

The DAT is in Three Months!

What Should I Know?

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DAT Program Purpose

DAT program in operation (nationally) since 1950. Detailed history in User's Manual: http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/dat_users_manual.ashx.

Purpose: Designed to measure general academic ability, comprehension of scientific information, and perceptual ability.

Foundation upon which the test is built; drives the:

- Test content
- Administration policies and procedures
- Scoring, Reporting, and Interpretation of Scores

Validity studies show that test scores (in conjunction with academic records) are useful in predicting performance in dental school.

All dental schools require examinees to participate in the DAT Program, but test results are only one consideration in evaluating examinee admission potential.

DAT Program Operating Principles

- Set/maintain standards for profession.
- Valid, reliable, and credible test.
- Complies with *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*; incorporates industry best practices.
- Uphold security and protection of content/intellectual property.
- Examinees given reasonable opportunity to demonstrate ability/achievement. Opportunity is fair and equitable.
- Cost effective.

DAT Format and Content

- Computer-based, administered by Prometric
- United States and territories (Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands)
- Detailed Test Specifications (DAT Guide, page 6)

Test	Testing Schedule	Number of Questions
Optional tutorial--15 minutes		
Survey of Natural Sciences	90 minutes	100
Perceptual Ability	60 minutes	90
Optional scheduled break--15 minutes		
Reading Comprehension	60 minutes	50
Quantitative Reasoning	45 minutes	40
Optional post test survey--15 minutes		
Total	5 hours	280

Changes to Test Content

DAT Test Specifications are found in the DAT Guide and outline specific test content details. Any future changes will be outlined within the Test Specifications and posted in December of the calendar year that changes become effective.

SURVEY OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES (100 items)	
Biology (40)	
Cell and Molecular Biology	Origin of life, cell metabolism (including photosynthesis/ enzymology), cellular processes, thermodynamics, organelle structure and function, mitosis/ meiosis, cell structure, and experimental cell biology
Diversity of Life	Biological Organization and Relationship of Major Taxa (Six-Kingdom, Three-Domain System) – plantae, <u>animalia</u> , <u>protista</u> , fungi, eubacteria (bacteria), archaea, etc.
Structure and Function of Systems	Integumentary, skeletal, muscular, circulatory, immunological, digestive, respiratory, urinary, nervous/ senses, endocrine, reproductive, etc.
Developmental Biology	Fertilization, descriptive embryology, developmental mechanisms, and experimental embryology
Genetics	Molecular genetics, human genetics, classical genetics, chromosomal genetics, and genetic technology
Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior	Natural selection, population genetics/ speciation, cladistics, population and community ecology, ecosystems, and animal behavior (including social behavior).

Changes to Test Content: Critical Thinking

- There are many different ways to define the concept of critical thinking. Those definitions often involve the application of cognitive skills such as problem solving, interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and inference.
- Critical thinking is not a specific content area to be mastered, but is perhaps best thought of as a rational, reasoned approach to the processing of information in order to reach conclusions and derive solutions.
- Critical thinking involves information processing, and the type of information that is being processed can vary greatly (e.g., reading comprehension content, quantitative content, science content). In essence, particular content areas provide a platform for the application of critical thinking skills that vary in complexity.
- Critical thinking skills can be assessed either through a separate content section, or through embedding higher cognitive processing requirements within an existing content structure. The DAT Program has taken the latter approach, and chosen to incorporate critical thinking into the DAT's Quantitative Reasoning Test section.

Changes to Test Content

Changes to Quantitative Reasoning Test (QRT) Specifications

In the 2016 calendar year, changes will be introduced to QRT to incorporate additional critical thinking into this section. Critical thinking will be embedded in the following areas:

- Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Sufficiency (NEW)
- Quantitative Comparison (NEW)
- Probability and Statistics (more items)

Note: while items have been discarded in certain areas (e.g., Geometry and Trigonometry) the removal of these items does not imply that items in the QRT section no longer require knowledge in those areas. Items written in areas such as “quantitative comparison” and “data analysis, interpretation, and sufficiency” can still utilize underlying content in geometry and trigonometry.

Additional information will be posted at: www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test#.

Test Administration and Fees

- Electronic process; 6 month eligibility.
- Administered nationwide on any business day at Prometric Test Centers.
- 285 professional level testing centers in North America with 5,179 available seats.
- Secure test environment. Biometric check-in. Video monitoring.

<https://www.prometric.com/en-us/Pages/home.aspx>

2015 Fees

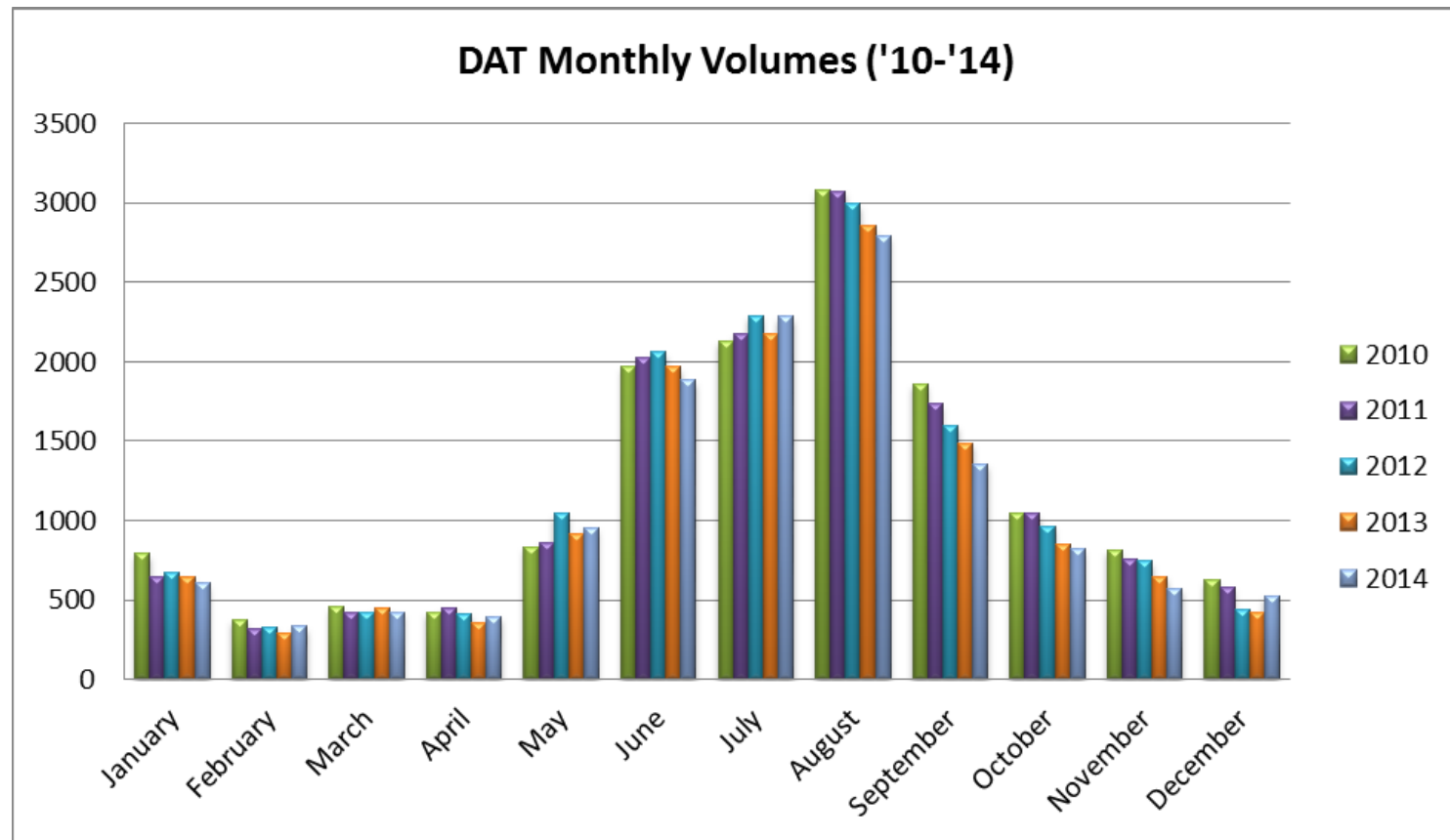
DAT includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• unofficial personal report• official reports to schools, selected at time of application• pre-health advisor report, selected at time of application	\$415
Additional score report (per entity)	\$34
Audit Request	\$65

Testing Checklist

Make sure these issues do not create problems for you on testing day!

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Two original, current IDs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photograph and signature government issued ID (driver license or passport; not expired)• Signature ID (social security card, credit card, debit card, library card)	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Follow instructions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Store personal items in locker and DO NOT access during testing or unscheduled breaks.• No cell phone use during testing or unscheduled break.• Empty pockets.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ID name MUST match application name</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Match</u>: Joseph Anthony Smith and Joseph A. Smith• <u>Non-match</u>: Joseph Anthony Smith and Joseph Smith-Johnson (hyphenated last names)	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Testing condition problems; notify test administrator immediately</u></p> <p>Concerns not resolved must be submitted in writing to DTS within 5 business days of testing appointment.</p>

DAT Monthly Testing Volumes





Testing Accommodations

Testing accommodations are offered to those with a qualified impairment/medical condition to offer equal access to testing. Examinees must request testing accommodations with each application, but will not be required to submit additional documentation for the same impairment with subsequent retests. Examinees requesting the same accommodations offered previously by the DAT program need only submit the testing accommodations form.

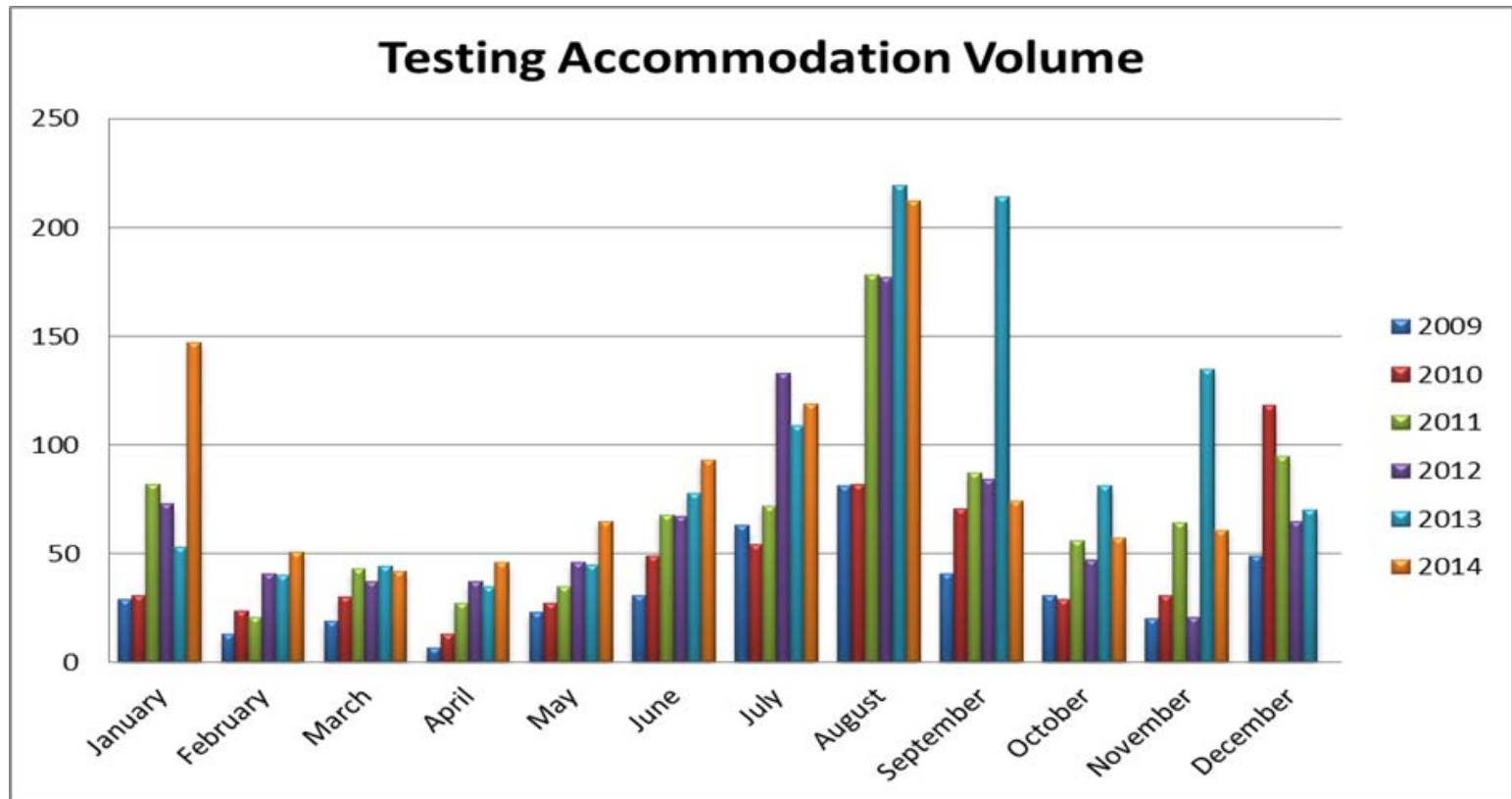
Information concerning testing accommodations will not be shared outside of the DAT Program and Test Center, and will not be indicated on test results, reported to dental schools, nor provided to additional report recipients.

Submit the following (single attachment) to testingaccommodations@ada.org:

- Testing Accommodation Request Form indicating the impairment/medical condition and the request for accommodations.
- Current evaluation report from an appropriate health care professional. The report should include:
 - ✓ Specific diagnostic procedures/tests administered.
 - ✓ Results and interpretation of the diagnostic procedures/tests.
 - ✓ Diagnosis of the impairment/medical condition, with description of limitations.
 - ✓ Recommendations for testing accommodations.

Testing Accommodation Volume

(data is inclusive of 4 out of 5 testing programs)



Score Reports/Scoring

Score Reports	Scoring
<p>Unofficial score report provided at test center.</p> <p>Audit procedures conducted.</p> <p>Official scores reported electronically 3 - 4 weeks after testing appointment.</p>	<p>Based on the number of correct answers provided by the examinee.</p> <p>Number of correct answers (raw scores) converted to scale scores.</p> <p>Equating process adjusts for differences in difficulty among test forms and permits comparison of scores over time.</p>
<p>Administrations monitored for irregularities.</p> <p>Penalties for misconduct and cheating. DAT Guide, <i>Testing Irregularities and Appeals</i></p>	<p>Committee on Dental Admission Testing reviews performance to understand trends and potential changes.</p>

Detailed score analysis provided in DAT User's Manual

http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/dat_users_manual.ashx



Retesting

90-day wait required between retests.

Three or more testing attempts, must apply for permission to retest and provide evidence of current application to dental school.

Acceptable evidence includes:

- ADEA AADSAS application **or**
- Rejection letter from a dental school **or**
- Letter from dental school admission officer/pre-health advisor.

Reschedule Policy

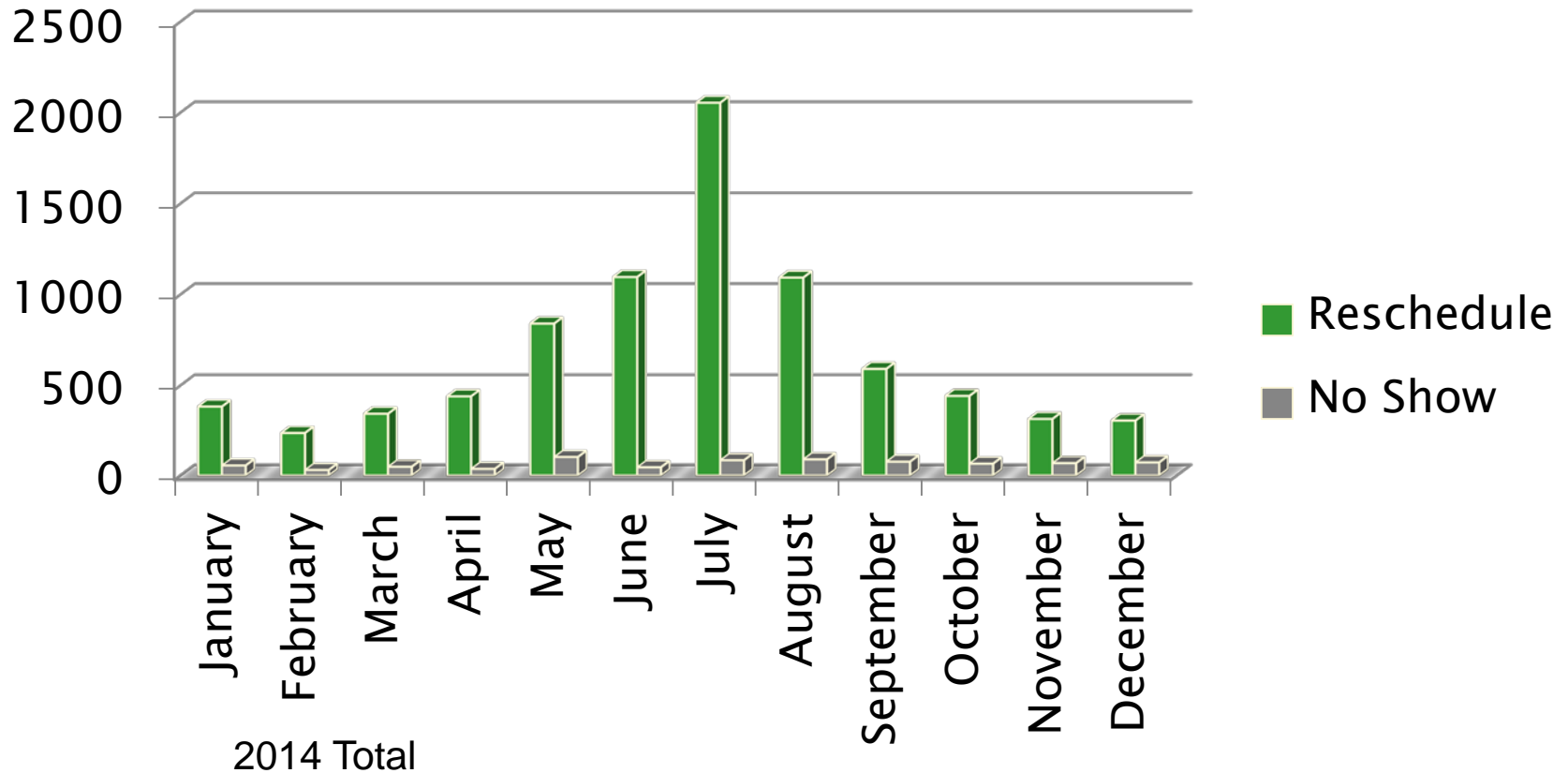
Permits last minute rescheduling.

Contact Prometric directly and pay a fee directly to Prometric.

Contractual agreements require DTS payment for no-show appointments.

Rescheduling Fees	
\$100	Day before to 5 business days prior to the testing appointment
\$60	6 to 30 business days prior to the testing appointment
\$25	31+ business days prior to the testing appointment
	Saturday and Sunday are NOT business days

Reschedule and No Show Volume



2014 Total
Rescheduled appointments 8,137
No show appointments 770

Examinee Satisfaction Survey

DAT Examinee Satisfaction Survey Results: Prometric				
	N	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Appointment date	1307	42.7	52.4	4.9
Helpfulness of test center staff	1287	67.1	31.1	1.8
Performance of testing system	1284	41.1	49.1	9.8
Promptness in seating them	1296	65.5	32.1	2.1
Test center total testing environment	1278	52.3	44.1	3.6
Total experience of taking DAT	1279	45.6	50.9	3.5

Resources

What?	Where?
Counsel with your Pre-health Advisor	Undergraduate academic institution Proposed dental school
Application Guide FAQs Practice Test – paper Score Reports Testing Accommodations Testing Checklist Tutorial	www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test
Prometric Test Centers FAQs Practice Test - online What to Expect on Test Day	https://www.prometric.com/en-us/Pages/home.aspx

DENTPIN

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About DENTPIN

The **DENTPIN (DENTAL Personal Identifier Number)** is a unique personal identifier for professionals and students involved with the U.S. dental education system and standardized testing programs. If you tested or applied to test, a DENTPIN has been assigned to you and you can retrieve it by selecting DENTPIN Retrieval from the navigation bar on the left.

You must retrieve or register for a DENTPIN from this site and use it to apply to a dental education program or application service, apply to test, or request a score report.

The name on your identification card(s) (IDs) must match exactly with the name in your DENTPIN record. If the name in your DENTPIN record and the name on your IDs do not match exactly, you will be denied admission to testing and will forfeit your testing appointment and fee. You will be required to submit a new application and fee.

To avoid delays in processing your application and score request, **be sure that the information you provide to the following programs/organizations is accurate and identical** (legal name, date of birth, and DENTPIN).

The following programs use the DENTPIN to identify professionals and students for the confidential, secure reporting, transmission and tracking of test scores and testing data.

99% 2:41 PM 2/17/2015

Website

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ADA American Dental Association website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admi>. The website header includes the ADA logo and the tagline "America's leading advocate for oral health". Navigation links for "About the ADA", "Contact", "Join/Renew", and "Login" are visible. A main navigation menu highlights "EDUCATION/CAREERS" among other categories like "MEMBER CENTER", "SCIENCE/RESEARCH", "ADVOCACY", "PUBLICATIONS", and "PUBLIC PROGRAMS".

The page content is titled "Dental Admission Test" and includes a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Education and Careers > Dental Admission Test". A sidebar on the left lists links for "My Account", "DENTPIN", "DAT Guide", "DAT Application", "DAT Score Report Request", and "DAT Privacy Policy". The main content area features a section for a "Survey of Undergraduate Biology Instructors" with a "Take the Survey" button. Below this is a list of links for "Apply to Take the DAT", "DAT Partial Fee Waiver Information", "Test Preparation Material and Helpful Information", "DAT Score Information and Audit Request", "DAT Newsletters and Resources", and "DAT Test Construction and Contact Information".

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and system tray information, including the date and time: "2:39 PM 2/17/2015".

Contact Information

Dental Admission Testing Program

800-232-1694

datexam@ada.org

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