Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT)

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ASDA Executive Committee
January 23, 2016
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 is 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.
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

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

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

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

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

• ADA’s Department of Testing Services (DTS) will implement the ADAT program under the direction of CDEL and CDAT.
Candidates

• ADAT candidates will be individuals who are seeking admission to advanced dental education programs.

• Including:
  • 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:
## Test Specifications Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Items per Subject</th>
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</tr>
</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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</tbody>
</table>
Administration

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

• Initial target administration dates:
  – May 16, 2016 through August 31, 2016 (pilot year)
  – April through July (subsequent years)
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)

- Candidates may test two times per year, and are limited to two testing attempts.

- After two testing attempts, candidates must provide DTS with proof that they are actively applying to advanced dental education programs.
Administration

• The ADAT Examination Guide will be posted for candidates in February 2016.

• The ADAT application website will be live in February.

• ADAT fees for 2016
  • 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 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>90 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td>10 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data and Research Interpretation</td>
<td>30 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td>10 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Sciences</td>
<td>70 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td>10 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Ethics and Patient Management</td>
<td>30 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-exam survey</td>
<td>5 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4 hrs 30 min</td>
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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.

- 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 an online score reporting portal (DTS Hub) developed by the ADA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRELIMINARY SCORE RESULTS</th>
<th>Results posted in ADAT Candidate “My Account”</th>
<th>Results sent to Advanced Dental Education Program Directors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Administration Period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2016 to July 31, 2016</td>
<td>August 12, 2016</td>
<td>August 12, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1, 2016 to August 31, 2016</td>
<td>September 9, 2016</td>
<td>September 9, 2016</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINAL SCORE RESULTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Administration Period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16, 2016 to August 31, 2016</td>
<td>September 15, 2016</td>
<td>September 15, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2016 to August 31, 2016</td>
<td>September 15, 2016</td>
<td>Final Score results available in DTS Hub (Advanced Dental Education Program Directors and Dental School Deans)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Because the ADAT administration begins mid-month (May 16, 2016), data will be combined from May and June to create one set of percentiles.
ADAT Communications

• ADAT information is being communicated to communities of interest via the ADAT website which contains FAQs, prior presentations, test specifications, etc.

www.ada.org/adat

• ADA/ADEA webinar will be available to share ADAT Program information with communities of interest.
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 Distribution

Standard Deviation

Percentile

Normal Curve Equivalents

Z Scores

T Scores
For additional information

Website  www.ada.org/adat

Email  adat@ada.org
Questions?