

Update on the Dental Admission Test (DAT)

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AADSAS and CAAPD Users Update and Workshop
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DAT Oversight

American Dental Association Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL)

CDEL is responsible for policies and issues related to:

- dental licensure (includes DAT Committee)
- continuing dental education/CE course listing/ADA CERP
- specialty definitions/certifying board recognition/requirements/policies
- anesthesia guidelines/policies
- allied dental career recruitment material
- dental/specialty/allied dental education policies

DAT Committee (within CDEL) oversees policies and procedures of the DAT Program and provides direction to the ADA Department of Testing Services (DTS). DTS implements DAT policies/procedures approved by CDEL.

DAT Committee

Composition

- Five appointed members based on knowledge and experience of dental education, dental school admission procedures, testing.
- One year term (4 terms maximum).
- Three liaisons:
 - National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP)
 - Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)
 - Canadian Dental Association (CDA)

Selection/appointment process

- DAT Committee
 - Solicits and reviews nominations
 - Makes recommendations to CDEL
- CDEL
 - Reviews DAT Committee nomination recommendations
- ADA Board of Trustees and House of Delegates
 - Approves DAT Committee appointments

DAT Purpose

DAT program in operation (nationally) since 1950. Detailed history in User's Manual: www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_users_manual.pdf.

Purpose: Designed to measure general academic ability, comprehension of scientific information, and perceptual ability.

Foundation upon which the test is built; drives the:

- Test content
- Administration policies and procedures
- Scoring, Reporting, and Interpretation of Scores

Validity studies show that test scores (in conjunction with academic records) are useful in predicting performance in dental school.

All dental schools require examinees to participate in the DAT Program, but test results are only one consideration in evaluating examinee admission potential.

DAT Program Operating Principles

- Set/maintain standards for profession.
- Valid, reliable, and credible test.
- Complies with *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*; incorporates industry best practices.
- Cost effective.
- Uphold security and protection of content/intellectual property.
- Examinees given reasonable opportunity to demonstrate ability/achievement. Opportunity is fair and equitable.

Testing Format

- Computer-based, administered by Prometric at test centers in the United States and territories (Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands).

DAT Testing Schedule	
Optional Tutorial	15 minutes
Survey of Natural Sciences	90 minutes
Perceptual Ability Test	60 minutes
Optional Break	15 minutes
Reading Comprehension Test	60 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning Test	45 minutes
Optional Post Test Survey	15 minutes
Total time	5 hours

Test content

Sequence of 4 Tests

Test	Number of Questions (multiple choice)
Survey of the Natural Sciences	100
Perceptual Ability Test	90
Reading Comprehension	50
Quantitative Reasoning	40
Total	280

**DAT Guide (page 5) contains detailed
Test Specifications.**

Changes to Test Content

Critical Thinking Skills

In order to enhance testing of critical thinking skills, the Quantitative Reasoning Test (QRT) specifications have been revised to eliminate the sections for numerical calculations, conversions, geometry, and trigonometry. Items will be added in the following areas: data analysis, interpretation, and sufficiency; quantitative comparison; and probability and statistics. **These changes will be implemented no sooner than 2015.**

Biology

Biology survey courses have shifted to a systems approach (i.e., focusing on complex interactions within biological systems). **Biology test specifications are being adjusted accordingly in 2015.**

Additional information will be posted on the website:

www.ada.org/dat.aspx

Test Construction

- Ongoing process.
- Multiple test forms prepared annually.
- Both new and previously used items. Items drafted by TCC.
(Test Construction Committee)
 - Review and revise items.
 - Adhere to *Test Item Development Guide*.
 - Ensure accuracy and relevance.
 - Evaluate item quality/performance via item level statistics (item discrimination and difficulty).
 - Select items per test specifications.
- New items are pretested and reviewed. Items that don't meet standards are revised/retired.
- TCCs suggest content changes. Changes approved by DAT Committee.

TCC Representation

Sample Representation

University of Illinois (Chicago, IL)	Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH)	New Mexico State University (Albuquerque, NM)
Xavier University (Cincinnati, OH)	Lincoln Land Community College (Springfield, IL)	University of Detroit–Mercy (Detroit, MI)
Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA)	University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC)	University of San Diego (San Diego, CA)
Northwestern University (Chicago, IL)	Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI)	Wingate University (Wingate, NC)
University of Wisconsin (La Crosse, WI)	Bemidji State University, (Bemidji, MN)	Seminole State College (Sanford, FL)
New Mexico State University (Albuquerque, NM)	Randolph College (Lynchburg, VA)	Murray State University (Murray, KY)

Quality Control

- DTS quality control procedures:
 - ✓ Multiple quality control procedures during test development and publishing.
 - ✓ Score audits.
 - ✓ Review post test surveys.
 - ✓ Major infrastructure improvements:
 - Application and score reporting system
 - Item banking software

Reliability and Validity

Reliability	Validity
Precision, consistency, and stability of test scores.	Validity is “the degree to which accumulated evidence and theory support specific interpretations of scores entailed by proposed uses” (AERA, APA, & NCME, 1999, p. 84).
Prerequisite of validity; test must be reliable for it to provide meaningful measurement.	Evidence supporting the use and interpretation of scores for making decisions in alignment with the test purpose (e.g. admission to dental school).
DAT reliability coefficients fall within acceptable ranges and are typical of standardized tests and the DAT program since the 1970s.	<p>Includes content validity, criterion-related validity (relationships with important outcomes).</p> <p><i>Content validity:</i> the suitability of test content relative to the purpose of the test; how well test content covers the areas required for successful performance in dental school.</p> <p><i>Criterion-related validity:</i> extent to which future dental school performance is predicted from prior test performance (DAT scores and 1st/2nd year dental school grades).</p> <p>http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_validity_study.pdf</p>

Test Administration and Fees

- Electronic process; 6 month eligibility.
- Monitor website for upcoming enhancements.
- Administered nationwide at Prometric Test Centers, any business day.
- Approximately 284 professional level testing centers in North America with 5,243 available seats.
- Secure test environment. Biometric check-in. Video monitoring.

<https://www.prometric.com/en-us/for-test-takers/prepare-for-test-day/pages/what-to-expect.aspx>

2014 Fees	
DAT (Includes unofficial personal report, official reporting to schools selected on application, and pre-health advisor report if selected)	\$385
Additional score report (per entity)	\$33
Audit Request	\$65

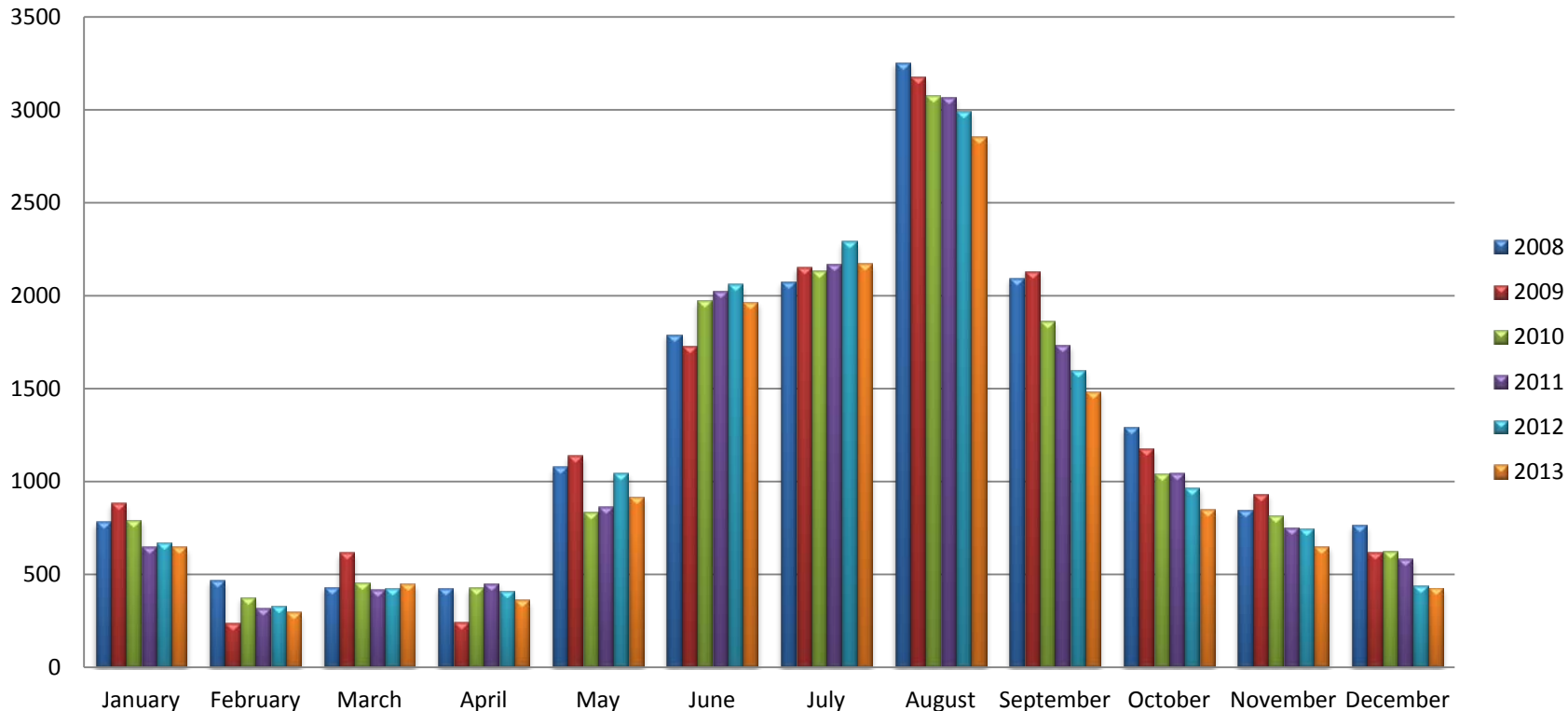
Testing Checklist

This checklist is a summary of the most frequent issues that create problems on testing day.

<p>Bring two original, current (not expired) IDs to testing center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 government issued ID with photograph and signature (driver license or passport)• 1 ID with signature (social security card, credit card, debit card, library card)	<p>Follow the instructions of the test administrator and the testing center rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Store personal items in the testing center locker and not access during testing or unscheduled break.• No cell phone use during testing or unscheduled break.• Check pockets to ensure they are empty.
<p>Name on IDs match name submitted on application <u>exactly</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Match</u>: Joseph Anthony Smith and Joseph A. Smith• <u>Non-match</u>: Joseph Anthony Smith and Joseph Smith-Johnson (hyphenated last names)	<p>Problem with testing conditions; notify the test administrator <u>immediately</u>.</p> <p>Concerns not resolved must be submitted in writing to DTS within 5 business days of testing appointment.</p>

DAT Volume

Monthly Volumes



Testing Accommodations

Accommodations are granted in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act upon submission of the following:

Testing Accommodation Request Form describes disorder/disability and need for accommodations.

Accommodations must align with the functional limitation (behavioral manifestation of disability that impedes individual's ability to function) so accommodation is applicable to impairment.

Current evaluation report (within the past five years) from licensed professional.

Must be on official letterhead with professional's credentials, signature, address, and telephone number with examinee's name, date of birth, and date of evaluation. The report must include:

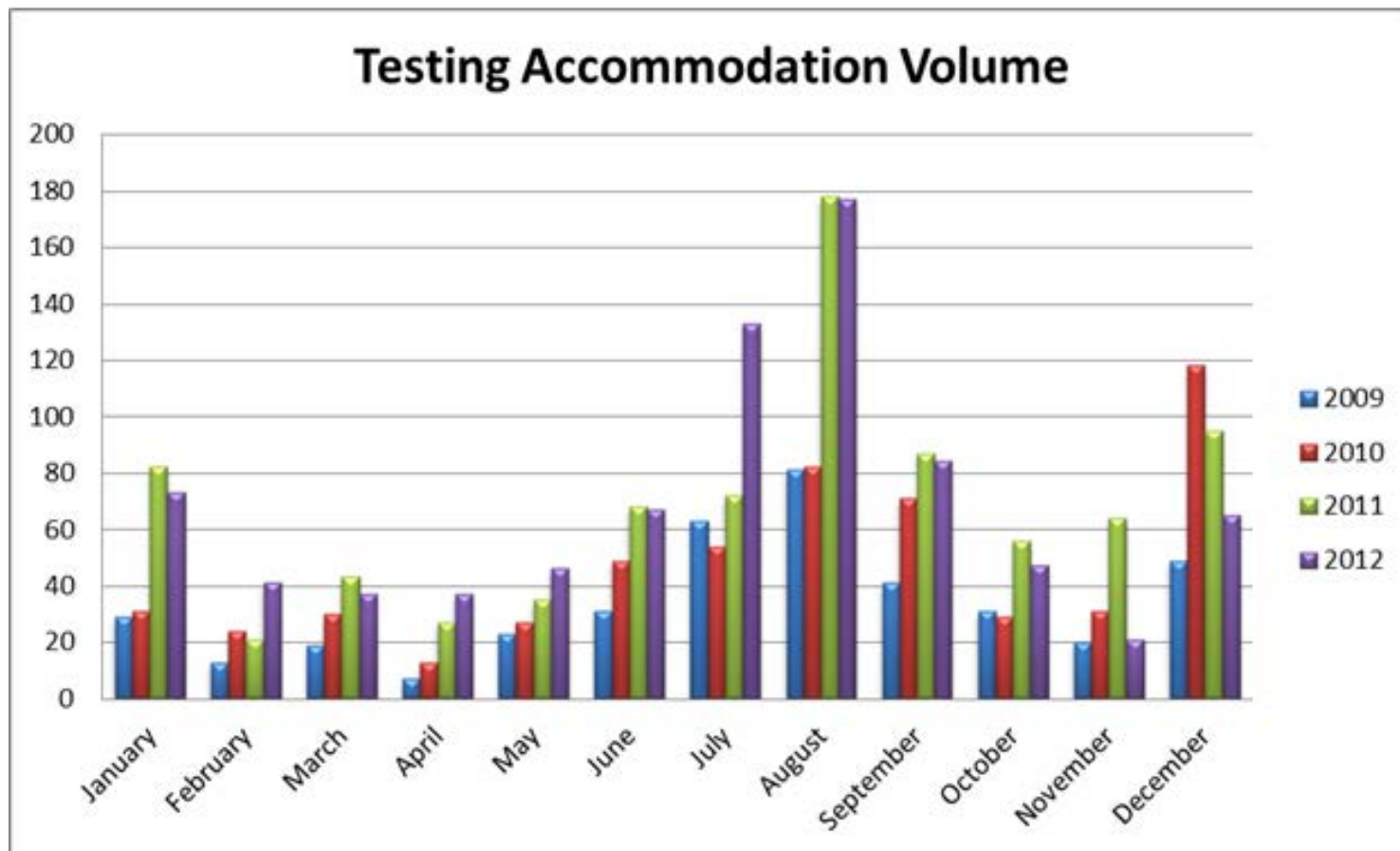
- **Diagnostic procedures/tests** administered. Diagnostic methods should be appropriate to disorder and aligned with current professional protocol.
- **Results of diagnostic procedures/tests** and comprehensive interpretation of results.
- **Diagnosis of disorder/disability**, with an accompanying description of limitations.
- **Recommendations for specific accommodations** and how they will reduce the impact of functional limitation.

Documentation of any previous accommodations provided by educational institutions/testing agencies.

If no prior accommodations were provided, the licensed professional should include explanation as to why no accommodations were given in the past and why accommodations are needed now.

Testing Accommodation Volume

(data is inclusive of 4 out of 5 testing programs)



Examinee Satisfaction Survey

Survey Results: Prometric

	N	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Appointment date	1334	45.8	49.6	4.6
Promptness in seating them	1327	68.3	29.1	2.6
Helpfulness of test center staff	1320	69.6	28.7	1.7
Performance of testing system	1312	38.6	50.2	11.2
Test center total testing environment	1311	52.2	44.6	3.2
Total experience of taking DAT	1305	44.6	51.9	3.5

Score Reports/Scoring

Score Reports	Scoring
You will receive an unofficial score report upon completion of test at test center.	Based on the number of correct answers provided by the examinee. Number of correct answers (raw scores) converted to scale scores. Equating process adjusts for differences in difficulty among test forms and permits comparison of scores over time.
Administrations are monitored for irregularities. Penalties are implemented for misconduct and cheating. (see the DAT Guide, Testing Irregularities and Appeals)	DAT Committee reviews examinee performance to understand trends and potential changes.
Audit procedures conducted and official scores reported (electronically) 3 to 4 weeks after testing appointment.	Detailed score analysis provided in DAT User's Manual. (see "Resources" on Website)

Retesting

90-day wait required between retests.

If you have three or more testing attempts you must apply for permission to retest and provide evidence of intent to apply to dental school. Acceptable evidence includes:

- ADEA AADSAS application **or**
- Rejection letter from a dental school **or**
- Letter from dental school admission officer/pre-health advisor.

Reschedule Policy

To improve rescheduling process and permit last minute rescheduling, the following reschedule policy has been adopted.

You must contact Prometric directly and pay a fee to reschedule.

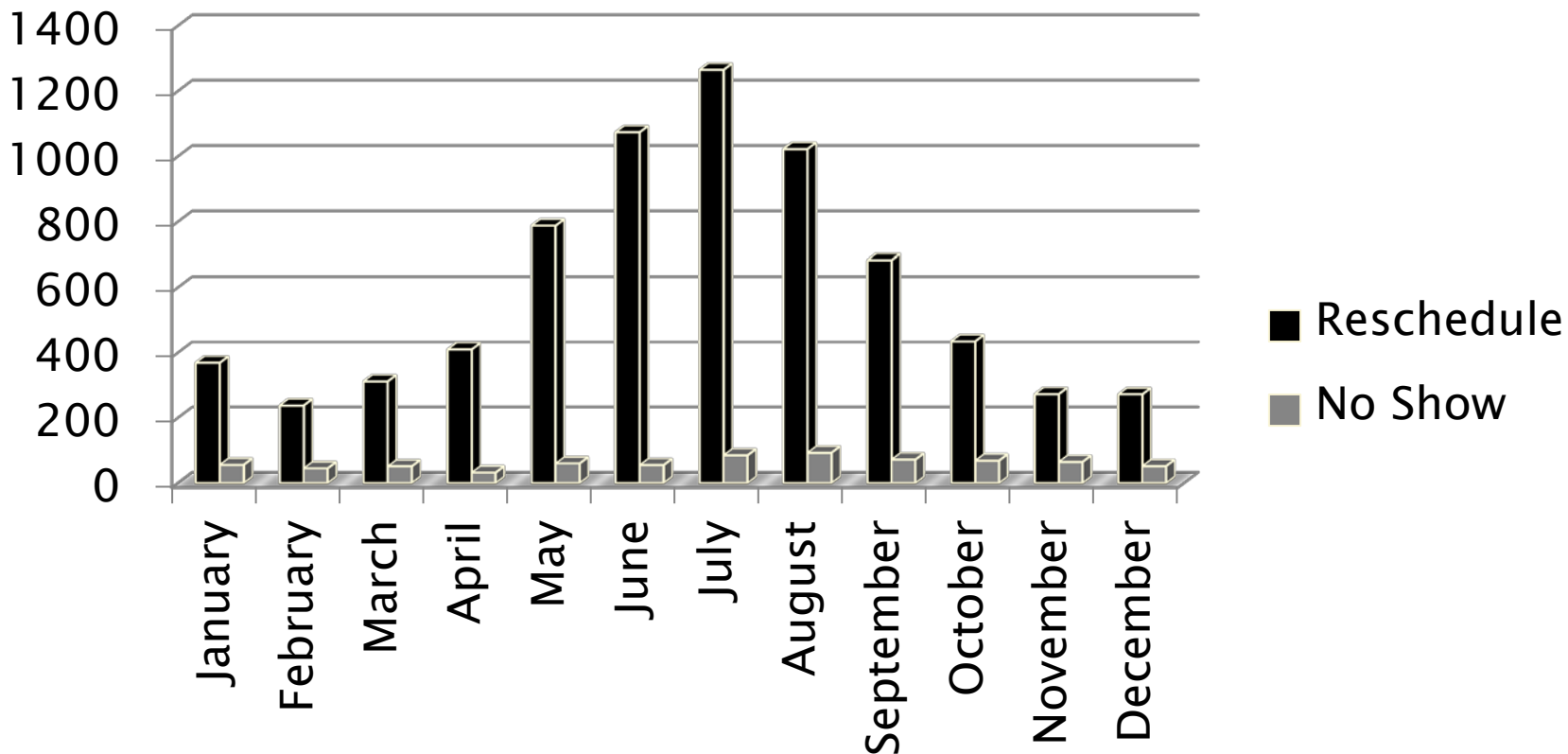
Contractual agreements require DTS payment for no-show appointments.

Fee Schedule

(Saturday and Sunday are NOT business days)

\$100 the day before to 5 business days prior to the testing appointment	\$60 6 to 30 business days prior to the testing appointment	\$25 31+ business days prior to the testing appointment
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Reschedule and No Show Volume 2013



Total: Rescheduled appointments 7,142
 No show appointments 735

Testing Irregularities and Appeals

Definition of Irregularity: there is a question about the validity of test results accurately reflecting the ability/skills of an examinee.

Reasons for withholding scores include, but are not limited to:

- Unusual answer patterns.
- Atypical score increases from one testing attempt to another.
- Inconsistent performance on different parts of test.
- Improper access to secure test content.
- Test administration irregularity.
- Falsification of personal identification, application information/supporting documents.
- Engaged in misconduct or violation of rules/regulations.
- Falsification of score report.
- Information indicating the results may not be valid.

Irregularities detection and investigation:

- Testing vendor Irregularity reports, miscellaneous sources (e.g., anonymous tips, routine audit procedures)
- Conduct investigation
- Take action; withhold score/ retest restriction

Notification/Appeal Process

- Examinee notification
- 30 days to submit appeal.
- Appeal forwarded to Chair (60 day deadline to respond with final decision).
- Chair grants/denies/or forwards appeal to DAT Committee for ballot.
- Examinee notified of decision.

What can I use to prepare for the DAT?

What?	Where?
Counsel with your Pre-health Advisor	Your academic institution and review admission requirements for proposed dental school.
Guide	http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_examinee_guide.pdf
FAQs	http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_faq.pdf
Checklist	http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_checklist.pdf
Application Instructions	http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_app_instructions.pdf
Testing Accommodations	http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_accommodation_request.pdf
Tutorial	https://www.prometric.com/ClientFiles/ada/DAT/index.htm
Website	http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx http://www.ada.org/3746.aspx
Practice Test (web-based or paper-based)	http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/info_dat_practice_test.pdf https://ibt1.prometric.com/index.asp?ibt=7732812762& http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_sample_test_order_form.pdf
Prometric FAQs	https://www.prometric.com/en-us/for-test-takers/Prepare-for-Test-Day/frequently-asked-questions/Pages/default.aspx
What to Expect on Test Day	https://www.prometric.com/en-us/for-test-takers/Prepare-for-Test-Day/Pages/what-to-expect.aspx

Website

<http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx>

Please note: updates to the website are scheduled for March/April. The appearance may be different at the time of this presentation.

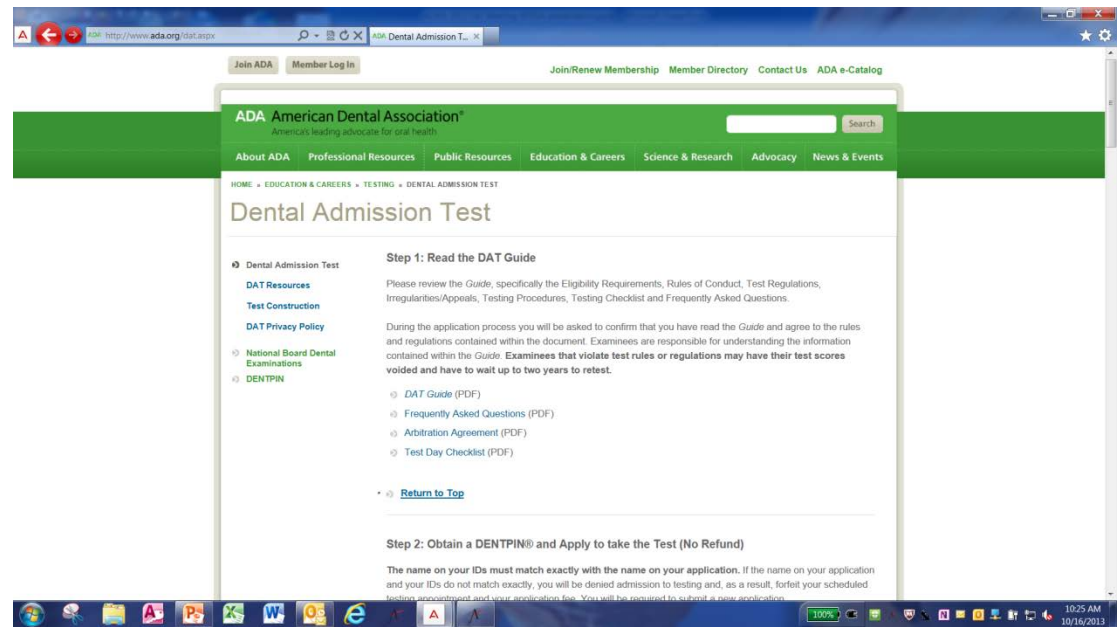
Step 1: Read the DAT Guide

Step 2: Obtain a DENTPIN® and Apply to take the Test

Step 3: Schedule a Time to Take the Test

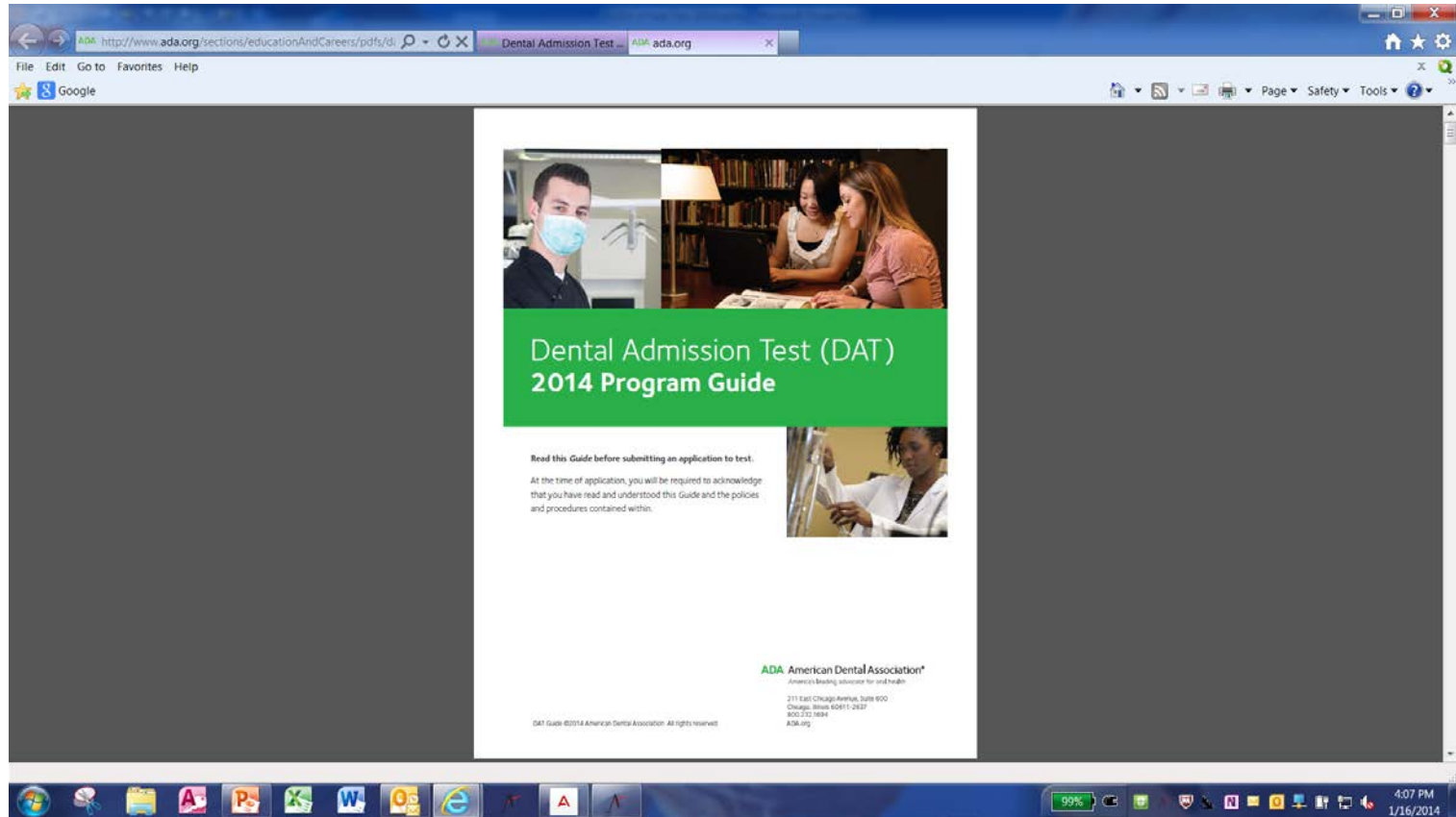
Step 4: Take the Test at a Prometric Test Center

Step 5: Score Reports



DAT Guide

http://www.ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_examinee_guide.pdf



Additional Resources

<http://www.ada.org/3746.aspx>

- Newsletters
- Meeting Presentations
- Validity Study
- User's Manual (detailed scoring information)
- Examinee Information
- Reference Texts

The screenshot displays the ADA American Dental Association website. The header includes the ADA logo and the tagline "America's leading advocate for oral health". A navigation menu lists: About ADA, Professional Resources, Public Resources, Education & Careers, Science & Research, Advocacy, and News & Events. The main content area is titled "DAT Resources" and contains a breadcrumb trail: HOME > EDUCATION & CAREERS > TESTING > DENTAL ADMISSION TEST > DAT RESOURCES. The page is organized into three columns: "DAT Resources" (with links for Test Construction and DAT Privacy Policy), "DAT Newsletters" (with links for Volume 4, 3, 2, and 1), and "Additional DAT Resources" (with links for DAT Update: ADEA Presentation 2012, DAT Update: NAAHP Presentation, 2012 Validity Study, DAT User's Manual (Facts & Figures), Examinee Information, Reference Texts, and DAT Arbitration Agreement). The footer provides contact information for the ADA, including the address (211 East Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-2678), phone number (312-448-2500), and a copyright notice (© 1995-2013 American Dental Association). Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn are also present. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with the date and time (10:30 AM, 10/16/2013).



Contact Information

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