

## Summary of State Educational Requirements for International Dentists

**This information is subject to change—the reader must contact the state dental board directly to verify the current licensure requirements and to obtain the complete information.**

**“Accredited” refers to a program that is accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation or the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.**

STATE	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
<b>Alabama (AL)</b>	<p>Must complete at least two academic years of formal clinical training in a United States or Canadian accredited institution and the awarding or receiving of a D.M.D. or D.D.S. degree from said United States or Canadian accredited institution shall be required.</p> <p>In the event that the applicant has been tested, licensed or qualified in some other State of the United States or its' districts, territories, or possessions, the Board may, but shall not be obligated to, accept the pretesting credentials and evidence submitted to such other States provided that such credentials and pretesting meet the minimum standards of the Board as set forth in this rule and by law.</p>
<b>Alaska (AK)</b>	Must be a graduate of a dental school accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association.
<b>Arizona (AZ)</b>	Must have graduated and attained a DDS or DMD degree from a dental school accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation.
<b>Arkansas (AR)</b>	Must be a graduate from a college of dentistry accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery or Doctor of Dental Medicine.
<b>California (CA)</b>	Must provide satisfactory evidence of having passed Part I and II of the National Board Written Examination by December 31, 2003. Results must have been on file with the Board by July 12, 2004; otherwise, applicant must have two years supplemental education in accredited program. The Dental Board has authority to approve international dental schools and graduates of those approved schools may apply directly for a California dental license without further education in an ADA accredited school. Currently, the University de La Salle in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico is the only approved program.
<b>Colorado (CO)</b>	Must have received a Doctor of Dental Surgery or Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from a dental school or college, which at the time of graduation, was accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation.
<b>Connecticut (CT)</b>	<p>Must successfully complete not less than two years of graduate dental training as a resident dentist in a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation; <u>and</u></p> <p>Successfully completed at a level greater than the second post-graduate year, not less than two years of residency or fellowship training accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation in a community or school-based health center affiliated with and under the supervision of a school of dentistry in Connecticut <u>or</u> has served as a full-time faculty member for at least three years in a school of dentistry in this state. Must provide verification of all licenses ever held by the applicant (current or expired) from each state or territory in which the applicant is or has ever been licensed.</p>
<b>Delaware (DE)</b>	Must have received a degree in dentistry from any dental college or university accredited by ADA's Commission on Dental Accreditation.
<b>District of Columbia (DC)</b>	Must successfully complete an educational program accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation and have received a U.S., including U.S. territories or Canadian issued DDS or DMD degree.
<b>Florida (FL)</b>	Must complete a program of study, as defined by the board by rule, at an accredited American dental school and demonstrates receipt of a D.D.S. or D.M.D.; or a 2-year supplemental dental education program at an accredited dental school and receives a dental diploma, degree, or certificate as evidence of program completion.
<b>Georgia (GA)</b>	Must successfully complete at an accredited dental school approved by the board the last two years of a program leading to the doctor of dental surgery (D.D.S.) or doctor of dental medicine (D.M.D.) degree.
<b>Hawaii (HI)</b>	Must be a graduate of a dental college accredited by the ADA.

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<b>Idaho (ID)</b>	The Idaho Board of Dentistry will approve for licensure only graduates of dental schools accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation.
<b>Illinois (IL)</b>	Must complete a minimum of two academic years of general dental clinical training at a dental college or school in the United States or Canada approved by the Department; however, an accredited advanced dental education program approved by the Department of no less than two years may be substituted for the two academic years of general dental clinical training and an applicant who was enrolled for not less than one year in an approved clinical program prior to January 1, 1993 at an Illinois dental college or school shall be required to complete only that program. (Refer to Section 9 of the Illinois Dental Practice Act for more information about licensure).
<b>Indiana (IN)</b>	Must be a graduate of an ADA accredited program and have received a DDS or DMD degree.
<b>Iowa (IA)</b>	Must complete a full-time undergraduate supplemental dental education program of at least two academic years at an accredited dental college with didactic and clinical education to the level of a Doctor of Dental Surgery or Doctor of Dental Medicine degree graduate. Must receive a dental diploma, degree or certificate from the accredited program upon completion.
<b>Kansas (KS)</b>	Must have graduated from an ADA accredited program with a DDS or DMD degree.
<b>Kentucky (KY)</b>	Must complete two years post-graduate training in a general dentistry program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
<b>Louisiana (LA)</b>	Must complete two years of additional education at the postdoctoral level at a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The program must be a minimum of two years in length and must be a continuing program which is at the same institution and is for two years. The Board does not accept the accumulation of programs which are less than two years in length to satisfy this requirement. The Board requires those dentists to practice in the field in which they obtained the two years of post-graduate training. In other words, if a foreign trained dentist completes an approved program in endodontics, he or she must limit their practice to endodontics. If that dentist studies in a general practice residency program, he or she must practice general dentistry.
<b>Maine (ME)</b>	Must have received a D.M.D. or D.D.S. degree from an undergraduate dental school accredited by the A.D.A. Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and have provided a statement under seal from the Office of the Dean of the school affirming that the applicant has met all applicable degree requirements.
<b>Massachusetts (MA)</b>	<p><u>Dental Limited License Registration:</u> Applicants for licensure from non ADA accredited programs may request limited license registration. A limited licensee is limited to providing dental services only in a Massachusetts approved hospital, school, or government clinic. Once a position in a hospital, school or clinic is assured, a Limited License application may be submitted. Practice in a private office is not permitted. Limited licensees work under the supervision of a Massachusetts licensed dentist. Limited licenses are valid for one year and may be renewed for up to five years. To extend the license beyond the five year period the applicant is required to petition the Board for approval to take the clinical exam administered by NERB.</p> <p><u>Dentists Applying for Advanced Standing:</u> Foreign trained dentists may apply for advanced standing in an ADA accredited dental program in the United States that has a program for foreign-trained dentists. Usually at least two years of study is required to obtain a degree at an ADA accredited dental program but the dental school determines how much credit is given to the student for schooling in his or her native country. Foreign trained dentists enrolled in a dental school program are permitted to apply for a dental hygiene license while in an advanced standing program. To practice as a hygienist the applicant is required to successfully pass the Massachusetts Only Dental Hygiene Exam administered by NERB.</p> <p><u>Faculty Practice Registration:</u> When a foreign trained dentist has been appointed to the Faculty at a dental school he or she may apply for a faculty limited license. Faculty licenses are renewed on a yearly basis but unlike the limited license can be renewed indefinitely. As with limited licensees, faculty practice applicants are limited to a hospital, school, or clinic setting.</p>
<b>Maryland (MD)</b>	Maryland law allows for graduates of dental schools other than those located in the

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	U.S. or Canada to obtain a limited license if they have successfully completed at least a two-year pediatric residency program at a dental school or hospital authorized by any state and which is recognized by the Board, and either is a pediatric fellow, or has successfully completed a pediatric fellowship at the University of Maryland Dental School, and is contractually obligated to provide pediatric dental services for at least two years in either a public health dental clinic operated by the State or county or municipality of the State, or in a federally qualified health center or Maryland qualified health center only to Medicaid, uninsured or indigent patients. The Board may issue a general license to a limited licensee who was granted such a waiver if the limited licensee successfully completed the two-year contractual obligation to provide pediatric dental care, and who passes the North East Regional Board Examination, National Board Dental Examinations and the Maryland Dental Jurisprudence Examination. In addition, the candidate for the general license must demonstrate oral English competency by scoring 220 or better for overall comprehension and 2.0 or better for pronunciation, grammar, and fluency on the test of spoken English administered by the Educational Testing Service.
<b>Michigan (MI)</b>	Must successfully complete a minimum 2-year program in dentistry in an ADA accredited program that leads to the awarding of a doctor of dental surgery or doctor of dental medicine degree or a minimum 2-year master's degree or certificate program that leads to the awarding of a degree or certificate from an accredited dental specialty program.
<b>Minnesota (MN)</b>	Minnesota law allows internationally-educated dental graduates to apply for Minnesota licensure without additional education. There are no formal rules for the request for licensure process. The Board will review application materials on a case-by-case basis.
<b>Mississippi (MS)</b>	Must have completed not less than six (6) academic years of postsecondary study and graduated from a foreign dental school that is recognized by the licensure authorities in that country and present documentation of having completed at least two (2) or more years of full-time post-doctoral dental education in a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.
<b>Missouri (MO)</b>	Must be a graduate of and hold a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree or a Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree from an accredited dental school or complete additional training in an accredited program that results in a DDS or DMD.
<b>Montana (MT)</b>	Must be a graduate of a dental school that has been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
<b>Nebraska (NE)</b>	Must be a graduate of an accredited dental school or college.
<b>Nevada (NV)</b>	Must have a D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree from an accredited dental school. MAY be eligible for specialty licensure by credentials if applicant has graduated from an accredited dental specialty program and is a board certified specialist.
<b>New Hampshire (NH)</b>	Must be a graduate of a general dentistry program of at least two years duration recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation [Pursuant to RSA 317-A:8 and Den 301.02(j)].
<b>New Jersey (NJ)</b>	Must complete two years of additional training in a Commission on Dental Accreditation approved program and must receive a D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree in order to qualify.
<b>New Mexico (NM)</b>	Must be a graduate and receive a diploma from an accredited dental school.
<b>New York (NY)</b>	To meet the professional education requirement, the applicant shall present evidence of the completion of not less than 60 semester hours of pre-professional education including courses in general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology or zoology and physics and a program of professional education consisting of either: the completion of a program of dental education of not less than four academic years, or the equivalent thereof, registered by the department or accredited by an accrediting organization acceptable to the department; or the completion of not less than four academic years of dental education satisfactory to the department, culminating in a degree, diploma or certificate in dentistry recognized by the appropriate civil authorities of the country in which the school is located as acceptable for entry into practice in the country in which the school is located.  Where a program of dental education is completed in an unregistered and

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	<p>unaccredited foreign dental school as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the applicant shall complete not less than two academic years of study satisfactory to the department in a registered or accredited dental school program including such subjects as may be necessary for certification by such registered or accredited school that the candidate has achieved the level of knowledge and clinical proficiency expected of a graduate of the school. Courses failed in a school of dentistry, for which credit has been granted toward meeting the requirements of another school of dentistry may not be counted toward meeting the requirements of this Part.</p> <p>A program of dental education shall be considered completed upon certification of completion by the school in which such program was taken and proof that the applicant has been awarded the appropriate dental degree, diploma or certificate.</p>
<b>North Carolina (NC)</b>	<p>Must complete at least two years in a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, pass Board approved written and clinical examinations, and graduate with a dental degree from that dental school.</p>
<b>North Dakota (ND)</b>	<p>Must hold a degree or diploma from a school that is recognized by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation.</p>
<b>Ohio (OH)</b>	<p>Applicant must send a certified attestation, acceptable to the Board, from the faculty of an accredited dental college, that she/he completed a laboratory examination and clinical training in all phases of general dentistry, and that she/he possesses clinical skills at least equal to the graduates of that school. Since the vast majority of American dental schools do not offer a laboratory examination, and the laboratory examinations that are offered may not be accepted by the Ohio Board, it is recommended that the applicant enroll in a two-year program in an accredited dental school that includes clinical training, and which is commensurate with the final two years of dental school.</p>
<b>Oklahoma (OK)</b>	<p>Must be a graduate of an accredited dental school in the United States or Canada and received a DDS or DMD degree.</p>
<b>Oregon (OR)</b>	<p>Must have completed a predoctoral dental education program of not less than two years accredited by the ADA.</p> <p>For specialty licensure, must have completed a predoctoral dental education program of not less than two years at an ADA accredited dental school; show evidence of licensure as a general dentist in another state or have successfully passed the clinical examination administered by WREB within the five years immediately preceding application, and proof of satisfactory completion of an ADA accredited post-graduate specialty program.</p>
<b>Pennsylvania (PA)</b>	<p>Must submit credentials to an accredited or provisionally accredited school and obtain additional preclinical and clinical training that will lead to the awarding of the D.M.D. or D.D.S. degree by that school.</p>
<b>Puerto Rico (PR)</b>	<p>Graduates from institutions not recognized by the Board of Dental Examiners may be accepted after completing at least two academic years in an accredited education institution under an advanced standing program and meeting all other statutory requirements. Post-graduate programs in dental specialties are not accepted in lieu of the advanced standing program.</p>
<b>Rhode Island (RI)</b>	<p>Must be a graduate of a school of dentistry accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation or its designated agency and approved by the Board.</p>
<b>South Carolina (SC)</b>	<p>Must be a graduate of a dental college accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation.</p>
<b>South Dakota (SD)</b>	<p>Must submit certification from an accredited dental school stating that the applicant has been tested and received whatever training necessary for the school to certify, in writing, that the applicant is equal in knowledge and ability to a graduate of an accredited dental school in the United States or Canada within the five years preceding the date of application.</p>
<b>Tennessee (TN)</b>	<p>Tennessee law gives the dental board discretion to issue a limited license for the practice of dentistry in American Dental Association accredited institutions or dental education programs or in federally-designated health professional shortage areas, to a graduate of an unaccredited general dentistry program that is substantially equivalent to either a DDS or DMD degree and who successfully completed an advanced</p>

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	education program in a recognized specialty branch of dentistry from an ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation accredited program. Equivalency of the general dentistry program is determined by a Course-by-Course Evaluation Report from the Educational Credentials Evaluators, Inc.
<b>Texas (TX)</b>	Must provide proof of graduation from a dental school, <u>and</u> successfully complete training in an American Dental Association (ADA) approved specialty education program that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and that consists of at least two years of training.
<b>Utah (UT)</b>	Must submit a report by the International Credentialing Associates, Inc. confirming that the applicant's dental school has met the ADA accreditation standards at the time of graduation.
<b>Vermont (VT)</b>	Must submit evidence of successful completion of a minimum of one year of study in a school of dentistry accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, resulting in the awarding of a dental degree (D.D.S. or D.M.D.) by that institution.
<b>Virginia (VA)</b>	Must be a graduate and a holder of a diploma or a certificate from a dental program accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation, which consists of either a pre-doctoral, or a least a 12 month post-doctoral advanced general dentistry program, or a post-doctoral dental education program in a dental specialty.
<b>Virgin Islands (VI)</b>	Must be a graduate of an ADA accredited school of dentistry.
<b>Washington (WA)</b>	Must have satisfactory evidence of successful completion of at least two years of predoctoral or postdoctoral academic years at an ADA-accredited dental school.
<b>West Virginia (WV)</b>	Must be a graduate of and have a diploma from an approved dental college, school or dental department of a university.
<b>Wisconsin (WI)</b>	Must have completed a minimum of two years in an ADA-accredited dental program that results in receiving a DDS or DMD degree. NOTE: This requirement was added by motion and is currently under review.
<b>Wyoming (WY)</b>	Must have graduated and attained the degree of doctor of dental surgery or doctor of dental medicine from a college or university in the United States or Canada accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Based on the information in the chart, the following summary is provided. Please see the chart for more complete information about a state.

**Requires two years of pre-doctoral education that results in a DDS or DMD degree:** AL, CA, FL, GA, IL, IA, MA, MI, MO, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, OR, PA, PR, SD, TX, VT (one year), VA, WI and WA. (A few states may accept a diploma, degree or certificate upon completion of the program-FL, IA, MI, NY and VA).

**Requires two years of post-doctoral education:** KY, LA, MD-pediatric dentistry only, MS, TN and TX

**Accepts two years of pre-or post-doctoral education:** IL, MI, VA and WA

**Requires graduation from an accredited program with a DDS or DMD degree:** AK, AR, AZ, CO, DE, DC, HI, ID, IN, KS, ME, MT, NE, NV, NM, ND, OK, RI, SC, UT, VI, WV and WY.

**Other:**

CT requires completion of at least two-years in a residency in an accredited program AND successful completion at a level greater than the second post graduate year, at least two years in a residency or fellowship in an accredited program in Connecticut.

MN does not require additional education. Applicants are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Information current as of July 2007**