

LICENSE RECOGNITION: *DENTISTS*

Dental boards in **46** states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico grant licenses to dentists to practice in any setting, who are currently licensed and in active, continuous practice for a specified period of time (typically 5 years) in another jurisdiction, without further theoretical and clinical examination.¹ The license recognition system, often referred to as licensure by credentials, may also be referred to as licensure by reciprocity, endorsement, or criteria.

In granting licensure by credentials, the Board of Dentistry makes a determination that the applicant is currently licensed in a state that has equivalent licensure standards. Technically, licensure by reciprocity refers to a situation in which a jurisdiction has statutory authority to grant licensure recognition only to licensees of states that grant similar recognition to licensees from the receiving jurisdiction. Such decisions may be based on agreements between state boards. These states are indicated by an asterisk (*).

The dental boards in the jurisdictions listed below will grant license recognition to dentists.

Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, DC*, Georgia⁶, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine⁵, Maryland, Massachusetts*, Michigan, Minnesota³, Mississippi*, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁶, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania*, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Four states and the U.S. Virgin Islands do not currently grant an unrestricted dental license by credentials: **Delaware, Florida, Hawaii² and Nevada⁷.**

For information concerning a state's current practices and specific criteria for license recognition, dentists are strongly urged to contact the dental board of the state in which license recognition is sought.

¹ This licensure by credentials requirement of active, continuous practice for a specified period of time, should not be confused with the authority that state dental boards possess in granting initial licensure. For initial licensure, state law permits boards to accept the examination results of a regional dental clinical testing agency for a period of time (again generally 5 years) whether or not the applicant is licensed or has practiced in another state. The only requirement is that the state will accept the results of that regional exam.

² **Hawaii** in 2004 passed a community service license law which allows dentists with proper credentials to come to Hawaii to work in federally qualified health centers, native Hawaiian health centers and post-secondary dental training programs ONLY.

³ **Minnesota** in addition to the traditional licensure by credential law, a "guest licensure" law was enacted in 2002 that allows the dental board to expedite the issuance of a limited license to dentists from adjoining states to facilitate access to care.

⁴ **Maryland** requires applicants for licensure by credentials to successfully complete the Northeast Regional Examining Board's Dental Simulated Clinical Exercise (DSCE).

⁵ **Maine** has authority to license Canadian Dentists by Credentials as of 2004.

⁶ **Georgia & North Carolina** require credentialed dentists to establish active practices within a certain time period.

⁷ **Nevada** passed a licensure by credential law in 2001 that sunset at the end of June 2006. NV will only issue a license after the applicant for dental or dental hygiene licensure passes the NV clinical board exam or has passed the WREB exam within the past 5 years .