity available to confirm and/or review this information.

I have not tested yet; can I change the schools that I have requested on my DAT application?

Once your application has been submitted, changes will not be made. You may however request additional score reports for an additional fee. Please see www.ada.org for the electronic or paper score report request.

I made a mistake on my electronic score report request; can I change the schools I listed?

Please refer to the agreement in the electronic score report request form. By checking the box, you confirm that all information on your request is accurate and you understand that changes will not be made nor refunds issued, once your request has been submitted.

I have tested more than once; can I choose which scores are sent out?

You cannot choose to send any one particular set of scores. Our scoring system reports the four most recent sets of scores.

How do I submit an electronic request for additional score reports?

You may use the electronic score report system. Visit www.ada.org > Dental Admission Test > Request Score Reports (electronic). Score reports may also be requested by U. S. mail using the PDF form located at the same web address; payable by money order only.

Test Center Procedures

What constitutes proper identification for the test?

You are required to present two forms of ID; one must be a government issued ID, with a signature and photo, and the other must have your signature. Both must be current; expired IDs will not be accepted. **The name on your application must match the name on your IDs exactly, or you will be denied testing.**

What can I bring with me into the test center?

No personal belongings are permitted in the secure testing area. Any personal belongings brought to the test center must be stored in a locker provided by the testing center.

Items prohibited from the secure testing area include, **but are not limited to:**

- a. books, notes, study materials, scratch paper, dental instruments, models or materials
- b. slide rules, calculating devices, rulers or other measuring devices
- c. electronic devices such as telephones, pagers, recording devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), radios or stereos with headsets
- d. tote bags, purses, wallets, backpack, briefcases
- e. highlighters, pens, erasers, mechanical pencils, dictionaries, and translators
- f. food, candy, gum, water or other beverages
- g. outerwear such as coats, jacket, gloves, hats

Violations may result in the voiding of your test scores and waiting up to two years to retest. Please refer to the *Examinee Guide* for more specific information.

Testing Accommodations

I require accommodations for testing, what do I need to do to receive accommodations?

When completing your test application, indicate that you will require testing accommodations (check the box on the electronic application or complete Box #6 on the paper application). Once you submit the application, you must provide documentation, including a personal statement outlining what specific accommodations you are requesting (i.e. extra time, separate room, etc.), previous accommodations granted to you, and a letter with supporting diagnostic evaluations from the licensed healthcare professional who diagnosed your disability or condition. Please refer to the *Examinee Guide* for specific details.