

LICENSE RECOGNITION: *DENTISTS*

Dental boards in **46** states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico grant licenses to dentists to practice in any setting, who are currently licensed and in active, continuous practice for a specified period of time (typically 5 years) in another jurisdiction, without further theoretical and clinical examination.¹ The license recognition system, often referred to as licensure by credentials, may also be referred to as licensure by reciprocity, endorsement, or criteria. For information concerning a state's specific criteria for license recognition, contact the dental board of the state in which license recognition is sought.

The ADA House of Delegates supports freedom of movement through licensure by credentials. A 2002 resolution amended the ADA Guidelines for Licensure to eliminate the requirement for a minimum of five years in practice in order to be eligible for licensure by credentials, simply stating that a dentist should be in active practice or dental education immediately prior to applying for licensure by credentials. A second resolution addressed the issue of specialty licensure, specifying that specialists who move to another state and wish to practice their specialty should be waived from taking that state's general dental practice examination.

In granting licensure by credentials, the Board of Dentistry makes a determination that the applicant is currently licensed in a state that has equivalent licensure standards.

The dental boards in the jurisdictions listed below will grant license recognition to dentists.

Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, DC, Georgia⁶, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine⁵, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota³, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina⁶, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Four states and the U.S. Virgin Islands do not currently grant an unrestricted dental license by credentials: **Delaware, Florida², Hawaii² and Nevada⁷.**

¹ This licensure by credentials requirement of active, continuous practice for a specified period of time, should not be confused with the authority that state dental boards possess in granting initial licensure. For initial licensure, state law permits boards to accept the examination results of a regional dental clinical testing agency for a period of time (again generally 5 years) whether or not the applicant is licensed or has practiced in another state. The only requirement is that the state will accept the results of that regional exam.

² **Florida** in 2011 adopted a limited type of licensure for out-of-state dentists to improve access to care known as a "Health Access Dental License." **Hawaii** in 2004 passed a community service license law which allows dentists from other states to work in federally qualified health centers, native Hawaiian health centers and post-secondary dental training programs ONLY.

³ **Minnesota** in addition to the traditional licensure by credential law, a "guest licensure" law was enacted in 2002 that allows the dental board to expedite the issuance of a limited license to dentists from adjoining states to facilitate access to care.

⁴ **Maryland** requires applicants for licensure by credentials to successfully complete the Northeast Regional Examining Board's Dental Simulated Clinical Exercise (DSCE).

⁵ **Maine** has authority to license Canadian Dentists by Credentials as of 2004.

⁶ **Georgia & North Carolina** require credentialed dentists to establish active practices within a certain time period.

⁷ **Nevada** passed a licensure by credential law in 2001 that sunset at the end of June 2006.