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

# DAT Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 2

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## Welcome

Welcome to another edition of the DAT Newsletter. This edition covers news on the 2011 *Examination Guides*, tips for getting a DENTPIN™, and some ways to decrease test anxiety.

- [Examination Guides](#)
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## Examination Guides

The 2011 *Examination Guide* is available on-line.

Examinees scheduled to test in 2011 should check the *DAT Guide* for updates. During the process of applying for and taking the test, examinees must indicate in two places that they have read the *Guide*, once when completing the application and again at the testing center just before starting the test.

Failure to read the *Guide* is not an acceptable excuse for violating an examination rule or regulation.

## DENTPIN™ Do's & Don'ts

To receive a DENTPIN™ without delay, here are a few tips.

To retrieve a pre-assigned DENTPIN™; use the exact same name, date of birth and

Social Security Number used on the last application to test. Any conflicting information may delay receipt of the DENTPIN™ by 5-7 business days.

- For example, if the last application was under the name John J. Smith, using the name John James Smith will cause delays.
- If you need to change your name, first obtain the DENTPIN™ using the old name, then request a name change (legal documentation will be required).

Apply for a DENTPIN™ only once. Creating multiple DENTPINs™ increases the chance that you will experience difficulty obtaining or retrieving a DENTPIN™.

Pre-health advisors cannot request a DENTPIN™ number for an advisee. Each person must request his or her own DENTPIN™.

- The DENTPIN™ is a confidential number that should be treated with the same care as any other personal identifier.
- Applying for a DENTPIN™ requires students to select a password that will be needed to access the DENTPIN™ site to complete an application to test. Each applicant should select his/her own password and retain it for his/her own confidential use.

### Reducing Test Anxiety

No matter how well prepared a person is for an important test, sometimes it is the non test issues that cause the most anxiety. Can I find the test center? How long will it take to check in? Where are the rest rooms? Exactly what is biometrics?

Examinees testing at Prometric test centers can now get answers to these and other questions by participating in a *Test Drive*. The *Test Drive* is a scheduled 30 minute appointment, at a Prometric test center, which takes an examinee through a mini version of the testing experience.

The *Test Drive* includes the scheduling and registration process, checking in at a Prometric test center, the opportunity to meet staff and see the layout of the test center, and a 15 minute sample generic test (no DAT content). The cost is \$30; more information is available on the Prometric website at <http://www.prometric.com/ADA/default.htm>.

Prometric also has a short video titled "*What to Expect on Test Day Using Biometric-enabled Check-in*". The video is available on YouTube at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DZTVuGgLh8>.

The video covers the check in process and biometric scanning. A link to the video can also be found on the DAT web site under *Step 4, Taking the Examination at a Prometric Test Center*.

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](mailto:education@ADA.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian T. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "K" at the end.

Dr. Brian T. Kennedy  
Chair, Council on Dental Education and Licensure

This email was distributed to pre health advisors, dental deans, academic associate deans, admission chairs dental associations and volunteers.