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ADA American Dental Association®
America's leading advocate for oral health

DAT Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 1

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Welcome

This edition of the newsletter provides information about the new ADA.org web site, DENTPIN Updates, score report requests, writing DAT questions and other "need to know" information.

New ADA Website

The ADA website underwent a major revision and made its debut at the end of March 2010. If you haven't seen the new site, take a few minutes for a tour.

The address of the DAT landing page is ADA.org/dat.aspx. Bookmark this address now to ensure easy access to the site later.

To find information on the DAT from the landing page of ADA.org follow these steps.

- 1. Across the top of the ADA landing page select the Education and Careers button.**
- 2. On the left side of the next page select Testing.**



3. On the left side of the next page select Dental Admission Test.

The main DAT page continues to have all the information needed by students to apply for the test. On the left side of the page there is a link for DAT Educator Content, the direct address is ADA.org/3746.aspx. This page contains links to all the DAT reports (Validity Study, User Manual, Examinee Report) discussed in the last newsletter, as well as links to previous newsletters and other items of interest.

Old links will no longer work; adding this page to your "Favorites" now will provide easy access to all of these documents in the future. Review and reorganization of content is continuing to improve access and ease of use.

DENTPIN Update

The DENTPIN is the unique personal identifier that is now required for all students taking the DAT. The process of registering for a DENTPIN has gone smoothly for the majority of students. Here are a few tips for new users.

- 1. A student must obtain a DENTPIN before applying for the DAT.**
- 2. Once a DENTPIN is obtained, an application must be completed.**
- 3. Anyone who has taken the DAT in the past has already been assigned a DENTPIN that can be retrieved online.**
- 4. Retrieval of the DENTPIN is immediate if a Social Security Number (SSN) is used on the DENTPIN application.**
- 5. If the student does not provide a SSN, the DENTPIN application will be processed manually which may take up to a week.**

Requesting Score Reports

A student taking the DAT receives an unofficial copy of his/her score report before leaving the testing center. Effective July 1, 2010, the DAT fee is \$285 and the

procedure for requesting score reports will change.

If the schools requested on the DAT application participate in a standardized application service such as the Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) or the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS), the scores will be available to all schools directly and through the application service.

Schools selected at the time of application are included in the DAT fee regardless of the number of schools selected. However, a student who decides to send score reports to additional schools after the application is completed, must complete a score report request. There is a \$25 fee for each additional school requested after the initial application.

Score report requests can be submitted online at [ADA.org/1630.aspx](http://ada.org/1630.aspx) or by mail using a downloadable score report request form which can be found at [ADA.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_score_report.pdf](http://ada.org/sections/educationAndCareers/pdfs/dat_score_report.pdf).

Pre-dental advisors will receive official DAT scores, at no cost to the student, if the student checks the box on the application giving permission for scores to be sent to a pre-dental advisor. Scores for pre-dental advisors are sent in batches every few months.

If a student does not check the box on the application, the pre-dental advisor will not receive official scores. For a pre-dental advisor to receive official scores after the application is completed, the student must submit a score report request and pay \$25.

DAT: Seeking Item Writers

Questions for the DAT are written by subject matter experts, most often individuals who teach undergraduate pre-dental courses.

On the left side of the main DAT page is a link to the Test Construction page ([ADA.org/108.aspx](http://ada.org/108.aspx)). Here you can find information on selection criteria, the application process and an orientation manual that describes the role of a test constructor.

Test construction committee meetings are held in Chicago and travel related expenses are reimbursed. Test constructors also receive an honorarium.

If you know anyone who teaches biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry or quantitative reasoning and might be interested in writing items for the DAT, please forward this e-mail and encourage them to apply.

White Boards and Markers

If you are a pre-health advisor or a dental school admission officer, you have probably heard more than one student comment on the use of white boards and markers rather than scratch paper and pencil at testing centers.

Use of white boards and markers has become common practice in computer-based testing. Use of white boards and markers prevent students from using sheets of paper to gain an unfair advantage during the test or to provide information to others.

Erasers are provided for the white boards and the markers have a fine tip. If a new marker, eraser, or white board is needed, the student need only raise a hand and a proctor will provide assistance.

A helpful tip to share with students is to recap the marker when it is not in use to prevent the tip from drying out prematurely.

DAT Critical Thinking Study

This research study validated a potential new way to assess dental school applicants' critical thinking abilities on the Dental Admission Test (DAT).

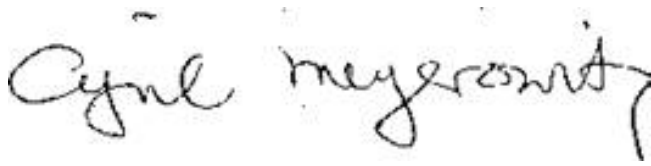
A sample of 439 third and fourth-year dental students enrolled at ten accredited dental schools representing various regions of the U.S. took the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST).

Correlation and regression analyses of dental school performance with scores on the DAT, the CCTST and undergraduate academic performance were performed.

This study concluded that while the CCTST did assess critical thinking abilities, it did not significantly enhance the validity of the DAT. No changes are planned for the DAT at this time, although we continue to investigate alternative assessments.

We welcome feedback on the content of the newsletter and suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in the future. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Send any e-mail comments regarding the newsletter to me at education@ADA.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cyril Meyerowitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'z'.

Dr. Cyril Meyerowitz, Chair, Council on Dental Education and Licensure

This email was sent to: lolist@ada.org

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