

## **FAQs for candidates taking the ATDH**

### **What scores are possible on the ATDH?**

ATDH scores range from 200 to 500.

### **I have submitted my initial application and indicated where scores should be sent. How would I send my results to another school, if I should choose to do so in the future?**

Additional score requests can be made by logging into My Account on [www.ada.org/dentpin](http://www.ada.org/dentpin).

### **When can I retest, if I am not satisfied with my initial score?**

Candidates can test once per testing window. A special "retake only" testing window will be available December 15, 2021 through January 15, 2022.

### **The review materials for the DAT may be helpful in reviewing for the ATDH; where can we find those materials?**

A list of DAT reference books can be found here: [ADA.org: DAT Reference Texts](http://ADA.org: DAT Reference Texts)

### **Will all dental hygiene programs require the ATDH as part of their admission process?**

Each Dental Hygiene program will make its own decision as to whether to require or accept ATDH results as part of the program's admission process.

### **How long will my results be accepted by dental hygiene programs?**

The ATDH is designed to accurately assess candidates' knowledge and skills at the time of administration. Candidate knowledge and skills can increase or decrease after administrations occur (e.g., if additional coursework is undertaken, or if material is simply forgotten, respectively). It is up to each program to decide whether test results are recent enough for admission purposes.

### **When I submit my ATDH application, how do I select my testing appointment date?**

Candidates will be able to select any test date within the testing window, based on the availability of seats at test centers.

### **Are testing sites widely available?**

Testing sites are widely available across the US and its territories. Candidates can locate test centers on [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com)

**While taking the ATDH, will the administered questions change (e.g., increase or decrease in difficulty) based on whether we answer questions correctly (i.e., similar to what occurs on the SAT)?**

Candidate performance on a question does not influence the difficulty of the next question the candidate receives (i.e., the ATDH is not an adaptive examination).

**CODA accreditation standards for dental hygiene education programs indicate that “previous academic performance and/or performance on standardized national tests of scholastic aptitude or other predictors of scholastic aptitude and ability must be utilized as criteria in selecting students who have the potential for successfully completing the program.” If there is currently no data on how scores measure student success in a dental hygiene program, how can programs adopt this examination?**

The ATDH is a standardized measure that is supported by content validity evidence, with content developed by teams of highly qualified subject matter experts. The ATDH is built in accordance with the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (“Standards”) (AERA, APA, NCME, 2014). In accordance with professionally established validation procedures—as promulgated by the *Standards*—data on candidate ATDH performance will be obtained during each test administration window. The ATDH User’s Guide will be made available in December 2021, and will present information on candidate performance and the psychometric performance of the ATDH, with additional forms of validity evidence provided as they become available over time. Programs can also review the document entitled “Utilization of ATDH Results in Dental Hygiene Admission Decisions” for additional information. In considering these issues, programs should also consider the available evidence supporting each admission tool they are currently using, and how this evidence compares to the evidence supporting the ATDH.

**How much time is allotted for each section of the examination?**

As indicated in the ATDH Candidate Guide, the ATDH Administration Schedule is as follows:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
Introduction and Tutorial		15
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	40	50
<b>Language Usage</b>	40	30
Break (optional)		15
<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>	40	45
<b>Perceptual Ability</b>	60	45
Break (optional)		15
<b>Biology</b>	30	30
<b>General Chemistry</b>	30	30
Post Examination Survey		15
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>290</b>

Reasonable accommodations are also available for individuals with documented disabilities. See the ATDH guide [ADA: Admission Test for Dental Hygiene 2021 Examinee Guide](#) for more information.

### **Where can I find a list of programs that are requiring the examination in their admission process?**

The ATDH website (<http://www.ada.org/atdh>) provides a list of programs that accept the ATDH. Candidates should also check the application requirements associated with the programs to which they intend to apply, to determine if it would be necessary or helpful to complete the ATDH.

### **What is the availability of testing appointments during the testing window?**

DTS is not aware of any significant issues or challenges for ATDH candidates, in finding or scheduling ATDH appointments. As with all testing programs implemented by DTS, candidates are encouraged to apply and schedule their testing appointments as far in advance as possible, to provide the widest selection of available seats.

### **Why is the examination being administered in September and October of 2021?**

The timing of the first testing window was set to permit dental hygiene programs to use ATDH results within the context of their 2022 admissions process. DTS has received requests from dental hygiene programs for many years, asking for DTS to build an admission test specifically for dental hygiene. The start date for the ATDH was identified as September 1, 2021, so that programs could benefit from using the ATDH as soon as possible.

### **How will my results be reported?**

The ATDH score report is anticipated to contain six topic scores (one for each test section) and two composite scores. The two composite scores are: 1) English Language Skills (based on performance on Reading Comprehension and Language Usage), and 2) the ATDH Overall Score (based on performance on all test sections, and representing candidate critical thinking in foundational skill areas).

### **How do I schedule a testing appointment?**

Candidates must first register for a DENTPIN on [www.ada.org/dentpin](http://www.ada.org/dentpin). Candidates can then submit an application to take the ATDH on [www.ada.org/atdh](http://www.ada.org/atdh). Once a candidate's application is processed, testing appointments can be scheduled on [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com).

### **For additional questions, who do we contact?**

Questions concerning the ATDH can be emailed to [atdh@ada.org](mailto:atdh@ada.org).

### **If I need to retake on the examination, when will the application be available?**

Application for the "Retake Only" testing window will become available as soon as the current testing window closes.

### **How is the examination administered?**

The ATDH is administered in person at Prometric professional level testing centers in the United States and its territories (including Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands).