

## **National Board Dental Examination Part II Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Applying for the Examination**

**I completed an electronic application, but did not receive a confirmation e-mail or my credit card was charged, but I cannot register through Prometric.**

NBDE Part II applications are processed on Tuesdays. It can take up to 48 hours from the time your application is approved by the Joint Commission 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 Joint Commission to verify that 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.

**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 NBDE II Refund Request.

### **Corrections/Changes to My Application**

**I have not yet taken my examination, can I update my address?**

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

**I have already taken my examination, can you update my address?**

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

**My name is reversed or my name 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 NBDE II Name Change Request.

## **Examination Rules and Regulations**

### **What is the purpose and intent of the National Board Examination Regulations?**

*Examination Regulations* are established to ensure that examination results are valid. This means that a candidate's score is an accurate reflection of his or her knowledge and understanding. Candidates are expected to recall and interpret information and respond to examination questions without assistance or the advantage of having prior knowledge of questions or answers. The *Examination Regulations* are intended to prevent candidates from retaining or remembering questions and sharing them with other candidates and to prevent candidates from obtaining unreleased questions or answers from any source.

The National Board examinations are criterion-referenced, i.e., candidates are not graded on a curve but against a pre-determined standard. *Examination Regulations* are also intended to provide all candidates with an equivalent opportunity to gain National Board certification; no candidate should have an unfair advantage over others.

All examination materials including released materials that are made available by the Joint Commission through various authorized channels, are copyrighted to protect the security and confidentiality of the examination content, as well as the investment of resources, primarily from candidate fees, that support the examination program.

### **How are candidates informed of the Examination Regulations?**

The *Examination Regulations* are provided in writing in the *Candidate Guide* for each examination. The guides are provided on the testing area of the ADA website, [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org). Information in the guides is updated annually; but the general nature and intent of the regulations remains the same as described above. Information about Prometric Test Center rules is available on the Prometric website, [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com). Each examination session begins with a confidentiality statement that candidates must agree to as a condition of testing.

### **What happens if a candidate violates Examination Regulations?**

When the Joint Commission receives information that indicates possible inappropriate behavior or violation of *Examination Regulations*, the candidate's results may be withheld or invalidated. Established Joint Commission regulations identify prohibited activities and behavior and related penalties. In most cases, scores are voided and the candidate must wait up to two years to retest. When scores are withheld or invalidated, the candidate is notified of the regulation that has been breached and the related penalty. Joint Commission policies provide an appeal process and candidates who are notified that their scores have been withheld or invalidated receive information about the appeal process. If a candidate's scores have been reported prior to notification of an irregularity, submission of an appeal will stay the decision to withhold or void scores until such time as the appeal is decided.

**Is it acceptable for candidates to remember and share unreleased questions or to solicit or use unreleased questions that have been recalled or obtained by others?**

No. This violates the *Confidentiality Agreement* that all candidates sign before they begin either the examination. In addition, all examinations are protected by Federal Copyright Law and sharing or soliciting recalled questions violates the law. These practices are also unethical in that they violate principles of veracity (truthfulness) and justice (fairness).

**Why is it unethical to ask someone for unreleased, recalled questions or to otherwise obtain and use recalled questions?**

First, all candidates are expected to pass the examination on their own merit without assistance. Members of the public who entrust dentists with their well-being expect that they are trustworthy and competent individuals. The purpose of the examination is to ensure that you, as a candidate for licensure, have achieved entry-level competence. By asking previous test-takers to share unreleased questions, or by obtaining them, you undermine the very purpose of the examination.

**What information can I share about the examination?**

You can tell others whether you thought it was difficult or easy. You can tell them that you felt well prepared, or not. You can share any broad topic areas that are also listed in the National Board examination specifications that are published in the Candidate Guide or on the Joint Commission website, e.g., osteogenesis, premolar tooth morphology. You *cannot* describe specific questions and answers or context of questions related to these topics. If another student or member of the faculty suggests that you should remember and/or share confidential examination information with other students or faculty, you should decline and explain that this is not permitted.

**What if some one offers unreleased questions to me?**

You should not agree to accept unreleased examination items or confidential examination information or participate in the exchange of this information. If you receive unsolicited confidential or unreleased examination materials, you should inform the dean or associate dean at your school or contact the Joint Commission office. They may request that you forward the materials for evaluation to determine whether the materials are indeed unreleased or confidential. Failure to do so could inadvertently implicate you in activity that violates *Examination Regulations* and may jeopardize your ability to achieve National Board certification and licensure.

## General Information

### **Can you send me a *Candidate Guide*?**

The *Candidate Guide* is available as a PDF document at <http://www.ada.org>. Print copies are available by written request to the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 600, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2678.

### **What is on the examination?**

The Part II examination has 500 test items in each of nine discipline areas: endodontics, operative dentistry, oral & maxillofacial surgery, oral diagnosis, orthodontics-pediatric dentistry, patient management, periodontics, pharmacology, and prosthodontics. Test items in these nine areas are intermixed throughout the examination.

The examination is administered in three sessions over 1.5 days. The first day consists of two sessions; each session has 200 discipline-based test items with a one-hour scheduled break between sessions. The candidate has 3.5 hours to complete each session of the examination. There are 100 case-based items administered on the second day associated with case materials: a patient history, dental chart, clinical radiographs, and optional intraoral photographs. The *Test Specifications* and *Sample Item Formats* located in the *Candidate Guide* list the topic areas in each discipline and the corresponding number of items.

All items on the Part II examination are in the multiple-choice format. The examination has both independent discipline-based items (80%) and case-based items (20%). A case consists of a group of items associated with a patient.

### **Where can I find study materials?**

The *Candidate Guide* includes sample test items and test specifications. Tutorials, located on the examination pages at <http://www.ada.org> are designed to familiarize candidates with the format of the questions on the computerized examinations. Reference texts are cited at <http://www.ada.org> > Dental Professionals > National Board Exams > NBDE II > Additional Resources > Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations > NBDE II Reference Texts.

Released item sets may be purchased for the NBDE Part II through the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) at [www.asdanet.org](http://www.asdanet.org) or 800-621-8099, extension 2795.

## **International Dentist Applying for Examination**

### **I am an international dentist. What is required to practice dentistry in the United States?**

Please contact the dental board of the specific state in which you wish to obtain licensure to determine individual state requirements regarding the practice of dentistry. State board contact information is located at <http://www.aadexam.org>.

### **Am I eligible to take the National Board Dental Examination Part II?**

All graduates of non-accredited programs (dental schools located outside the U.S. or Canada) must have their credentials evaluated by the Educational Credential Evaluators ([www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org)). Please refer to the *Candidate Guide* for specific information. Additional licensure information is located at <http://www.ada.org> > Licensure > U.S. Licensure for International Dentists.

### **Have you received my ECE report?**

Call the Joint Commission office to determine the status of your application. If the Joint Commission office has approved your application, your ECE report has been received. If your application has not been approved, a representative will be able to verify whether or not it has been received. If it has been received, your application will be approved during the next application processing day (Tuesdays).

### **I previously applied for an examination; do I need to submit a new ECE report?**

If you have previously taken an examination, you do not need to submit an ECE; however, you must indicate on your application that you have taken the examination before. It is advisable to call the Joint Commission office to confirm that your application has been processed.

### **If I passed Part I and Part II and I retake Part I and fail, are my Part II scores still valid?**

Your Part II scores remain intact, but your *most recent* Part I scores may be unacceptable for licensure. Please contact each State Board that you are seeking or have licensure in for any possible ramifications regarding your dental license.

## **Re-examination**

### **How long do I have to wait to retest?**

You must wait 90 days between examination attempts. National Board candidates who have failed NBDE Part II three times must wait 12 months before retesting. Please refer to the *Candidate Guide* for specific details. Beginning January 2010, a candidate who

has received a passing score may not retest unless he or she provides evidence that he or she must retest for purposes of licensure.

## **Refunds**

### **Are refunds available?**

Examination fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

## **Scheduling an Appointment with Prometric**

### **How do I schedule a testing appointment with Prometric?**

A letter, which contains instructions for scheduling your test date, will be sent to you after your application has been processed (Tuesdays). If you do not receive a letter, you should contact the Joint Commission office 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](http://www.prometric.com).

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

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 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 or 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.

### **Can I schedule Day 1 and Day 2 on non-consecutive days and at different test centers?**

All sections of Part II must be taken at the same testing center and on consecutive days.

## **Scoring/Score Reports**

### **How is the Part II examination scored?**

A candidate's total score is reported as a standard score, which has been converted from the total number of correct responses. Standard scores range from 49 to 99. The minimum passing score on the examination is 75. The raw score needed to achieve a particular standard score is based on the judgment of experts.

Please refer to the *Candidate Guide* and Technical Report at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) for details on scoring National Board Dental Examinations.

**Are the scores from Part II based on a curve?**

Part II examination scores are criterion-referenced and not based on a percentage or a curve. A candidate whose score is equal to or above a standard score of 75 understands important information from basic biomedical, dental, and dental sciences and has the ability to apply such information in a problem-solving context.

**Does a total score on Part II represent either number of correct answers or percentage correct on the examination?**

Neither, the Part II examination score is a standard score, not the number of correct answers or the percentage correct. The raw score is converted to a scaled score and reported in a score ranging from 49-99.

**Does a total score of 74 mean only one score point (one item or answer) below the passing score of 75 on the examination?**

The standard scores range from 49 and 99. The score is based upon the number of correct answers (raw score). Each standard score value represents a range of raw scores. A candidate whose total score is 74 most likely missed the passing score of 75 by more than one answer. Examination results are audited thoroughly before scores are reported.

**I already checked the *Candidate Guide* and the Technical Reports; however, I still have questions regarding my score report. Would you answer my questions over the phone?**

Please submit your questions or concerns in writing and forward them to the Joint Commission office by U.S. mail or fax.

Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations/Score Report Question  
211 E. Chicago Avenue, Suite 600  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2678  
fax 312.587.4105

**When will I receive my score report?**

Official score reports are mailed approximately three to four weeks after the examination.

**Have you received my request for scores? Has it been processed?**

Requests are mailed approximately 10 business days from the date the request was received. For further questions, contact the Joint Commission office at 800.232.1694.

### **To which State Board did I request or who have I requested my scores be sent?**

To ensure that you have a record of which agencies you requested score reports be sent, please print a copy of your application confirmation page or score report request. Please keep a copy for your records.

### **Did I pass the examination?**

Joint Commission regulations prohibit reporting scores to candidates by telephone, fax or e-mail.

### **I have not tested yet; can I change who I requested a score report be sent to?**

Once your application has been submitted, changes are not allowed. You may however, request additional score reports. Please visit [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) to obtain an electronic or paper score report request.

### **I made a mistake on my electronic score report request; can I change who I requested a score report be sent?**

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

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

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

### **How do I request my National Board scores?**

Visit [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) > Dental Professionals > National Board Exams > NBDE II > Request Score Reports. Please read and follow the directions.

### **How is my score reported to the State Board?**

Official score reports are mailed approximately three to four weeks after the examination and the most recent score is always reported.

## **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. Both IDs must have a signature and photo or you must have one photo with signature ID and two signature IDs. All IDs must be valid, 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.** For specific information, please review the *Candidate Guide*.

### **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. For specific information, please review the NBDE II *Candidate Guide*.

## **Testing Accommodations**

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

When completing your examination application, indicate that you will require testing accommodations. 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 *Candidate Guide* for specific details.