## **Illinois Laws & Rules**

Updated: 24 October 2025

# Initial Licensure Examination Requirements

# American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX, CDCA-WREB-CITA), CRDTS-SRTA

### Illinois Administrative Code, Title 68 Section 1220.120 Dental Examinations

- a) The Division shall accept the following examinations for licensure if administered and passed in their entirety (which includes passage of the restorative, periodontal, prosthodontic and endodontic portions of the examination):
- 1) CDCA-WREB-CITA Examination, with a passing score established by the testing entity;
- 2) CRDTS Examination, with a passing score established by the testing entity; or
- 3) SRTA Examination, with a passing score established by the testing entity.
- b) Retake requirements shall be that of the testing entity.
- c) The applicant shall have the examination scores submitted to the Division directly from the reporting entity.
- d) The Division will accept only examinations that have been completed in the 5 years prior to submission of the application, if never licensed in another jurisdiction.

## General Licensure Requirements

### 225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 25/9) (from Ch. 111, par. 2309

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

- Sec. 9. Qualifications of applicants for dental licenses. The Department shall require that each applicant for a license to practice dentistry shall:
  - (a) (Blank).
  - (b) Be at least 21 years of age and of good moral character.
- (c) (1) Present satisfactory evidence of completion of dental education by graduation from a dental college or school in the United States or Canada approved by the Department. The Department shall not approve any dental college or school which does not require at least (A) 60 semester hours of collegiate credit or the equivalent in acceptable subjects from a college or university before admission, and (B) completion of at least 4 academic years of instruction or the equivalent in an approved dental college or school that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association; or
- (2) Present satisfactory evidence of completion of dental education by graduation from a dental college or school outside the United States or Canada and provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant has: (A) completed a minimum of 2 academic years of general dental clinical training and obtained a doctorate of dental surgery (DDS) or doctorate of dental medicine (DMD) at a dental college or school in the United States or Canada approved by the Department; or (B) met the program requirements approved by rule by the Department.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent either the Department or any dental college or school from establishing higher standards than specified in this Act. (d) (Blank).

(e) Present satisfactory evidence that the applicant has passed the integrated National Board Dental Examination administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations and has successfully completed an examination conducted by one of the following regional testing services: the Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. (CRDTS), the Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc. (SRTA), the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB), the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA), or the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA). For purposes of this Section, successful completion shall mean that the applicant has achieved a minimum passing score as determined by the applicable regional testing service. The Secretary may suspend a regional testing service under this subsection (e) if, after proper notice and hearing, it is established that (i) the integrity of the examination has been breached so as to make future test

results unreliable or (ii) the test is fundamentally deficient in testing clinical competency.

In determining professional capacity under this Section, any individual who has not been actively engaged in the practice of dentistry, has not been a dental student, or has not been engaged in a formal program of dental education during the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of an application may be required to complete such additional testing, training, or remedial education as the Board may deem necessary in order to establish the applicant's present capacity to practice dentistry with reasonable judgment, skill, and safety. (Source: P.A. 102-93, eff. 1-1-22.)

(225 ILCS 25/10) (from Ch. 111, par. 2310)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

Sec. 10. Examinations for dental licensure. Examination shall be made in writing in all theoretical subjects. Both theoretical and practical examinations shall be of a character to give a fair test of the qualifications of the applicant to practice dentistry. The examination papers and all grading thereon, and the grading of the practical work, shall be deemed public documents, and preserved for a period of not less than 2 years after the Department shall have made and published its decisions thereon. All examinations shall be conducted or authorized under fair and wholly impartial methods. (Source: P.A. 84-365.) (225 ILCS 25/13.2)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

Sec. 13.2. Practice of license-pending general dentists.

- (a) An applicant for licensure as general dentist under this Act may obtain employment as a license-pending general dentist and practice under the delegation of a licensed general dentist. An applicant may be employed as a license-pending general dentist if all of the following criteria are met:
- (1) the applicant has completed and passed the Department-approved licensure examination and presents to the employer an official written notification indicating successful passage of the licensure examination;
- (2) the applicant has completed and submitted to the Department an application for a general dentist license under this Act; and
  - (3) the applicant has submitted the required licensure fee.
- (b) An applicant's authorization to practice under this Section shall terminate upon the occurrence of any of the following:
  - (1) receipt of a general dentist license from the Department;
- (2) notification from the Department that the applicant's application for licensure has been denied:
- (3) a request by the Department that the applicant terminate practicing as a license-pending general dentist until an official decision is made by the Department to grant or deny a general dentist license to the applicant; or
- (4) 6 months elapsing since the official date of the applicant's passage of the licensure examination, as specified on the formal written notification provided to the applicant upon passage of the examination. The 6-month period may be extended by the Department by rule. (Source: P.A. 104-103, eff. 8-1-25.)

Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Section 1220.100 Application for Licensure

An applicant for a license to practice dentistry in Illinois shall file an application on forms supplied by the Division that shall include:

a) For graduates from a dental college or school in the United States or Canada, certification of successful completion of 60 semester hours or its equivalent of college pre-dental education, and graduation from a dental program specified in Section 1220.140.

b) For graduates from a dental college or school outside of the United States or Canada:

- 1) Certification of graduation from a dental college or school; and
- 2) Clinical Training
- A) Certification from an approved dental college or school in the United States or Canada that the applicant has completed a minimum of 2 years of general dental clinical training at the school in which the applicant met the same level of scientific knowledge and clinical competence as all graduates from that school or college. The 2 years of general dental clinical training shall consist of:
- 2850 clock hours completed in 2 academic years for full-time applicants; or
- ii) 2850 clock hours completed in 4 years with a minimum of 700 hours per year for part-time applicants; or
- B) In the alternative, certification, from the program director of an accredited advanced dental education program approved by the Division, of completion of no less than 2 academic years may be substituted for the 2 academic years of general dental clinical training. The accredited advanced dental education program must have sufficient clinical and didactic training. An advanced dental education clinical program in Prosthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, and oral and maxillofacial surgery is acceptable under this Part;
- The required fee set forth in Section 1220.415(a)(1).
- d) Proof of successful completion of the Theoretical examination given by JCNDE. The passing score shall be determined by JCNDE. The National Board Certificate must be mailed to the Division by JCNDE.
- e) Proof of successful completion of an examination set forth in Section 1220.120(a).
- f) Certification, on forms provided by the Division, from the state in which an applicant was originally licensed and is currently licensed, if applicable, stating:
- 1) The time during which the applicant was licensed in that state, including the date of the original issuance of the license; and
- 2) Whether the file on the applicant contains any record of disciplinary actions taken or pending.

(Source: Amended at 48 III. Reg. 14138, effective September 10, 2024) Section 1220.120 Dental Examinations

- a) The Division shall accept the following examinations for licensure if administered and passed in their entirety (which includes passage of the restorative, periodontal, prosthodontic and endodontic portions of the examination):
- 1) CDCA-WREB-CITA Examination, with a passing score established by the testing entity;
- 2) CRDTS Examination, with a passing score established by the testing entity; or
- 3) SRTA Examination, with a passing score established by the testing entity.
- b) Retake requirements shall be that of the testing entity.
- c) The applicant shall have the examination scores submitted to the Division directly from the reporting entity.
- d) The Division will accept only examinations that have been completed in the 5 years prior to submission of the application, if never licensed in another jurisdiction. (Source: Amended at 48 III. Reg. 14138, effective September 10, 2024)

## License by Credential/ Endorsement Requirements

225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 25/19 (from Ch. 111, par. 2319

(Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 104-151) (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

Sec. 19. Licensing applicants from other states. Any person who has been lawfully licensed to practice dentistry, including the practice of a licensed dental specialty, or dental hygiene in another state or territory or as a member of the military service which has and maintains a standard for the practice of dentistry, a

dental specialty, or dental hygiene at least equal to that now maintained in this State, or if the requirements for licensure in such state or territory in which the applicant was licensed were, at the date of his or her licensure, substantially equivalent to the requirements then in force in this State, and who has been lawfully engaged in the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene for at least 2 years immediately preceding the filing of his or her application to practice in this State and who shall deposit with the Department a duly attested certificate from the Board of the state or territory in which he or she is licensed, certifying to the fact of his or her licensing and of his or her being a person of good moral character may, upon payment of the required fee, be granted a license to practice dentistry, a dental specialty, or dental hygiene in this State, as the case may be.

For the purposes of this Section, "substantially equivalent" means that the applicant has presented evidence of completion and graduation from an American Dental Association accredited dental college or school in the United States or Canada, presented evidence that the applicant has passed both parts of the National Board Dental Examination, and successfully completed an examination conducted by a regional testing service.

Applicants have 3 years from the date of application to complete the application process. If the process has not been completed in 3 years, the application shall be denied, the fee forfeited and the applicant must reapply and meet the requirements in effect at the time of reapplication. (Source: P.A. 103-425, eff. 1-1-24.)

(225 ILCS 25/19.1)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

Sec. 19.1. Temporary authorization of applicants from other jurisdictions. A person holding an active, unencumbered license in good standing in another jurisdiction who applies for a license pursuant to Section 19 of this Act due to a natural disaster or catastrophic event in another jurisdiction, may be temporarily authorized by the Secretary to practice dentistry or dental hygiene under the supervision of a dentist licensed under this Act, pending the issuance of the license. This temporary authorization shall expire upon issuance of the license or upon notification that the Department has denied licensure.

The Department may adopt all rules necessary for the administration of this Section. (Source: P.A. 94-1014, eff. 7-7-06.)

### Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Section 1220.410 Endorsement

- a) A person seeking licensure in Illinois as a dentist, a dental specialist or a dental hygienist who is so licensed in another state or territory and has been lawfully practicing for at least 3 of the last 5 years prior to application in Illinois, may be granted licensure in Illinois upon proof that the requirements for licensure in the other jurisdiction are at least equal to the requirements in Illinois.
- b) An applicant for a dental license shall file an application for licensure on forms provided by the Division, that shall include:
- 1) Certification of licensure in the original jurisdiction and from any jurisdiction where the applicant has been practicing within the last 5 years, stating:
- A) The time during which the applicant was licensed in that jurisdiction, including the date of the original issuance of the license;
- B) Whether the files of the jurisdiction contain any record of any disciplinary action taken or pending;
- 2) The applicant's National Board of Dentistry Examination scores, which must be forwarded to the Division from the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations:
- 3) Certification of successful completion of 60 semester hours or its equivalent of college level pre-dental education and graduation from a course of instruction in a

dental school that meets the minimum education standards of the Division specified in Section 1220.140:

- 4) After May 21, 1993, for dental applicants who graduated from a dental college or school outside of the United States or Canada:
- A) Certification of graduation from a dental college or school;
- B) Certification that the applicant was authorized to practice in the jurisdiction in which the applicant attended dental school; and
- C) Certification from an approved dental college or school in the United States or Canada that the applicant has completed a minimum of 2 years of clinical training at the school in which the applicant met the same level of scientific knowledge and clinical competence as all graduates from that school or college. The 2 years of clinical training shall consist of:
- 2850 clock hours completed in 2 academic years for full-time applicants; or
- ii) 2850 clock hours completed in 4 years with a minimum of 700 hours per year for part-time applicants;
- Verification of employment;
- 6) The fee required under Section 1220.415.
- c) An applicant for a dental hygienist license shall file an application for licensure on forms provided by the Division, that shall include:
- 1) Certification of licensure in the original jurisdiction and from any jurisdiction where the applicant has been practicing within the last 5 years, stating:
- A) The time during which the applicant was licensed in that jurisdiction, including the date of the original issuance of the license;
- B) Whether the files of the jurisdiction contain any record of any disciplinary action taken or pending:
- 2) The applicant's National Dental Hygienist Board Examination scores, which must be forwarded to the Division from JCNDE:
- 3) Certification of 2 academic years of credit in an approved school of dental hygiene that meets the minimum education standards of the Division specified in Section 1220.250;
- 4) Verification of employment;
- 5) The fee required under Section 1220.415.
- d) Applicants who have not actively practiced in 3 of the last 5 years may be required to complete additional testing, training, or remedial education as the Board may deem necessary in order to establish the applicant's present capacity to practice dentistry.

# Specialty Practice

#### 225 ILCS 25/4) (from Ch. 111, par. 2304

Sec. 4. Definitions. As used in this Act:

"Branches of dentistry" means the various specialties of dentistry which, for purposes of this Act, shall be limited to the following: endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, oral and maxillofacial radiology, and dental anesthesiology.

"Specialist" means a dentist who has received a specialty license pursuant to Section 11(b).

### 225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 25/11) (from Ch. 111, par. 2311

(Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 104-151)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)
Sec. 11. Types of dental licenses. The Department shall have the authority to

issue the following types of licenses, to excuse the payment of fees for inactive status, to deliver certificates of identification, and to extend pre-license practice allowances as follows:

- (a) General licenses. The Department shall issue a license authorizing practice as a dentist to any person who qualifies for a license under this Act.
- (b) Specialty licenses. The Department shall issue a license authorizing practice as a specialist in any particular branch of dentistry to any dentist who has complied with the requirements established for that particular branch of dentistry at the time of making application. The Department shall establish additional requirements of any dentist who announces or holds himself or herself out to the public as a specialist or as being specially qualified in any particular branch of dentistry.

No dentist shall announce or hold himself or herself out to the public as a specialist or as being specially qualified in any particular branch of dentistry unless he or she is licensed to practice in that specialty of dentistry.

The fact that any dentist shall announce by card, letterhead, or any other form of communication using terms as "Specialist", "Practice Limited To", or "Limited to Specialty of" with the name of the branch of dentistry practiced as a specialty, or shall use equivalent words or phrases to announce the same, shall be prima facie evidence that the dentist is holding himself or herself out to the public as a specialist.

- (c) Temporary training licenses. Persons who wish to pursue specialty or other advanced clinical educational programs in an approved dental school or a hospital situated in this State, or persons who wish to pursue programs of specialty training in dental public health in public agencies in this State, may receive without examination, in the discretion of the Department, a temporary training license. In order to receive a temporary training license under this subsection, an applicant shall furnish satisfactory proof to the Department that:
- (1) The applicant is at least 21 years of age and is of good moral character. In determining moral character under this Section, the Department may take into consideration any felony conviction of the applicant, but such a conviction shall not operate as bar to licensure;
- (2) The applicant has been accepted or appointed for specialty or residency training by an approved hospital situated in this State, by an approved dental school situated in this State, or by a public health agency in this State the training programs of which are recognized and approved by the Department. The applicant shall indicate the beginning and ending dates of the period for which he or she has been accepted or appointed;
- (3) The applicant is a graduate of a dental school or college approved and in good standing in the judgment of the Department. The Department may consider diplomas or certifications of education, or both, accompanied by transcripts of course work and credits awarded to determine if an applicant has graduated from a dental school or college approved and in good standing. The Department may also consider diplomas or certifications of education, or both, accompanied by transcripts of course work and credits awarded in determining whether a dental school or college is approved and in good standing.

Temporary training licenses issued under this Section shall be valid only for the duration of the period of residency or specialty training and may be extended or renewed as prescribed by rule. The holder of a valid temporary training license shall be entitled thereby to perform acts as may be prescribed by and incidental to his or her program of residency or specialty training; but he or she shall not be entitled to engage in the practice of dentistry in this State.

A temporary training license may be revoked by the Department upon proof that the holder has engaged in the practice of dentistry in this State outside of his or her program of residency or specialty training, or if the holder shall fail to supply the Department, within 10 days of its request, with information as to his or her current status and activities in his or her specialty training program.

- (d) Faculty limited licenses. Persons who have received full-time appointments to teach dentistry at an approved dental school or hospital situated in this State may receive without examination, in the discretion of the Department, a faculty limited license. In order to receive a faculty limited license an applicant shall furnish satisfactory proof to the Department that:
- (1) The applicant is at least 21 years of age, is of good moral character, and is licensed to practice dentistry in another state or country; and
- (2) The applicant has a full-time appointment to teach dentistry at an approved dental school or hospital situated in this State.

Faculty limited licenses issued under this Section shall be valid for a period of 3 years and may be extended or renewed. The holder of a valid faculty limited license may perform acts as may be required by his or her teaching of dentistry. The holder of a faculty limited license may practice general dentistry or in his or her area of specialty, but only in a clinic or office affiliated with the dental school. The holder of a faculty limited license may advertise a specialty degree as part of the licensee's ability to practice in a faculty practice. Any faculty limited license issued to a faculty member under this Section shall terminate immediately and automatically, without any further action by the Department, if the holder ceases to be a faculty member at an approved dental school or hospital in this State.

The Department may revoke a faculty limited license for a violation of this Act or its rules, or if the holder fails to supply the Department, within 10 days of its request, with information as to his or her current status and activities in his or her teaching program.

(e) Inactive status. Any person who holds one of the licenses under subsection (a) or (b) of Section 11 or under Section 12 of this Act may elect, upon payment of the required fee, to place his or her license on an inactive status and shall, subject to the rules of the Department, be excused from the payment of renewal fees until he or she notifies the Department in writing of his or her desire to resume active status.

Any licensee requesting restoration from inactive status shall be required to pay the current renewal fee and upon payment the Department shall be required to restore his or her license, as provided in Section 16 of this Act.

Any licensee whose license is in an inactive status shall not practice in the State of Illinois.

- (f) Certificates of Identification. In addition to the licenses authorized by this Section, the Department shall deliver to each dentist a certificate of identification in a form specified by the Department.
- (g) Pre-license practice allowance. An applicant for a general dental license or a temporary training license has a pre-license practice allowance to practice dentistry in a Commission on Dental Accreditation accredited specialty or residency training program for a period of 3 months from the starting date of the program. Upon a request from the applicant, the Department may extend, in writing, the pre-license practice allowance for the specialty or residency training program. An applicant practicing dentistry under this subsection may only perform acts as are prescribed by and incidental to the applicant's program of residency or specialty training. An applicant practicing dentistry under this subsection must supply the specialty or residency training program a copy of the applicant's general license application or temporary training license application along with proof of certified mail of sending that application to the Department.

The applicant's authority to practice under this subsection shall terminate immediately upon: (1) the decision of the Department that the applicant failed the examination for dental licensure; (2) denial of licensure by the Department; or (3) withdrawal of the license application.

(Source: P.A. 103-425, eff. 1-1-24; 103-687, eff. 7-19-24.)

Sec. 45. Advertising. The purpose of this Section is to authorize and regulate the advertisement by dentists of information which is intended to provide the public with a sufficient basis upon which to make an informed selection of dentists while protecting the public from false or misleading advertisements which would detract from the fair and rational selection process.

Any dentist may advertise the availability of dental services in the public media or on the premises where such dental services are rendered. Such advertising shall be limited to the following information:

- (a) The dental services available;
- (b) Publication of the dentist's name, title, office

hours, address and telephone;

- (c) Information pertaining to his or her area of specialization, including appropriate board certification or limitation of professional practice;
- (d) Information on usual and customary fees for routine dental services offered, which information shall include notification that fees may be adjusted due to complications or unforeseen circumstances;
- (e) Announcement of the opening of, change of, absence from, or return to business;
- (f) Announcement of additions to or deletions from professional dental staff;
  - (g) The issuance of business or appointment cards;
  - (h) Other information about the dentist, dentist's

practice or the types of dental services which the dentist offers to perform which a reasonable person might regard as relevant in determining whether to seek the dentist's services. However, any advertisement which announces the availability of endodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, or oral and maxillofacial radiology by a general dentist or by a licensed specialist who is not licensed in that specialty shall include a disclaimer stating that the dentist does not hold a license in that specialty.

Any dental practice with more than one location that enrolls its dentist as a participating provider in a managed care plan's network must verify electronically or in writing to the managed care plan whether the provider is accepting new patients at each of the specific locations listing the provider. The health plan shall remove the provider from the directory in accordance with standard practices within 10 business days after being notified of the changes by the provider. Nothing in this paragraph shall void any contractual relationship between the provider and the plan.

It is unlawful for any dentist licensed under this Act to do any of the following:

- (1) Use claims of superior quality of care to entice the public.
- (2) Advertise in any way to practice dentistry without causing pain.
- (3) Pay a fee to any dental referral service or other third party who advertises a dental referral service, unless all advertising of the dental referral service makes it clear that dentists are paying a fee for that referral service.
- (4) Advertise or offer gifts as an inducement to secure dental patronage. Dentists may advertise or offer free examinations or free dental services; it shall be unlawful, however, for any dentist to charge a fee to any new patient for any dental service provided at the time that such free examination or free dental services are provided.
  - (5) Use the term "sedation dentistry" or similar

terms in advertising unless the advertising dentist holds a valid and current permit issued by the Department to administer either general anesthesia, deep sedation, or moderate sedation as required under Section 8.1 of this Act.

This Act does not authorize the advertising of dental services when the offeror of such services is not a dentist. Nor shall the dentist use statements which contain false, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading material or guarantees of success, statements which play upon the vanity or fears of the public, or statements which promote or produce unfair competition.

A dentist shall be required to keep a copy of all advertisements for a period of 3 years. All advertisements in the dentist's possession shall indicate the accurate date and place of publication.

The Department shall adopt rules to carry out the intent of this Section. (Source: P.A. 103-628, eff. 7-1-24.)

### Illinois Administrative Code Section 1220.310 Applications

- a) An applicant for licensure as a dental specialist must be currently licensed as a dentist in Illinois and must file an application. The application shall include the following:
- 1) Certification of completion of dental specialty training in accordance with subsection (b);
- 2) The fee required in Section 1220.415(a)(2).
- b) To qualify for licensure as a specialist in endodontics, pediatric dentistry, prosthodontics, oral and maxillofacial radiology, or orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, the applicant must submit, in addition to the requirements of subsection (a), records, certified by the director of the program, showing that the applicant has successfully completed a course of study of not less than 2 academic years in a program approved by the Division in the dental specialty he or she proposes to practice.
- To further qualify for licensure as a specialist in oral and maxillofacial surgery, the applicant must submit, in addition to the requirements of subsection (a), the following:
- 1) The oral and maxillofacial surgery application must contain evidence that the applicant has successfully completed a 4-year (48 months) period of training in oral and maxillofacial surgery in a school and/or hospital approved by the Division. A minimum of 30 months shall be in clinical oral and maxillofacial surgery. The schedule shall include 24 months of full-time hospital training in an acceptable oral and maxillofacial surgery residency program. Not less than 4 months of this period must be devoted to training in anesthesiology.
- 2) Certified records are required from the Dean of the dental school or the head of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department of the hospital or clinic in which the oral and maxillofacial surgery training took place. The records must attest to the individual's successful completion of the program.
- d) To further qualify for licensure as a specialist in dental anesthesiology, the applicant must submit, in addition to the requirements of subsection (a), the following:
- 1) The dental anesthesiology application must contain evidence that the applicant has successfully completed a 3-year (36 months) period of training in a CODA accredited dental anesthesiology program. An applicant who completed a dental anesthesiology program prior to July 1, 2018, must submit an application containing evidence of a two-year dental anesthesiology residency program. An applicant who completed a dental anesthesiology program prior to July 1, 1993, must submit an application containing evidence of completion of a one-year dental anesthesiology residency program.

- 2) Certified records are required from the Program Director of the associated residency training program in which the dental anesthesiology training took place. The records must attest to the individual's successful completion of the program.
- e) After July 1, 1994, periodontic specialty programs shall be 3 consecutive academic years with a minimum of 30 months of instruction. At least 2 consecutive years of clinical education must take place in a single educational setting. Applicants who completed periodontic specialty training prior to July 1, 1994, shall have successfully completed a course of study of not less than 2 academic years in a program approved by the Division.
- f) The Division shall accept those specialty education providers accredited, at the time the education was obtained, by CODA.

(Source: Amended at 48 III. Reg. 14138, effective September 10, 2024 Illinois Administrative Code, Title 68, Section 1220.421 Advertising

- a) Persons licensed to practice dentistry in the State of Illinois may advertise in any medium or other form of public communication in a manner that is truthful, and that is not fraudulent, deceptive, inherently misleading or proven to be misleading in practice. The advertising shall contain all information necessary to make the communication not misleading and shall not contain any false or misleading statement or otherwise operate to deceive.
- b) Information that may be contained in the advertising includes:
- 1) Dentist's name, address, office hours and telephone number;
- 2) Schools attended;
- 3) Announcement of the opening of, change of, or return to practice;
- 4) Announcement of additions to or deletions from professional dental staff (Section 45 of the Act);
- 5) Dentist's hospital affiliations:
- 6) Any specialty licenses held, Board certification, professional society memberships and any limitations or concentrations of practice;
- 7) Credit arrangements and/or acceptance of Medicare/Medicaid patients;
- 8) Foreign language ability:
- 9) Usual and customary fees for routine professional services that must include a statement that fees may be adjusted due to complications or unforeseen circumstances unless the fees do not vary under any circumstances;
- 10) Description of offices in which dentist practices, e.g., accessibility to the handicapped, laboratory facilities on the premises, convenience of parking; and
- 11) Other information about the dentist, the dentist's practice, or the types of practice in which the dentist will accept employment, which a reasonable person might regard as relevant in determining whether to seek the dentist's services. (Section 45 of the Act)
- c) If an advertisement is communicated to the public over television, radio or the Internet, it shall be prerecorded and approved for broadcast by the dentist, and a recording of the actual transmission, including videotape, shall be retained by the dentist for a period of at least 3 years. Upon a written request from the Division, a dentist shall provide the Division with a copy of any such advertisement within 7 working days after receipt of the request (e.g., upon initiation of any investigation, receipt of a complaint, inquiry from the public, etc.).
- d) Information that may be untruthful, fraudulent, deceptive, inherently misleading, or that has proven to be misleading in practice includes that which:
- 1) Contains a misrepresentation of fact or omits a material fact required to prevent deception;
- 2) Guarantees favorable results or creates false or unjustified expectations of favorable results;

- 3) Takes advantage of the potential client's fears, anxieties, vanities, or other emotions:
- 4) Contains exaggerations pertaining to the quality of dental care;
- 5) Describes as available products or services that are not permitted by the laws of this State and/or applicable Federal laws; and
- 6) Advertises professional services that the dentist is not licensed to render.
- e) A dentist may incorporate as a professional service corporation or other business entity permitted to provide dental services under a fictitious or an assumed name; however, all advertisements for dental services to be performed by members or employees of the corporation or other business entity must comply with the following conditions:
- 1) A dentist licensed and practicing in Illinois shall be designated at each practice location for the corporation or other business entity who shall assume responsibility for all advertising in Illinois.
- 2) The name, office address and office phone number of the designated dentists shall appear in all advertising for the corporation or other business entity.
- 3) The names of the owners of the corporation or other business entity, if other than the designated dentists, shall appear in all advertising for the corporation or other business entity.
- 4) A list of all dentists employed by the corporation or other business entity who perform dental services shall be prominently displayed at the location where they practice.
- 5) If the corporation or other business entity offers to practice both general dentistry and any licensed specialty, all advertising for the specialty shall include the name of the licensed dental specialists who performs the specialty services.
- f) When words relating to specialty practice are used in an advertisement, the advertisement must not imply that the dentist offering those services is licensed as a specialist unless he holds a specialty license issued by the Division. Words that cannot be used by a dentist unless licensed in that specialty are Endodontist, Pedodontist, Pediatric Dentist, Periodontist, Prosthodontist, Orthodontist, Dentist Anesthesiologist, Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologist, or Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. Terms such as "Specialist", "Practice Limited To" or "Limited To Specialty Of", with the name of the branch of dentistry practiced as a specialty, (endodontics, pedodontics (pediatric dentistry), periodontics, prosthodontics, orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and dental anesthesiology) shall be prima facie evidence that such dentist is holding himself out to the public as a specialist. A general dentist who advertises, in any media, using words or phrases customarily used by a specialist, except those prohibited above, but who does not hold a specialty license, shall include in the advertisement a prominent disclaimer that he or she is licensed only as a general dentist.
- g) Any advertisements offering the availability of those recognized dental specialties specified in Section 1220.310, or offering the availability of some other "specialty" practice not specifically recognized by the Division shall contain a prominent disclaimer in the form of a statement setting forth the specialties in which the dentist is licensed in Illinois and/or a statement that the dentist is licensed to practice as a general dentist in Illinois.
- h) Advertising shall not use language suggesting a dental specialty that is not specified in Section 1220.310 unless it contains the disclaimer required in subsection (g). Examples of language requiring disclaimer: family dentistry, cosmetic dentistry, restorative dentistry, preventive dentistry, hospital dentistry, implant dentistry, TMJ, cranio mandibular dentistry.

(Source: Amended at 48 III. Reg. 14138, effective September 10, 2024)

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Updated: 24 October 2025

# Continuing Education

# 225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 25/16) (from Ch. 111, par. 2316

(Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 104-151) (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

Sec. 16. Expiration, renewal and restoration of licenses. The expiration date and renewal date for each license issued under this Act shall be set by rule. The renewal period for each license issued under this Act shall be 3 years. A dentist or dental hygienist may renew a license during the month preceding its expiration date by paying the required fee. All initial licenses issued during an open renewal period shall have the next expiration date. A dentist or dental hygienist shall provide proof of current Basic Life Support (BLS) certification intended for health care providers at the time of renewal as provided by rule. Basic Life Support certification training taken as a requirement of this Section shall be counted for no more than 4 hours during each licensure period towards the continuing education hours under Section 16.1 of this Act. The Department shall provide by rule for exemptions from this requirement for a dentist or dental hygienist with a physical disability that would preclude him or her from performing BLS.

Any dentist or dental hygienist whose license has expired or whose license is on inactive status may have his license restored at any time within 5 years after the expiration thereof, upon payment of the required fee and a showing of proof of compliance with current continuing education requirements, as provided by rule.

Any person whose license has been expired for more than 5 years or who has had his license on inactive status for more than 5 years may have his license restored by making application to the Department and filing proof acceptable to the Department of taking continuing education and of his fitness to have the license restored, including sworn evidence certifying to active practice in another jurisdiction, and by paying the required restoration fee. A person practicing on an expired license is deemed to be practicing without a license. However, a holder of a license may renew the license within 90 days after its expiration by complying with the requirements for renewal and payment of an additional fee. A license renewal within 90 days after expiration shall be effective retroactively to the expiration date.

If a person whose license has expired or who has had his license on inactive status for more than 5 years has not maintained an active practice satisfactory to the department, the Department shall determine, by an evaluation process established by rule, his or her fitness to resume active status and may require the person to complete a period of evaluated clinical experience and may require successful completion of a practical examination.

However, any person whose license expired while he or she was (i) on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or called into service or training by the State militia or (ii) in training or education under the supervision of the United States preliminary to induction into the military service, may have his or her license renewed, reinstated, or restored without paying any lapsed renewal or restoration fee, if within 2 years after termination of such service, training, or education other than by dishonorable discharge, he or she furnishes the Department with satisfactory proof that he or she has been so engaged and that his or her service, training, or education has been so terminated.

(Source: P.A. 103-687, eff. 7-19-24.)

(Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 104-151) (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

Sec. 16. Expiration, renewal and restoration of licenses. The expiration date and renewal date for each license issued under this Act shall be set by rule. The renewal period for each license issued under this Act shall be 3 years. A dentist or dental hygienist may renew a license during the month preceding its expiration date by paying the required fee. All initial licenses issued during an open renewal period

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shall have the next expiration date. A dentist or dental hygienist shall provide proof of current Basic Life Support (BLS) certification intended for health care providers at the time of renewal as provided by rule. Basic Life Support certification training taken as a requirement of this Section shall be counted for no more than 4 hours during each licensure period towards the continuing education hours under Section 16.1 of this Act. The Department shall provide by rule for exemptions from this requirement for a dentist or dental hygienist with a physical disability that would preclude the dentist or dental hygienist from performing BLS.

Any dentist or dental hygienist whose license has expired or whose license is on inactive status may have the license restored at any time within 5 years after the expiration thereof, upon payment of the required fee and a showing of proof of compliance with current continuing education requirements, as provided by rule.

Any person whose license has been expired for more than 5 years or who has had a license on inactive status for more than 5 years may have the license restored by making application to the Department and filing proof acceptable to the Department of taking continuing education and of the person's fitness to have the license restored, including sworn evidence certifying to active practice in another jurisdiction, and by paying the required restoration fee. A person practicing on an expired license is deemed to be practicing without a license. However, a holder of a license may renew the license within 90 days after its expiration by complying with the requirements for renewal and payment of an additional fee. A license renewal within 90 days after expiration shall be effective retroactively to the expiration date.

If a person whose license has expired or who has had a license on inactive status for more than 5 years has not maintained an active practice satisfactory to the department, the Department shall determine, by an evaluation process established by rule, the person's fitness to resume active status and may require the person to complete a period of evaluated clinical experience and may require successful completion of a practical examination.

However, any person whose license expired while the person was (i) on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or called into service or training by the State militia or (ii) in training or education under the supervision of the United States preliminary to induction into the military service, may have the person's license renewed, reinstated, or restored without paying any lapsed renewal or restoration fee, if within 2 years after termination of such service, training, or education other than by dishonorable discharge, the person furnishes the Department with satisfactory proof that the person has been so engaged and that the person's service, training, or education has been so terminated.

(Source: P.A. 103-687, eff. 7-19-24; 104-151, eff. 1-1-26.)

(225 ILCS 25/16.1) (from Ch. 111, par. 2316.1)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2031)

Sec. 16.1. Continuing education. The Department shall promulgate rules of continuing education for persons licensed under this Act. In establishing rules, the Department shall require a minimum of 48 hours of study in approved courses for dentists during each 3-year licensing period and a minimum of 36 hours of study in approved courses for dental hygienists during each 3-year licensing period.

The Department shall approve only courses that are relevant to the treatment and care of patients, including, but not limited to, clinical courses in dentistry and dental hygiene and nonclinical courses such as patient management, legal and ethical responsibilities, and stress management. The Department shall allow up to 4 hours of continuing education credit hours per license renewal period for volunteer hours spent providing clinical services at, or sponsored by, a nonprofit community clinic, local or state health department, or a charity event. Courses shall not be approved in such subjects as estate and personal financial planning, personal investments, or

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personal health. Approved courses may include, but shall not be limited to, courses that are offered or sponsored by approved colleges, universities, and hospitals and by recognized national, State, and local dental and dental hygiene organizations. When offering a continuing education course, whether at no cost or for a fee, the course provider shall explicitly disclose that the course is an approved course for continuing education in the State of Illinois, as provided in this Section or by the rules adopted by the Department.

No license shall be renewed unless the renewal application is accompanied by an affidavit indicating that the applicant has completed the required minimum number of hours of continuing education in approved courses as required by this Section. The affidavit shall not require a listing of courses. The affidavit shall be a prima facie evidence that the applicant has obtained the minimum number of required continuing education hours in approved courses. The Department shall not be obligated to conduct random audits or otherwise independently verify that an applicant has met the continuing education requirement. The Department, however, may not conduct random audits of more than 10% of the licensed dentists and dental hygienists in any one licensing cycle to verify compliance with continuing education requirements. If the Department, however, receives a complaint that a licensee has not completed the required continuing education or if the Department is investigating another alleged violation of this Act by a licensee, the Department may demand and shall be entitled to receive evidence from any licensee of completion of required continuing education courses for the most recently completed 3-year licensing period. Evidence of continuing education may include, but is not limited to, canceled checks, official verification forms of attendance, and continuing education recording forms, that demonstrate a reasonable record of attendance. The Board shall determine, in accordance with rules adopted by the Department, whether a licensee or applicant has met the continuing education requirements. Any dentist who holds more than one license under this Act shall be required to complete only the minimum number of hours of continuing education required for renewal of a single license. The Department may provide exemptions from continuing education requirements. (Source: P.A. 103-425, eff. 1-1-24.)

#### Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Section 1220.170 Renewal

- a) Beginning with the September 30, 2006 renewal, every dental license issued under the Act shall expire on September 30 every 3 years. The holder of a license may renew the license during the month preceding the expiration date thereof by paying the fee required in Section 21 of the Act and certifying to fulfillment of 48 hours of continuing education pursuant to Section 1220.440.
- b) A renewal applicant must provide proof of current certification in BLS by an organization that has adopted the American Heart Association's or American Red Cross' guidelines on BLS or a statement provided by the dentist's licensed physician indicating that the applicant is physically disabled and unable to obtain certification;
- c) It is the responsibility of each licensee to notify the Division of any change of address. Failure to receive a renewal form from the Division shall not constitute an excuse for failure to pay the renewal fee or to renew one's license.
- d) Practicing or offering to practice on a license that has expired shall be considered unlicensed activity and shall be grounds for discipline pursuant to Section 23 of the Act.

(Source: Amended at 38 III. Reg. 15907, effective July 25, 2014)

Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Section 1220.440 Continuing Education

a) Continuing Education Hours Requirements

- 1) Each person who applies for renewal of a license as a dentist shall have completed 48 hours of continuing education (CE) relevant to the practice of dentistry during the prerenewal period.
- 2) Each person who applies for renewal of a license as a dental hygienist shall have completed 36 hours of CE relevant to the practice of dental hygiene during the prerenewal period.
- 3) A prerenewal period is the 36 months preceding September 30 of the year of the renewal.
- 4) A renewal applicant is not required to comply with CE requirements for the first renewal following the original issuance of a dental or dental hygienist license.
- 5) Continuing education is not required to renew a dental specialty license. The holder of a dental specialty license is, however, required to complete 48 hours to renew the dental license.
- 6) Dentists or dental hygienist licensed in Illinois but residing in other states shall comply with the CE requirements set forth in this Section.
- 7) Continuing education credit for hours used to satisfy the CE requirements of another state may be applied to fulfillment of the CE requirements of the State of Illinois.
- b) Approved Continuing Education/Continuing Education Sponsors
- 1) All CE courses shall be relevant to the treatment and care of patients and shall be:
- A) Clinical courses in dentistry and dental hygiene; or
- B) Nonclinical subjects that relate to the skills necessary to provide dental or dental hygiene services and are supportive of clinical services (i.e., patient management, legal and ethical responsibilities, stress management). Courses not acceptable for the purpose of this definition include, but are not limited to, estate planning, financial planning, investments and personal health.
- 2) CE credit may be earned for verifiable attendance at or participation in any courses that meet the requirements of subsection (b)(1) given by one of the following sponsors:
- A) American Dental Association and National Dental Association, its constituent and component/branch associations and the American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Programs;
- B) American Dental Hygienist's Association and National Dental Hygienist's Association, its constituent and component/branch associations;
- C) Dental programs approved by the Division as meeting minimum standards for an approved curriculum in dentistry under Section 1220.140 and dental hygiene programs approved under Section 1220.250:
- D) Organizations of specialties recognized by the American Dental Association and its constituent and component/branch associations, which are:
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery;
- ii) Endodontics;
- iii) Pediatric dentistry;
- iv) Prosthodontics:
- v) Orthodontics;
- vi) Periodontology;
- vii) Oral and maxillofacial radiology:
- E) Academy of General Dentistry, its constituent and component/branch associations and approved sponsors;
- F) American Dental Society of Anesthesiology and its constituent and component/branch associations;
- G) Community colleges with an approved dental hygiene program if offered under the auspices of the dental hygiene program;

- H) A college or university accredited by an agency approved by the U.S. Office of Education or a community college approved by the Illinois Community College Board:
- I) A hospital that has been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations;
- J) The American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society;
- K) A medical school that is accredited by the American Medical Association's Liaison Committee for Medical Education;
- L) American Medical Association (AMA), specialty medical associations/organizations, the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education:
- M) Federal and State government agencies (i.e., dental division, military dental division, Veterans' Administration, etc.);
- N) A sponsor whose course is approved by the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology; or
- O) A person, firm or association approved by the Division in accordance with subsection (c).
- 3) CE credit may be earned for completion of an individual study course (correspondence, audio or video course) sponsored by an approved sponsor. The courses shall include a test that the licensee must pass to obtain credit. No more than 50% of the required CE credit hours during a prerenewal period may be acquired through correspondence courses.
- 4) CE credit may be earned from teleconferencing courses with a moderator present given by an Illinois approved sponsor.
- 5) CE credit may be earned from courses leading to an advanced degree or specialty in dental or dental hygiene. The courses shall be allotted CE credit at the rate of 15 CE hours for each semester hour and 10 CE hours for each quarter hour of school credit awarded.
- 6) CE credit may be earned as an instructor of continuing education courses given by approved sponsors. Credit will be applied for every hour taught and only for the first presentation of the program (i.e., credit shall not be allowed for repetitious presentations). No more than 50% of the required CE credit hours during a prerenewal period may be acquired through teaching continuing education courses.
- 7) CE credit may be earned for presenting volunteer community oral health education programs. Credit will be applied for each hour of presentation documented by the program director. No more than 2 hours of the required CE credit hours during a prerenewal period may be acquired through presentation of volunteer community oral health education programs.
- 8) Continuing education hours required by a disciplinary order shall not be used to satisfy the continuing education requirements for license renewal.
- 9) If a renewal applicant will be earning or has earned CE hours in another jurisdiction, but is not licensed in that jurisdiction and the course is not presented by an Illinois approved sponsor, the applicant shall submit an individual program approval request form, along with a \$20 processing fee, to have the program reviewed. The Board shall review and recommend approval or disapproval of the program using the criteria set forth in subsection (b)(1). Applicants may seek individual program approval prior to participation in the course or program. All individual program approval requests shall be submitted prior to the expiration date of the license.
- c) Sponsor Application Pursuant to Subsection (b)(2)(O)
- 1) Entities seeking approval as CE sponsors pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(O) shall file an application, on forms supplied by the Division, along with the fee set

forth in Section 1220.415(a)(9). The applicant shall certify on the application the following:

- A) That all programs offered by the sponsor for CE credit will comply with the criteria in subsection (b)(1) and all other criteria in this Section;
- B) That the sponsor will be responsible for providing a certificate of attendance and will maintain attendance records for at least 5 years. The certificate of attendance shall contain:
- i) The name and address of the sponsor;
- ii) The name, address and license number of the participant;
- iii) A brief statement of the subject matter;
- iv) The number of hours attended in each program;
- v) An indication of whether the program fulfills CE requirements for dentist, dental hygienist or both;
- vi) The date and place of the program; and
- vii) The signature of the sponsor;
- C) That, upon request by the Division, the sponsor will submit evidence (e.g., certificate of attendance or course materials) as is necessary to establish compliance with this Section. Evidence shall be required when the Division has reason to believe that there is not full compliance with this Part and that the information is necessary to ensure compliance.
- 2) To maintain approval as a sponsor, each sponsor shall submit to the Division by September 30 of each even-numbered year a renewal application, the fee set forth in Section 1220.415(b)(5) and a list of courses and programs offered within the last 24 months. The list shall include a brief description, location, date and time of each course given.
- 3) The sponsor shall be responsible for ensuring that any dentist or dental hygienist who will be performing some type of procedure as a part of a continuing education course shall have a current license in Illinois or another jurisdiction.
- d) Certification of Compliance with CE Requirements
- 1) Each renewal applicant shall certify, on the renewal application, to full compliance with the CE requirements set forth in subsection (a).
- 2) The Division may require additional evidence (e.g., certificate of attendance, transcripts and proof of registration) demonstrating compliance with the CE requirements. It is the responsibility of each renewal applicant to retain or otherwise produce evidence of the compliance. The evidence shall be retained for at least 5 years following the renewal period in which the CE was taken.
- 3) The Division may conduct random audits to verify compliance with CE requirements.
- 4) When there is evidence of a lack of compliance with CE requirements, an applicant shall be notified in writing and may request a hearing before the Board. The Division may recommend that steps be taken to begin the formal disciplinary proceedings as required by Section 10-65 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act [5 ILCS 100/10-65].
- e) Waiver of CE Requirements
- 1) Any renewal applicant seeking renewal of the license or certificate without having fully complied with these CE requirements shall file with the Division a renewal application, a statement setting forth the facts concerning the noncompliance, a request for waiver of the CE requirements on the basis of the facts and, if desired, a request for an interview before the Board. If the Division finds, from the statement or any other evidence submitted, that good cause has been shown for granting a waiver of the CE requirements, or any part thereof, the Division shall waive enforcement of those requirements for the renewal period for which the applicant has applied.

- 2) Good cause shall be defined as an inability to devote sufficient hours to fulfilling the CE requirements during the applicable prerenewal period because of:
- A) Full-time service in the armed forces of the United States of America during a substantial part of that period;
- B) A temporary incapacitating illness documented by a licensed physician. A second, consecutive request for a CE waiver pursuant to this subsection (e)(2)(B) shall be prima facie proof that the renewal applicant has a physical or mental illness, including, but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process, or loss of motor skills that results in the dentist's inability to practice dentistry with reasonable judgment, skill or safety, in violation of Section 23(24) of the Act, and shall be grounds for denial of the renewal or other discipline;
- C) Temporary undue hardship (e.g., prolonged hospitalization, being disabled and unable to practice dentistry or dental hygiene on a temporary basis).
- 3) If an interview is requested at the time the request for waiver is filed with the Division, the renewal applicant shall be given at least 20 days written notice of the date, time and place of the interview by certified mail, return receipt requested. (Source: Amended at 40 III. Reg. 12553, effective September 2, 2016)