Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT)

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ADEA
Council of Hospitals and Advanced Education Programs
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Overview

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- ADA Oversight
- Test Content, Design, and Construction
- Test Administration Schedule
- Scoring and Reporting
- Administration, Eligibility, and Retest Policy
- Resources and Communication
- ADAT and NBDE: A Key Comparison
Purpose

• The Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT) is a computer based examination designed to provide advanced dental education programs with insight into applicants’ potential for success in their program.

  – The ADAT will be a professionally developed, valid, and reliable examination containing questions written by dental subject matter experts.

  – The ADAT will enable programs to quantitatively compare and rank order applicants using a nationally standardized and objective test.

  – The ADAT can be used in conjunction with other assessment tools to help inform program admissions decisions.
An Important Note

The ADAT is a new examination program for the American Dental Association.

As such, certain details associated with this program can be expected to evolve and change over time.

Information shared in this presentation reflects the current status of the ADAT as of the date of this presentation.
Why Develop an Advanced Dental Admission Test?

• As of January 1, 2012, the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations no longer reports candidate scores for those who pass NBDE Part I and Part II.

• A number of dental schools have moved away from GPA and are reporting grades as pass/fail.

• Advanced dental education programs are seeking other ways to compare program applicants.

• Both program directors and students have expressed concern regarding how qualifications will be assessed when admissions decisions are made.
The ADA’s Response

• In May 2014, ADA’s Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) endorsed creation of a business plan for development of an Advanced Dental Admission Test.

• In October 2014, CDEL distributed a survey to 739 directors of advanced dental education programs to assess demand for the ADAT.
Survey Results

- Survey response rate: 63% (464 out of 739 programs)

- 294 program directors (63% of respondents) indicated they are likely or extremely likely to require program applicants to take the ADAT.

- 150 program directors (32% of respondents) voiced interest in participating in the ADAT pilot administration in 2016, requiring all of their applicants to take the exam.
Decision to Pursue ADAT Development

• At its November 2014 meeting CDEL reviewed survey results and the ADAT business plan, and recommended that the ADA pursue development of the ADAT.

• In December 2014 the ADA Board of Trustees approved development of the examination.
Oversight

• The ADA’s Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) will oversee ADAT policies.

• CDEL’s Committee on Dental Admission Testing will monitor the program and make recommendations to CDEL concerning policies.

• The ADA’s Department of Testing Services (DTS) will implement the ADAT program under the direction of CDEL and its Committee on Dental Admission Testing.
Candidates

• Candidates for the ADAT will be individuals who are seeking admission to advanced dental education programs.

• This includes:
  • Current dental students (e.g. 3rd or 4th year)
  • Current US dentists interested in post-graduate training/degrees
  • International dental students/graduates applying to advanced dental education programs or applying for advanced standing in pre-doctoral programs
ADAT Content is structured as follows:

- **ADAT**
  - Critical Thinking
  - Principles of Ethics & Patient Management
  - Biomedical Sciences
  - Clinical Sciences
  - Data and Research Interpretation
# Test Specifications Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Items per Subject</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Sciences</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data and Research Interpretation</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Ethics and Patient Management</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
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Administration

• Administration will occur twice per year, in testing windows.
  – Testing windows lessen the possibility and implications of test content security breaches, thereby protecting the validity of the examination.

• Initial target administration dates:
  – May 2016 and August 2016 (pilot year)
  – April and July (subsequent years)

• The ADAT will be available for two, one-week periods in each of the aforementioned months (e.g., first and third week).
Eligibility for ADAT Administration

ADAT eligibility criteria closely resemble those for the National Board Examinations.

(1) If an examinee applies as a student at a CODA-accredited dental school, that school is responsible for approving the eligibility of the examinee.

(2) If an examinee applies as a graduate of a CODA-accredited dental school, they must send proof of graduation to DTS. DTS approves the examinee’s eligibility once reasonable proof has been received.

(3) If an examinee applies as a student of a non-accredited dental school, the examinee must have Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) compile a report which demonstrates that they are a current dental student. The report must be sent to DTS from ECE electronically to be accepted. DTS approves the examinee’s eligibility once an appropriate ECE report has been received.

(4) If an examinee applies as a graduate of a non-accredited dental school, the examinee must have ECE compile a report which demonstrates that the examinee has attained their degree and that the schooling they received is equivalent to an education at a U.S. dental school. The report must be sent to DTS from ECE electronically to be accepted. DTS approves the examinee’s eligibility once an appropriate ECE report has been received.
Retest Policy (Initial Deployment)

• Examinees may test two times per year, and are limited to one test per administration window.

• After two testing attempts, examinees must provide DTS with proof that they are actively applying to advanced dental education programs.
The ADAT Examination Guide will be posted for candidates in December 2015.

The ADAT application website will be live in the first quarter of 2016 (approximately January or February).

ADAT fees for 2016 will be as follows:

- Examination Fee: $350;
- Additional ADAT Score Reports:* $35
- Non-accredited candidate processing fee: $125

* This fee covers score report requests made after the time of application (there is no additional charge for score report requests received at the time of application).
# Testing Schedule (Pilot)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADAT Testing Schedule (Pilot)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tutorial</strong></td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session One- 110 items</td>
<td>1 hour, 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data and Research Interpretation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scheduled Break</strong></td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Two – 90 items</td>
<td>1 hour, 30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Ethics and Patient Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post-exam survey</strong></td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4 hours, 20 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The preceding time estimates are based upon NBDE Part I and Part II administration times, candidate response times for these examinations, and the desire for the ADAT to be a relatively speeded examination. The final established testing time will be contingent upon psychometric analyses and candidate considerations.
Scoring

- ADAT scores will ultimately be reported as scale scores ranging from 200 and 800, with a target mean of 500 and a target standard deviation of 100. Scores will be reported in increments of 10.

- Scores will be reported for the following six scales:
  1. ADAT Score: an overall score that is computed based on performance on all ADAT items
  2. Critical Thinking
  3. Principles of Ethics and Patient Management
  4. Biomedical Sciences
  5. Clinical Sciences
  6. Data and Research Interpretation

- The number of correct responses will NOT be reported. Examinees will NOT receive immediate feedback concerning their test results.

- Quantitative scores will be reported to the programs selected by the candidate at the time of application.
Reporting

- ADAT scores will be made available through ADEA PASS, and through an online score reporting portal developed by the ADA.

- During the ADAT pilot year (2016), reporting will occur as follows:
  - In July 2016, Candidates who completed the ADAT in May 2016 will receive information concerning their percentile standing relative to the group of May candidates (Note: they will not receive scale scores).
  - In September 2016, the Department of Testing Services will release candidate results for the full group of 2016 candidates (i.e., May and August administrations).

- In subsequent years scores will be released in June and September, approximately 4 to 6 weeks after the final date of each monthly testing window.
ADAT Communications

- ADAT information is being communicated to communities of interest via the ADAT website:
  www.ada.org/adat

- The ADAT website currently contains FAQs, prior presentations, and test specifications for the ADAT.

- DTS in conjunction with CDEL anticipates conducting webinars in the 4th Quarter of 2015 and 1st Quarter of 2016, to share ADAT Program information with communities of interest.

- Feedback on the ADAT is critical to its success.

- Please provide any feedback concerning the ADAT to the following email address: adat@ada.org
ADAT and the NBDEs: A Key Comparison

• The ADAT is designed for admission purposes, to help advanced dental education programs identify the most qualified, strongest candidates for selection into advanced dental education programs.

• The NBDE Parts I and II are designed for use by state dental boards, to help boards understand whether a candidate for licensure has the required cognitive skills to safely practice dentistry (minimum competency).
Normal Curve
Participation and Feedback

• Volunteers are needed to serve on Test Construction Committees.

• Program participation is key to the success of the ADAT. Please participate during the 2016 pilot year, and encourage others to participate.

• For additional information concerning pilot participation, please contact the Department of Testing Services.

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For additional information, please visit www.ada.org/adat or email adat@ada.org.
Questions?