Montana Laws & Rules
Updated: 24 October 2025

| Initial Licensure Examination | American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX, CDCA-WREB-CITA), CRDTS+SRTA |
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| Requirements | A board-approved clinical practical exam must include the following components: |
| | (a) patient-based or, beginning March 12, 2020, a simulated patient-based |
| | operative exam, to include one direct posterior class II composite and any one of |
| | the following: (i) direct posterior class II composite; or (ii) direct posterior class II |
| | amalgam; or (iii) direct anterior class III composite; |
| | (b) patient-based or, beginning March 12, 2020, a simulated patient-based |
| | periodontal exam; (c) non-patient-based endodontics exam, to include: (i) |
| | |
| | anterior access; (ii) posterior access; and (iii) obturation of one canal; and (d) |
| | non-patient-based prosthodontics exam. |
| | (Source: Montana Administrative Rules, 24.138.502 Licensure of Dentists |
| General | Montana Code Annotated 37-4-301 Qualifications fees. Applicants for |
| Licensure | licensure shall submit an application that must include, when required: |
| Requirements | (1) certification of successful completion of the national board examination; |
| | (2) certification of successful completion of a regional board examination; |
| | (3) three affidavits of good moral character; |
| | (4) a certificate of graduation from a board-approved dental school; and |
| | (5) an application fee. |
| | Montana Administrative Rules 24.138.502 LICENSURE OF DENTISTS |
| | (1) Applicants for dentist licensure must have: |
| | (a) passed the written examination administered by the Joint Commission on |
| | National Dental Examinations or its successor showing the applicant's passage |
| | of the written examination; |
| | (b) passed a board approved regional clinical practical examination. |
| | Examinations shall be valid for the purpose of initial licensure for a period of five |
| | years from the date of passage of the examination; and |
| | (c) graduated from a dental school accredited by the American Dental |
| | Association Commission on Dental Accreditation, or its successor; |
| | (2) A board-approved clinical practical exam must include the following |
| | components: |
| | (a) patient-based or, beginning March 12, 2020, a simulated patient-based |
| | operative exam, to include one direct posterior class II composite and any one of |
| | the following: |
| | (i) direct posterior class II composite; or |
| | (ii) direct posterior class II composite, or |
| | (ii) direct posterior class II amalgam, or |
| | |
| | (b) patient-based or, beginning March 12, 2020, a simulated patient-based periodontal exam; |
| | (c) non-patient-based endodontics exam, to include: |
| | (i) anterior access; |
| | |
| | (ii) posterior access; and |
| | (iii) obturation of one canal; and |
| | (d) non-patient-based prosthodontics exam. |
| | 24.138.550 APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE |
| | (1) Each application for licensure from the board must include: |
| | (a) a completed application form; |
| | (b) the initial license fee; |
| | (c) verification of applicable educational requirements; |
| | (d) proof of a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), advanced cardiac life |
| | support (ACLS), |
| | or pediatric advanced life support (PALS) card. Internet courses will be accepted |
| | if a hands on evaluation of clinical competency is also included; and |

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. Updated: 24 October 2025

(e) successful completion of the jurisprudence exam with a score of at least 75 percent.

- (2) The department will obtain a query from the National Practitioner Data Bank.
- (3) An applicant licensed in any other jurisdiction at any time shall cause the other jurisdictions to

submit a current verification of licensure directly to the board.

(4) An applicant may voluntarily withdraw their application by written request if the application has

not appeared on a board agenda. Application fees are not refundable.

License by Credential/ Endorsement Requirements

Montana Administrative Rules 24.138.505 Dentist Licensure by Credentials

- (1) The board shall license a dentist without additional examination, except a jurisprudence examination, if the applicant meets each of the following:
- (a) submits a completed application;
- (b) pays the appropriate fees including credentialing fee, jurisprudence exam fee, and application fee:
- (c) provides certification to the board that the dentist:
- (i) is a graduate of a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation for the American Dental Association, or its successor:
- (ii) has successfully passed the national board dental examination and submits an original Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations score card; and
- (iii) has successfully completed a board approved regional clinical practical examination for licensure or any state clinical practical examination. The board shall review all state clinical practical examinations on a case-by-case basis to determine approval for licensure.
- (d) submits license verifications from all jurisdictions where the applicant is licensed or has held a license. If the dentist is employed by the federal government, the applicant shall submit a letter of explanation for any discipline with the employing federal agency;
- (e) provides evidence that the applicant has been engaged in the practice of clinical, direct patient care dentistry at least six months prior to the date of application and can demonstrate actively practicing within the last five years immediately preceding application, for a total accumulation of 3000 hours of experience as demonstrated by any or all of the following:
- (i) address of practice location(s);
- (ii) length of time at location(s);
- (iii) a letter from all malpractice insurance carriers defining years when insured and any claims history;
- (iv) DEA registration number, if any;
- (v) documentation from a commanding officer regarding length of service, duties and responsibilities, and any adverse actions or restrictions, if the dentist is serving in the United States federal service;
- (vi) documentation from the dean or appropriate administration of the institution regarding length and terms of employment, and the applicant's duties and responsibilities, and any adverse actions or restrictions, if the dentist is employed by a dental school; or
- (vii) proof of hours completed within a residency program, to be credited toward the dental practice requirement, if the dentist is practicing within a residency program.
- (f) submits documentation of all unresolved or adverse decisions based on complaints, investigations, review procedures, or other disciplinary proceedings undertaken by a state, territorial, local, or federal dental licensing jurisdiction, dental society, or law enforcement agency relating to criminal or fraudulent activity, dental malpractice, or negligent dental care;

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| (g) submits certificates of attendance proving the applicant has completed at |
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| least 60 hours of continuing education related to clinical dentistry in the three |
| years immediately preceding application for a license in this state. Courses |
| submitted must meet board approvals as defined in ARM 24.138.2102 and |
| pursuant to ARM 24.138.2105; |
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- (h) certifies that the applicant is not physically or mentally impaired by use of addictive drugs, alcohol, or any other drug or substance, or by mental or physical illness which in the determination of the board renders the individual unfit or incapable of practicing dentistry;
- (i) submits a copy of a self-query of the National Practitioner Data Bank; and (i) submits a current CPR, ACLS, or PALS card.
- (2) Applicants shall successfully pass the jurisprudence examination with a final grade of at least 75 percent prior to issuance of a license.
- (3) Application material remains valid for one year from the time it is received in the office.

Specialty Practice

Montana Administrative Rules 24.138.3101 General Standards for Specialties

- (1) Any specialty area(s) of dental practice and appropriate certifying boards must be approved by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards. The specialty areas of dental practice approved by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards and the designation for ethical specialty announcement limitation of practice are:
- (a) dental public health;
- (b) endodontics;
- (c) oral pathology;
- (d) oral and maxillofacial surgery;
- (e) orthodontic and dentofacial orthopedics;
- (f) pedodontics (dentistry for children);
- (g) periodontics;
- (h) prosthodontics;
- (i) oral and maxillofacial radiology;
- (i) oral medicine; and
- (k) dental anesthesiology.
- (2) Dentists who announce as specialists must have successfully completed an educational program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, two or more years in length, as specified by the Council on Dental Education or be diplomates of a nationally recognized certifying board.
- (3) A licensee shall not advertise using the terms "specialist" or "specializing" unless the licensee has met the board standards for specialization as set forth in this rule
- (4) A licensee who possesses a verifiable combination of education and experience is not prohibited from including in the licensee's practice one or more branches of dentistry listed in (1).

24.138.3003 ADVERTISING RESPONSIBILITY

- (1) Each licensee who is a principal partner, or officer of a firm or entity identified in any advertisement, is jointly and severally responsible for the form and content of any advertisement. This provision also shall include any licensed professional employees acting as an agent of such firm or entity.
- (2) All advertisements are presumed to have been approved by the licensee named therein.
- (3) A Montana licensed dentist who does not meet the criteria in ARM 24.138.3101 for advertising as a specialist who is listing or advertising the

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dentist's services under any specialty practice dental category in ARM 24.138.3101 must clearly disclose within the licensee's individual advertisement that the services are provided by a general dentist. (4) Licensees must maintain records of advertising, including a copy of the advertisement, for a period of two years after publication. Montana Administrative Rules 24.138.2110 Continuing Education Continuing Education (1) Licensees must obtain the following continuing education (CE) hours per three-year cycle with a starting date of 2015, prior to renewal: (a) 60 hours for dentists. If a dentist also holds an anesthesia permit, the dentist must obtain as part of the 60 hours the following anesthesia-specific education: (i) 20 hours for deep sedation/general anesthesia; or (ii) 12 hours for moderate sedation. (b) 36 hours for dental hygienists: (i) three hours of fluoride agents, topical oral anesthetics, or nonsystemic oral antimicrobials for dental hygienists who qualify for limited prescriptive authority under 37-4-401. MCA: and (ii) 12 additional hours for dental hygienists with a limited access permit. (c) 36 hours for denturists. (2) Continuing education requirements do not apply until a licensee's first full year of licensure. (3) Board/staff will not preapprove CE programs or sponsors. Licensees must select quality programs that: (a) contribute to professional knowledge and competence; (b) contain significant intellectual or practical content; and (c) are germane to the licensed profession. (4) All licensees shall affirm an understanding of their recurring duty to comply with CE requirements as part of annual license renewal.

Documentation must include:

- (a) licensee name;
- (b) presenter or sponsor;

available upon request.

- (c) course title and/or description of content;
- (d) course date(s); and
- (e) number of CE hours earned.
- (6) Licensees found to be in noncompliance with CE requirements may be subject to administrative suspension. Licensees may not apply CE hours used to complete delinquent CE requirements for the next education reporting period.

(5) Licensees must maintain CE documentation and make the documentation

- (7) Any CE hours required by disciplinary order do not apply toward hours required cyclically. (8) The department, with respect to any CE audit it performs, shall determine the percentage to audit based on a statistically relevant sampling of the total number of licensees and the compliance rate of past audits.
- (9) In addition to the continuing education requirements above, all licensees shall maintain a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), or pediatric advanced life support (PALS) card. Internet courses will be accepted if a hands-on evaluation of clinical competency is also included.
- (10) One-time credit for first-time preparation and teaching of a program which meets the criteria in (3) qualifies for the number of hours granted to individuals who take the program.

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