Overview

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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?

• The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations no longer reports candidate scores for those who pass NBDE Part I and NBDE Part II (January 2012).

• 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 about how qualifications will be assessed in the admissions process.
The ADA’s Response

- ADA’s Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) endorsed creation of a business plan to develop the ADAT (May 2014).

- CDEL distributed a survey to 739 directors of advanced dental education programs to assess demand for the ADAT (October 2014).
Survey Results

- Survey response rate: 63% (464 out of 739 programs)

- 294 program directors (63% of respondents) indicated they were 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, and would require all applicants take the exam.
Decision to Pursue ADAT Development

- CDEL reviewed survey results and the ADAT business plan, and recommended that the ADA pursue development of the ADAT (November 2014).

- ADA Board of Trustees approved development of the examination (December 2014).
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.

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

The ADAT is designed for administration to individuals seeking admission to advanced dental education programs:

- 3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} year dental students
- U.S. dentists interested in post-graduate training or degrees
- International dental students/graduates applying to advanced dental education programs or advanced standing in pre-doctoral programs.
ADAT content is structured as follows:
## Test Specifications Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Thinking</th>
<th>Biomedical Sciences</th>
<th>80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical Sciences</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Data, Research Interpretation, and Evidence Based Dentistry</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Ethics and Patient Management</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Administration

Administration will occur during a testing window that is 3 ½ months in duration.

- Testing windows lessen the possibility and implications of test content security breaches, thereby protecting the validity of the examination.

Administration dates:

- May 16, 2016 through August 31, 2016 in the pilot year
- April through July in subsequent years
ADAT eligibility criteria closely resemble criteria for the National Board Dental Examinations. Eligibility is based on the candidate’s current status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Action Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CODA Accredited Dental School</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>School is responsible for approving the candidate’s eligibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduated</td>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>Candidate must send proof of graduation to DTS. Eligibility approved after receipt of reasonable proof.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Accredited Dental School</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Candidate requests an Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) electronic report to certify status as a current dental student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduated</td>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>Candidate request an ECE electronic report to confirm dental degree.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Retest Policy

- Candidates may test two times per calendar year, and are limited to two testing attempts separated by a minimum of 45 days.

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

- The ADAT Guide and application currently appear on the ADAT website (www.ada.org/adat).
- A list of participating advanced dental education programs will also be posted shortly.
- 2016 ADAT fees:
  - Examination fee*: $250
  - Additional ADAT score reports**: $35
  - Non-accredited candidate processing fee: $125

* Pilot year rate, recently reduced from $350.

** This Score Report fee covers score report requests made after the time of application. Score report requested at the time of application are processed at no additional charge.
## Testing Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tutorial</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biomedical Sciences</strong></td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data, Research Interpretation, and Evidence Based Dentistry</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Sciences</strong></td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Principles of Ethics and Patient Management</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post-exam Survey</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4 hours, 30 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Scoring

- ADAT scores will be reported as scale scores ranging from 200 to 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 six scales:
  1. ADAT Score: an overall score 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, Research Interpretation, and Evidence Based Dentistry.

- 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. The following timetable applies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRELIMINARY SCORE RESULTS</th>
<th>Test Administration Period</th>
<th>Results posted in ADAT Candidate’s “My Account”</th>
<th>Results available to Advanced Dental Education Program Directors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 1, 2016 to July 31, 2016</td>
<td>August 12, 2016</td>
<td>August 12, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 1, 2016 to August 31, 2016</td>
<td>September 9, 2016</td>
<td>September 9, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICIAL SCORE RESULTS</th>
<th>Test Administration Period</th>
<th>Results posted in ADAT Candidate “My Account”</th>
<th>Results Available for Advanced Dental Education Program Directors and Dental School Deans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 16, 2016 to August 31, 2016</td>
<td>September 15, 2016</td>
<td>September 15, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Preliminary score results will be reported as percentiles (not scale scores). THESE PERCENTILES WILL CHANGE WITH EACH TEST ADMINISTRATION PERIOD, AS THE TOTAL NORM GROUP INCREASES. Reported candidate percentiles will thus change at each reporting interval (July, August, and September). Final scale scores will be reported on September 15, 2016.
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 Curve

Standard Deviation

Percentile

Normal Curve Equivalents

Z Scores

T Scores

.13%  2.14%  13.59%  34.13%  34.13%  34.13%  13.59%  2.14%  .13%
ADAT Communications

- **Website**  [www.ada.org/adat](http://www.ada.org/adat)
  FAQs, prior presentations, test specifications, etc.

- **Email**  [adat@ada.org](mailto:adat@ada.org)

- **ADA/ADEA webinar**
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Questions?