

INBDE Information for Test Takers

The Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) is a new examination for dental candidates, scheduled to replace the current National Board Dental Examination Part I and Part II examinations no sooner than August 2020. The INBDE is designed to assist state boards of dentistry in making decisions about candidates for dental licensure. By integrating content covering the basic, behavioral, and clinical sciences, the INBDE simulates the decision making required for the safe practice of dentistry.

Why the new exam is being developed

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) is developing a new examination because of changes in educational curricula and new accreditation standards that took effect in 2013, requiring the integration of basic sciences with behavioral and clinical science instruction. In reviewing content, the Joint Commission considered the state boards' perspective.

INBDE implementation timetable

INBDE will be implemented no sooner than August 2020. Some examinees may take field test forms of the examination before then. NBDE Part I administration is scheduled to cease on July 31, 2020, and NBDE Part II administration is expected to cease on July 31, 2022.

Opportunities for current students

Most current dental students are not expected to take the scored INBDE, but candidates for the NBDE Part II are encouraged to participate in the INBDE Short Form Field Test in the fall of 2016. Field tests are used to determine how well a draft of the exam is meeting the intended objectives so adjustments can be made before the official examination is administered in 2020. Scores from field tests are not reported to state boards or dental schools.

Current college students who expect to enroll in dental school in 2017 or later could be eligible to take the INBDE instead of the NBDE Part II in 2020. Students who expect to enroll in dental school in 2019 or later could be eligible to take the INBDE instead of the NBDE Part I, and most likely the NBDE Part II won't be available after July 31, 2022, so they might be required to take the INBDE for certification. After students take the INBDE, they will no longer be allowed to take the NBDE Part I or Part II. Each student must qualify to take the National Board Examinations. Most often eligibility is provided through verification from the dean of an accredited dental program. Additional information on eligibility is available in the [Guides](#) to the NBDE Part I and NBDE Part II.

Information for future dental students

The Joint Commission expects each dental school program to assist students in determining the appropriate time to test on the National Board Examinations. The timing will help determine what examinations students should plan to take. *Each school determines when students are sufficiently prepared for the National Board Examinations.*

How INBDE differs from NBDE Part I and Part II

The new test relies less on rote knowledge and information recall than the current NBDE examinations do, and instead it emphasizes the decision-making process relevant to the safe practice of dentistry, through the integration of the basic sciences and dental and clinical science.

The JCNDE expects the INBDE will include 300 to 450 items, compared with 400 items on the NBDE Part I and 500 on the Part II for a total of 900 items.

Plans for INBDE scoring

The INBDE is designed to be scored as pass/fail. Numeric scores are not expected to be provided to students who pass the examination. The Joint Commission is still determining how results for remediation purposes will be provided to candidates who receive failing scores.

Retest policy

The INBDE's retest policy will be the same as the Five Years/Five Attempts retest policy of the NBDE Part I and Part II. During the transition period when students will have the option of taking the NBDE Part II or the INBDE to fulfill the written examination requirement for licensure, the retest policies will remain in effect for both examinations. Students who have had five unsuccessful attempts on the NBDE Part II will still be permitted five attempts on the INBDE. After students have successfully completed the NBDE Part I and Part II or the INBDE with passing scores, they are no longer eligible to take any of the National Board Dental Examinations. Additional information on the [INBDE retest policy](#), and the retest policy during the transition to the INBDE, is available on the [INBDE website](#).

INBDE and state board licensure

As the replacement for the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE), the Joint Commission intends the INBDE to be adopted as the written component for state board licensure in all U.S. licensing jurisdictions that recognize NBDE results, including the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States. Each jurisdiction determines licensing requirements. Like the NBDE Part I and Part II examinations, the INBDE's purpose as an assessment is to assist state boards in making valid decisions in dental licensure.

INBDE sample items

The JCNDE has provided sample questions to help students prepare for the INBDE, and to help faculty members understand the types of questions on the exam. After field tests are concluded, the JCNDE expects to release test items from those examination forms. Sample test items also will be provided to students and dental educators before the scored INBDE is officially administered.

INBDE updates

The INBDE page on the [JCNDE](http://www.ada.org/en/jcnde/inbde/) website (<http://www.ada.org/en/jcnde/inbde/>) will be updated periodically as new information becomes available. In addition, the Joint Commission is communicating directly with state dental boards, dental education programs, and leadership of the ADA.