The ADA attempts to keep this information current based on information from state dental boards, clinical testing agencies and state dental associations. Individuals seeking dental licensure should consult with the state board of dentistry and their professional advisors for the complete and most recent dental licensure information, application requirements, forms and fees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Licensure Examination Requirements</th>
<th>CDCA, CITA, CRDTS, SRTA, WREB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient-based Portion must include Periodontal Scaling Content and for the Operative or Restorative Treatment Selection the anterior restorative procedure must be a Class III Composite Resin preparation restoration. The posterior restorative procedure may be a Class II amalgam preparation and restoration or class II composite resin preparation and restoration. The Manikin-based portion must include Endodontics and Prosthodontics Examinations. (Source: Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama Licensure by Examination Application)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Licensure Requirements</th>
<th>Code of Alabama § 34-9-10. Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Every person who desires to practice dentistry within the State of Alabama shall file an application prescribed by the board. Notwithstanding the method of obtaining licensure or any particular requirement set forth herein, every person as a prerequisite to licensure shall be at least 19 years of age, of good moral character, a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government, and a graduate of a dental school or college accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation and approved by the board and shall satisfy any other requirement set forth in any rule adopted by the board.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Licensure by examination shall be applicable to the following categories:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Those individuals who have never been licensed or taken an examination and whose application to take an examination administered or approved by the board is received by the board within 18 months of graduation from dental school or completion of an accredited or approved post-doctoral residency program.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Those individuals who have successfully passed an examination approved but not administered by the board so long as an application for licensure is received by the board within five years of the date of notification of passing such examination. All applicants shall pay a fee which shall accompany the application.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

§ 34-9-11. Examination of applicants; issuance of licenses. When application and accompanying proof as are required herein are found satisfactory, the board shall notify the applicant to appear for examination at a time and place to be fixed by the board, and each applicant shall be examined and graded by number in lieu of name. All examinations provided for in this chapter shall be approved by the board and shall be of such type and character as to test the qualifications of the applicant to practice dentistry. It is provided, however, that the board may recognize any written parts of an examination given by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations in lieu of such examinations or subject to such examinations as the board may approve. Those found qualified by the board shall be granted a license and a license certificate which shall bear a serial number, the full name of the licensee, the date of issuance, and the seal of the board, and shall be signed by each member of the board. |

Alabama Rules 270-X-2.01 Education Requirements for Examination-Dentists. |
| (1) Pre-Dental. A minimum of three years academic study of ninety (90) semester hours or its equivalent. This will include a minimum of: 8 hours of Biology; 16 hours of Chemistry; 8 hours of Physics; 6 hours of Mathematics and 30 hours Non-Science. (12 of which must be English) |
| (2) Must be a graduate of a school or college of dentistry approved by the Board. |
| (3) Must successfully complete the National Board Dental Examination Parts one
(1) and two (2), or the Integrated National Board Dental Examination, administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations. (4) A person's failure to satisfy subsection (1) above shall not prevent that person from taking the dental licensure examination provided for in the Alabama Dental Practice Act, Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-1, et seq., provided that person has satisfied the requirements of subsection (2) above.

270-X-2-.02 Applications For Dental License, Qualifications Of Applicants And Licensing Of Persons Licensed In Other States.

(1) All applicants for dental examination must file his/her application, giving first, middle and last name, and all credentials pertaining to the examination, along with examination fee and certificate fee in an amount set forth in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-16, with the secretary-treasurer not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the examination.

(2) Applications not complete with all credentials or received after the closing dates will be returned or rejected.

(3) Fees are not refundable.

(4) All applicants for licensure shall also comply with the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-10.

270-X-2-.05 Examination Rules And Issuance Of Licenses.

(1) No person other than Examiners and applicants for licensure shall be present in the rooms when and where examinations, either written, clinical or laboratory procedures are being conducted except by permission of examiner in charge.

(2) Any applicant found guilty of receiving or giving aid during the theoretical, operative, clinical, or prosthetic laboratory examination will be dismissed. Dismissal will constitute a failure.

(3) No smoking is allowed during examinations.

(4) Examination paper will be furnished by the Board. No other paper of any kind, or textbooks, will be allowed in the examination room unless approved by the examiner in charge.

(5) All written examinations must be written in the English language.

(6) Board members are not permitted to interview applicants who have failed the examination. All such matters shall be directed to the secretary-treasurer in writing by the applicant.

(7) Board members are not permitted to disclose grades made by any applicant to anyone other than the applicant.

(8) When an applicant for licensure successfully passes the written or clinical examination, that passing grade shall carry over and be valid only until the next available examination.

(9) In addition, examinations shall be conducted and licenses issued in compliance with Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-11.

**License by Credential/Endorsement Requirements**

**Code of Alabama § 34-9-10. Application; licensure by credentials; special purpose license.**

(c) Any individual who possesses a current license in any state, who has passed an examination approved by the board and who has, since graduation from dental or dental hygiene school, practiced or participated in a clinical residency or practiced dentistry or dental hygiene in the Armed Forces or with the public health service shall be eligible for licensure if an application is received by the board within five years of the completion of the subject residency or Armed Forces or public health service commitment. All the above applicants shall pay a fee which shall accompany the application.

(d) Licensure by credentials may be utilized to evaluate the theoretical knowledge and clinical skill of a dentist or dental hygienist when an applicant for licensure by credentials holds a dental or dental hygiene license in another state.
The board may promulgate rules and regulations relating to licensure by credentials in addition to any requirements by law. An applicant for licensure by credentials shall satisfy all of the following:

1. The dentist or dental hygienist shall have been engaged in the active practice of clinical dentistry or clinical dental hygiene or in full-time dental or dental hygiene education for the five years or 5,000 hours immediately preceding his or her application.

2. The applicant shall hold a current, valid, unrevoked, and unexpired license in a state having examination standards regarded by the board as an equivalent to the Alabama standards.

3. The board of examiners in the state of current practice shall verify or endorse that the applicant's license is in good standing without any restrictions.

4. The dentist or dental hygienist shall not be the subject of a pending disciplinary action in any state in which the individual has been licensed which shall be verified by a query to the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Health Integrity Protection Data Bank, the American Association of Dental Boards Clearing House for Disciplinary Information, or any other pertinent bank currently existing or which may exist in the future.

5. The applicant shall provide a written statement agreeing to be interviewed at the request of the board.

6. The individual shall successfully pass a written jurisprudence examination.

7. There shall be certification from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and from the state board of any state in which the applicant is or has been licensed that the DEA registration is not the subject of any pending disciplinary action or enforcement proceeding of any kind.

8. The dentist applicant shall submit affidavits from two licensed dentists practicing in the same geographical area where the applicant is then practicing or teaching attesting to the moral character, standing, and ability of the applicant. The dental hygiene applicant shall submit affidavits from two licensed dentists or two licensed dental hygienists, or any combination of two thereof, practicing in the same geographical area where the applicant is then practicing or teaching attesting to the moral character, standing, and ability of the applicant.

9. The applicant shall provide the board with an official transcript with school seal from the school of dentistry or school of dental hygiene which issued the applicant's professional degree or execute a request and authorization allowing the board to obtain the transcript.

10. The applicant shall be a graduate of a dental or dental hygiene school, college, or educational program approved by the board.

11. The applicant shall not be the subject of any pending or final action from any hospital revoking, suspending, limiting, modifying, or interfering with any clinical or staff privileges.

12. The applicant shall not have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or of any law dealing with the administering or dispensing of legend drugs, including controlled substances.

13. The board may consider or require other criteria including, but not limited to, any of the following:

   a. Questioning under oath.
   b. Results of peer review reports from constituent dental societies or federal dental services.
   c. Substance abuse testing or treatment.
   d. Background checks for criminal or fraudulent activities.
   e. Participation in continuing education.
   f. A current certificate in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The ADA attempts to keep this information current based on information from state dental boards, clinical testing agencies and state dental associations. Individuals seeking dental licensure should consult with the state board of dentistry and their professional advisors for the complete and most recent dental licensure information, application requirements, forms and fees.
g. Recent case reports or oral defense of diagnosis and treatment plans.
h. Proof of no physical or psychological impairment that would adversely affect the ability to practice dentistry or dental hygiene with reasonable skill and safety.
i. An agreement to initiate practice within the State of Alabama within a period of one year.
j. Proof of professional liability coverage and that coverage has not been refused, declined, cancelled, nonrenewed, or modified.
k. Whether the applicant has been subject to any final disciplinary action in any state in which the individual has been licensed which shall be verified by a query in the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Health Integrity Protection Data Bank, the American Association of Dental Boards Clearing House for Disciplinary Information, any state where the applicant has been licensed, or any other pertinent bank currently existing or which may exist in the future.
L. Whether the applicant's DEA registration or any state controlled substances permit has ever been revoked, suspended, modified, restricted, or limited in any way. Provided, however, that any discipline that results only from a failure to timely renew a registration or permit shall not prevent an applicant from being eligible for this method of licensure.

(14) If all criteria and requirements are satisfied and the board determines, after notice and a hearing, that the individual committed fraud or in any way falsified any information in the application process, the license may be revoked by the board.

**Alabama Administrative Code 270-X-2.19: Licensure by Credentials.**

(1) Definitions: The following definitions shall apply to these rules:

(a) LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. Licensure by credentials is to be used to evaluate the theoretical knowledge and clinical skill of a dentist/dental hygienist when an applicant holds a dental/dental hygienist license in another state, (b) BOARD. Board shall mean the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama. (c) ACT. Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-1 et seq.

(2) To be eligible for licensure by credentials in the State of Alabama, the applicant shall meet the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-10 and this Rule, which are as follows: (a) The dentist/dental hygienist must have been engaged in the active practice of clinical dentistry/clinical dental hygiene or in full time dental/dental hygiene education for the five (5) years or five thousand (5,000) hours immediately preceding their application. (b) The applicant must hold a current, valid, unrevoked, and unexpired license in a state having examination standards regarded by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama as an equivalent to the Alabama standards. For purposes of this requirement, these exam standards shall include passing the National Board Dental Examination Parts one (1) and two (2), or the Integrated National Board Dental Examination, administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations. (c) The Board of Examiners in the state of current practice shall verify or endorse that the applicant’s license is in good standing without any restrictions. (d) The dentist/dental hygienist must not be the subject of a pending disciplinary action in any state in which the individual has been licensed which shall be verified through inquiry to the National Practitioner Data Bank, the health Integrity Protection Data Bank, the American Association of Dental Boards Clearing House for Disciplinary Information, or any other pertinent Bank currently existing or which may exist in the future. (e) The applicant shall provide a written statement agreeing to be interviewed at the request of the Board. (f) The applicant must successfully pass a written jurisprudence examination. (g) There shall be certification from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and from the State board of any state in which the applicant is or has...
been licensed that the DEA registration is not the subject of any pending disciplinary action or enforcement of any kind, or that any state controlled substances permit has not been revoked, suspended, modified restricted or limited in any way. (h) The applicant must submit affidavits from two (2) licensed dentists/dental hygienists practicing in the same geographical area where the applicant currently is practicing or teaching attesting to the applicant’s moral character, standing, and ability. (i) The applicant must provide the Board with and official transcript with school seal from the school of dentistry/dental hygiene which issued the applicant’s professional degree or execute a request and authorization allowing the board to obtain the transcript. (j) The applicant must be a graduate of a dental/dental hygiene school, college or educational program approved by the board. (k) The applicant must not be the subject of any pending or final action from any hospital revoking, suspending, limiting, modifying, or interfering with any clinical or staff privileges. (l) The applicant must not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or of any law dealing with the administering or dispensing of legend drugs, including controlled substances. (m) The Board may consider or require other criteria including, but not limited to, any of the following: 1. Questioning. 2. Results of peer review reports from constituent dental societies or federal dental services. 3. Substance abuse testing or treatment. 4. Background checks for criminal or fraudulent activities. 5. Participation in continuing education. 6. A current certificate in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. 7. Recent case reports or oral defense of diagnosis and treatment plans. 8. Proof of no physical or psychological impairment that would adversely affect the ability to practice dentistry/dental hygiene with reasonable skill and safety. 9. Proof of professional liability coverage and that coverage has not been refused, declined, cancelled, non-renewed, or modified. 10. Whether the applicant has been subject to any final disciplinary action in any state in which the individual has been licensed which shall be verified by a query in the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Health Integrity Protection Databank, the American Association of Dental Examiners Clearing House for Disciplinary Information, any state where the applicant has been licensed, or any other pertinent bank currently existing or which may exist in the future. 11. Whether the applicant’s DEA registration or any state-controlled substances permit has ever been revoked, suspended, modified, restricted, or limited in any way. Provided, however, that any discipline that results only from a failure to timely renew a registration or permit shall not prevent an applicant from being eligible for this method of licensure. 12. Denial of any professional license or denial of the opportunity to take a dental/dental hygiene exam. (n) If all criteria and requirements are satisfied and the Board determines, after notice and hearing, that the individual committed fraud or in any way falsified any information in the application process, the Board may impose disciplinary sanctions allowed by the provisions of the Act. (3) In addition to the requirements for applicants seeking licensure by credentials, an applicant desiring to practice a specialty only, must meet the following requirements: (a) The specialty must be one in a branch of dentistry approved by the American Dental Association. (b) The applicant shall meet the existing educational requirements, and standards set forth by the American Dental Association for that approved specialty. (c) An applicant who chooses to announce or practice a specialty must limit his/her practice exclusively to the announced special area or areas of dental practice. (4) An applicant shall submit to the board with the application, a non-refundable fee to be determined by the Board. If an applicant is granted a license, this fee includes the licensing fee for the remaining portion of the first licensing year.
(5) Regardless of the applicant’s compliance with the foregoing requirements, the Board may refuse to issue a license by credentials based on any conduct which would be a ground for discipline pursuant to Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-19.

(6) An applicant granted a license by credentialing will be subject to the Act and all Board rules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty Practice</th>
<th>Code of Alabama § 34-9-10. Application; licensure by credentials; special purpose license.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(15) In addition to the requirements for applicants seeking licensure by credentials, an applicant desiring to practice a specialty only shall satisfy the following requirements:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. The specialty shall be one in a branch of dentistry approved by the board.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. The applicant shall satisfy the existing educational requirements and standards set forth by the board for that approved specialty.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. An applicant who chooses to announce or practice a specialty shall limit his or her practice exclusively to the announced special area or areas of dental practice.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. If an applicant who is initially licensed by credentials for a specialty practice decides to renounce his or her specialty and practice general dentistry, and the license originally issued did not require a general dental license but rather a specialty license, or the applicant originally passed only a specialty examination, the applicant may not practice general dentistry until he or she successfully passes the board's regular general dentistry examination. However, if the applicant has passed a general dentistry examination or has a general dentistry license, was practicing a specialty, and decides not to continue that specialty and practice only general dentistry, the applicant is eligible for licensure by credentials as a general dentist.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), the board shall issue a special purpose license to practice dentistry across state lines to an applicant who has met the following requirements:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) The applicant holds a full and unrestricted license to practice dentistry in any state of the United States or in territories, other than the State of Alabama, in which the individual is licensed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) The applicant has not had any disciplinary action or other action taken against him or her by any state or licensing jurisdiction. If there has been previous disciplinary or other action taken against the applicant, the board may issue a certificate of qualification if it finds that the previous disciplinary or other action indicates that the dentist is not a potential threat to the public.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) The applicant submits an application for a certificate of qualification for a special purpose license to practice dentistry across state lines on a form provided by the board, remits an application fee in an amount established by the board, and pays a fee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) A special purpose license issued by the board to practice dentistry across state lines limits the licensee solely to the practice of dentistry across state lines. The special purpose license shall be valid for a period of up to three years, shall expire on a renewal date determined by the board, and may be renewed upon receipt of a renewal fee as established by the board. Failure to renew a license according to the renewal schedule established by the board shall cause the special purpose license to be inactive. An applicant may reapply for a special purpose license to practice dentistry across state lines following placement of the license on inactive status. The applicant shall meet the qualifications of subsection (e) in order to be eligible for renewal of the license.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the board shall only issue a special purpose license to practice dentistry across state lines to an applicant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
whose principal practice location and license to practice are located in a state or territory of the United States whose laws permit or allow for the issuance of a special purpose license to practice dentistry across state lines or similar license to a dentist whose principal practice location and license are located in another state. It is the stated intent of this section that dentists who hold a full and current license in the State of Alabama be afforded the opportunity to obtain, on a reciprocal basis, a license to practice dentistry across state lines in any other state or territory of the United States as a precondition to the issuance of a special purpose license as authorized by this section to a dentist licensed in the other state or territory. The board shall determine which states or territories have reciprocal licensure requirements meeting the qualifications of this section.

(h) Any individual who does not qualify for licensure pursuant to any of the above subsections but who has passed an examination approved by the board and possesses a current license in another state is eligible to apply for licensure upon payment of a fee. The board shall have discretion whether to require an examination for any such individual, including the time, place, type, and content of any such examination.

(i) A current license shall mean one in good standing authorizing the individual to practice in the state of issuance.


(3) In addition to the requirements for applicants seeking licensure by credentials, an applicant desiring to practice a specialty only, must meet the following requirements: (a) The specialty must be one in a branch of dentistry approved by the American Dental Association. (b) The applicant shall meet the existing educational requirements, and standards set forth by the American Dental Association for that approved specialty. (c) An applicant who chooses to announce or practice a specialty must limit his/her practice exclusively to the announced special area or areas of dental practice.

(4) An applicant shall submit to the board with the application, a non-refundable fee to be determined by the Board. If an applicant is granted a license, this fee includes the licensing fee for the remaining portion of the first licensing year.

(5) Regardless of the applicant’s compliance with the foregoing requirements, the Board may refuse to issue a license by credentials based on any conduct which would be a ground for discipline pursuant to Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-19.

(6) An applicant granted a license by credentialing will be subject to the Act and all Board rules.

Continuing Education

Alabama Administrative Code 270-X-4-.0 4 Mandatory Continuing Education For Dentists and Dental Hygienists.

(1) NUMBER OF HOURS.

(a) Dentists shall complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education every year as a condition of licensure renewal. No more than one-half (1/2) of the hours can be completed or satisfied by analog and/or digital media, journals, publications, internet courses, correspondence courses, or distance-based education whether by video or audio format. It shall be the responsibility of each dentist to submit on an annual basis an affidavit or other form approved and provided by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama to demonstrate compliance with this requirement. The required hours must be completed in the twelve (12) month period beginning October 1 of each year and ending September 30 of the next year. The period shall begin on the date of the initial certification or on the date of any subsequent recertification. The specific dental continuing education requirements are as follows:

(i) Dentists must maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the basic or advanced support level through the American Heart
Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program. During the two-year CPR certification term, a dentist may apply only four (4) hours of CPR training to their annual twenty (20) hour requirement in the renewal period during which they were earned.

(ii) Dentists must maintain current certification in infectious disease control as it relates to the dental office or to the practice of dentistry. During the four-year infectious disease control certification term, a dentist may apply only two (2) hours of said training to their annual requirement in the renewal period during which they were earned. Dentists must achieve a minimum of one (1) hour of Continuing Education in the subject of infectious disease control every two (2) years.

(iii) Dentists must achieve a minimum of one (1) two (2) hours of Continuing Education in the subject of prescribing controlled substances every two (2) four (4) years.

(iv) Dentists who hold an Oral Conscious Sedation Permit must also complete a minimum of two (2) four (4) hours of Continuing Education in the subject of sedation and/or anesthesia every two (2) four (4) years.

(v) The combined number of hours of continuing education training in the course areas of insurance, governmental regulations, and tort liability and/or risk management shall not exceed a total of four (4) hours for the annual renewal period.

(vi) Practice management courses shall not exceed a total of three (3) hours for the annual renewal period.

At least half of all continuing education must be attributed to the practice of dentistry. All hours earned for continuing education must be submitted in the renewal period during which they were earned.

(b) Dental Hygienists shall complete twelve (12) hours of continuing education every year as a condition of licensure renewal. No more than one-half (1/2) of the hours can be completed or satisfied by analog and/or digital media, journals, publications, internet courses, correspondence courses or distance-based education whether by video or audio format. It shall be the responsibility of each dental hygienist to submit on an annual basis an affidavit or other form approved and provided by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama to demonstrate compliance with this requirement. The required hours must be completed in the twelve (12) month period beginning October 1 of each year and ending September 30 of the next year. The period shall begin on the date of the initial certification or on the date of any subsequent recertification. The specific dental hygiene continuing education requirements are as follows:

(i) Dental hygienists must maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the basic support level through the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program. This requirement must be satisfied by completing an in-person training course. During the two-year CPR certification term, a dental hygienist may apply only two (2) hours of CPR training to their annual requirement in the renewal period during which they were earned.

(ii) Dental hygienists must maintain current certification in infectious disease control as it relates to the dental office or to the practice of dentistry. During the four-year infectious disease control certification term, a dental hygienist may apply only two (2) hours of said training to their annual requirement in the renewal period during which they were earned. Dental hygienists must achieve a minimum of one (1) hour of Continuing Education in the subject of infectious disease control every two (2) years.
(iii) The combined number of hours of continuing education training in the course areas of insurance, governmental regulations, and tort liability and/or risk management shall not exceed a total of four (4) hours for the annual renewal period.

(iv) Practice management courses shall not exceed a total of three (3) hours for the annual renewal period.

At least half of all continuing education must be attributed to the practice of dental hygiene. All hours earned for continuing education must be submitted in the renewal period during which they were earned.

(c) Dentists/dental hygienists will be allowed up to four (4) hours of credit for the twelve-month period for pro bono charitable work performed within the State of Alabama. Any such work by a dental hygienist must be under the direct supervision of a dentist licensed in the State of Alabama. One (1) hour of continuing education credit shall be awarded for every two (2) hours of service.

(d) Licensees who have graduated or completed a dental residency in the year of their initial licensure shall only be required to accrue and prove compliance with required hours of continuing education through the end of the subsequent year following licensure. Thereafter said licensees shall comply with continuing education requirements set forth above. However, said licensees must be able to prove compliance with this rule regarding CPR and infectious disease control certifications.

(2) RECORD KEEPING, REPORTING, AND MONITORING.

(a) It is the responsibility of each dentist/dental hygienist to maintain and compile accurate records relating to all continuing education courses or activities they have attended and completed. Accurate records shall mean a certification or evidence of attendance at any continuing education courses. It shall be the responsibility of each dentist/dental hygienist to maintain the above described documentation and information pertaining to each year for a period of two (2) four (4) years, and this information shall be submitted to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama within thirty (30) days after a request for the same by the Board.

(b) Each dentist/dental hygienist must submit during the license renewal period of each calendar year, evidence or documentation of satisfactory completion of the required hours of continuing education provided for in these rules. This information shall be submitted on an affidavit and/or other means to be approved and provided by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama. Upon receipt of this information it shall be reviewed by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama and the dentist/dental hygienist shall then be notified that either:

1. They have fulfilled the requirements of these rules and their annual registration will be issued, or

2. They will be notified there are deficiencies or non-compliance with these rules and they will be subject to a non-disciplinary administrative penalty as set forth in Board Rule 270-X-5.09(1)(e).

(c) Any dentist/dental hygienist who receives notification that they will be subject to a non-disciplinary administrative penalty because of non-compliance with these rules may appeal in writing to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama within Thirty (30) days from the date of the Board’s notification to them of their non-compliance. Upon the receipt of the written appeal, the Board may request the submission of additional information or records or may require the dentist/dental hygienist to appear before the Board in connection with the appeal.

(3) AUDITING. The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama may randomly audit the continuing education documentation or information to be maintained or
submitted by each dentist/dental hygienist as described herein to assure compliance with these rules. Failure to maintain the documentation or information set forth in these rules, the submission of false or misleading information or documentation to the Board, or failure to submit requested documentation or information within the time specified by the Board may subject the dentist/dental hygienist to a non-disciplinary administrative penalty.

(4) WAIVER. Upon written request to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama, and upon the demonstration of good and sufficient cause, the Board may grant a waiver or extension of time for the completion of the annual hour requirements for continuing education as set forth herein. Any such request must be received by the Board prior to September first (1st) of the year in which the waiver or extension applies. Any such request received after the above referenced date will be considered untimely and denied. The dentist/dental hygienist who seeks such a waiver or extension shall submit to the Board any documentation required by the Board which the Board deems appropriate for it to make a decision concerning that waiver or extension.

(5) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION.

(a) Continuing dental education may include, but is not limited to, attendance at lectures, study clubs, college and post graduate courses, scientific sessions of conventions, research, graduate studies, teachings, service as a clinician, analog and/or digital media, journals, internet courses, publications, or correspondence courses. Continuing education programs may include, but are not limited to, programs that address any of the following:
   1. Competency in treating patients who are medically compromised or who experience medical emergencies during the course of dental treatment;
   2. Knowledge of pharmaceutical products and the protocol of the proper use of medications or controlled substances;
   3. Competency to diagnose oral pathology;
   4. Awareness of currently accepted methods of infection control;
   5. Basic medical and scientific subjects including but not limited to biology, physiology, pathology, biochemistry and pharmacology, analgesia, diet and nutrition, microbiology, anatomy, dental anatomy, microscopic anatomy, chemistry, organic chemistry, and neurology;
   6. Clinical and technological subjects including but not limited to techniques and procedures in general dentistry or recognized specialties, dental materials and equipment, diagnosis and treatment planning, asepsis and sterilization techniques and radiology;
   7. Subjects pertinent to health and safety including but not limited to public health problems, communicable diseases, emergency care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, advanced life support, patient stress management, the laws and rules governing the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene, and ethical considerations in the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene; and
   8. Insurance, governmental regulations and tort liability and/or risk management.

(b) Programs or courses that focus on the following areas cannot be considered acceptable or satisfactory continuing education:
   1. Personal finances;
   2. Presentations by political or public figures or other persons who do not deal primarily with dental or dental hygiene practice;
   3. Personal motivational courses; and
   4. Basic educational or cultural subjects not directly related to the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene, outside the scope of the dentist/dental hygienist’s practice, or inconsistent with the dentist/dental hygienist’s scope of practice.
(c) One (1) hour of continuing education credit shall be given for each hour of attendance and an hour of attendance shall be defined as exceeding fifty (50) minutes. Two (2) hours of continuing education credit shall be given for each hour taught by a dentist/dental hygienist at a continuing education program provided, however, that no more than one-half (1/2) of the annual required hours can be completed or satisfied in this manner. A dentist/dental hygienist cannot attain more than eight (8) hours of continuing education credit for any one day.

(d) Programs meeting the general requirements of paragraph 5(a) above may be developed and offered to dentists/dental hygienists by any of the following agencies or organizations:
1. National, state, district or local dental/dental hygiene associations;
2. Accredited dental/dental hygiene colleges or schools.

(e) Courses may be approved by the Board, or its designee, if the following five (5) criteria are submitted to the Board at least two months in advance of a course’s being presented (the Board will not approve courses in retrospect):
1. Didactic/clinical subject matter;
2. Lecture participation;
3. Outline objectives;
4. Hours commensurate with time spent; and,
5. Presenter qualifications.

(f) The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama shall have the right to monitor or audit any course or program to determine whether that course or program is in compliance with these rules.

(6) LICENSEES EXCUSED FROM CONTINUING EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Any dentist/dental hygienist licensed in the State of Alabama but practicing outside the State of Alabama; however, if such person returns to the State of Alabama, and desires to practice dentistry/dental hygiene, he/she shall then be required to submit evidence to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama prior to being allowed to practice, that they have attended and completed within the preceding five (5) years continuing education courses or programs which comply with these rules in a number of hours not less than twenty (20) nor more than One Hundred (100).

(b) Dentists enrolled fulltime in a postgraduate specialty training or residency program at a dental school accredited by the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation.

(c) Dental hygienists enrolled fulltime in an academic program directly related to dentistry/dental hygiene, including but not limited to the Alabama Dental Hygiene Program.

(d) Any dentist/dental hygienist who has permanently retired from the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene; however, if said person desires to return to the active practice of dentistry/dental hygiene, then he/she shall then be required to submit evidence to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama, prior to being allowed to practice, that they have attended and completed within the preceding five (5) years continuing education courses or programs which comply with these rules.

(e) Dentists/dental hygienists who are not practicing and can demonstrate to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama good cause for being excused from the application of these rules, such excuses including but not limited to age, disability, illness, or disease. If such person returns to the active practice of dentistry/dental hygiene, then that person shall first be required to attend and complete continuing education courses or programs that would comply with these rules in a number of hours deemed appropriate by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama.
(f) Any dentist/dental hygienist who fails to comply with the provisions of these rules or who otherwise violates the Alabama Dental Practice Act in connection with the requirements of these rules or relating to any information to be maintained or submitted to the Board as provided for in these rules shall be assessed a non-disciplinary administrative penalty.

Author: Board of Dental Examiners