

Updated: 18 May 2023

Initial Licensure Examination Requirements	CDC-WREB-CITA (ADEX), CRDTS, SRTA Source: South Carolina Dentistry Application by Examination
General Licensure Requirements	<p>South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 40 - Professions and Occupations, Chap 15 Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Dental Technicians</p> <p>SECTION 40-15-140. Examination of applicants for licenses or registration; issuance of licenses or certificates; reexamination</p> <p>It is the duty of the board to examine (or cause to be examined) all qualified applicants for a license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene or who desire to be registered as dental technicians in this State. No examination is required to be registered as an orthodontic technician. Prior to admittance to the examination or the registration of an orthodontic technician, each applicant shall produce evidence satisfactory to the board that he possesses good moral character. If the board refuses an applicant admission to the examination or registration as an orthodontic technician because of unsuitable moral character the board shall notify the applicant in writing and set forth in detail the reason supporting the board's decision. An applicant who holds a license or certificate from any jurisdiction shall certify that he has not violated any of the provisions of the Dental Practice Act governing his prior license or practice or operation. In addition, each applicant shall present the following:</p> <p>(a) in the case of applicants to practice dentistry or dental hygiene, satisfactory evidence of graduation from a dental college or school of dental hygiene, respectively, accredited by the Commission.</p> <p>(b) in the case of applicants who desire to be registered as dental technicians, a high school diploma, or its equivalent, and satisfactory evidence of successful completion of a full two-year course of study in a school for dental technological work acceptable to the board, or in lieu of the dental school program, the applicant must have performed dental technological work under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist or registered dental technician for a period of at least three years.</p> <p>The application must be received by the board not less than forty-five days before the examination date. An application for registration as an orthodontic technician may be submitted at any time. Each applicant shall pay to the board a fee as prescribed by it by rules and regulations. Each applicant must satisfactorily pass the examination prepared by the board on subjects and operations pertaining to dentistry that are regularly taught in such accredited schools. The examination must be given either orally or in writing, or by requiring a practical demonstration of the applicant's skill, or by any combination of such methods as the board may in its discretion require. The board shall grade each examination and inform the applicant of the result within a reasonable time after the date thereof. The board shall issue a numbered license to each person who passes the dental or dental hygiene examination and a numbered certificate to each person who passes the dental technician examination and to each applicant to be registered as an orthodontic technician. All examination papers must be retained by the board for two years and upon request be available for inspection by a person examined.</p> <p>Dentists and dental hygienists, and dental technicians who are validly licensed or registered in this State as of April 13, 1968, are exempt from reexamination except in instances where application for relicensing or reregistration is made following a period of suspension or revocation of a license or registration certificate, in which instances reexamination is discretionary with the board.</p>

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.

	<p>Dental examinations must be given annually by the board and dental hygienist and dental technician examinations must be given semiannually by the board.</p> <p><u>South Carolina Code of Regulations 39–1. License to Practice Dentistry</u></p> <p>A. The South Carolina Board of Dentistry has no reciprocal licensure arrangement with any other jurisdiction.</p> <p>B. No applicant shall be examined by the Board to practice dentistry in this state unless the applicant shall;</p> <p>(1) Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.</p> <p>(2) Present such evidence of good moral character as is required by the Board.</p> <p>(3) Present to the Board satisfactory evidence of graduation from a dental college approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Dental and Dental Auxiliary Educational Programs of the American Dental Association. The Board may, in its discretion, accept as such satisfactory evidence of graduation any of the following:</p> <p>(a) A notarized copy of the applicant's diploma or other certificate of graduation from an approved dental college.</p> <p>(b) A sworn statement from the Dean of the dental college stating that the applicant has graduated from such dental college.</p> <p>(4) Complete the application to practice dentistry in South Carolina on the form furnished by the Board at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the examination. In making the application the applicant authorizes the Board to verify the information contained in the application or to seek such further information pertinent to the applicant's qualification or character as the Board may deem proper.</p> <p>(5) Pay to the Board a fee as prescribed by the Board at the same time the application is received by the Board.</p> <p>C. The Board shall require each applicant to successfully complete an examination before such applicant is licensed. The examination may be given either orally, or in writing, or by requiring a practical demonstration of the applicant's skill, or by any combination of such methods as the Board may in its discretion require. Each applicant shall furnish their own patient on the exam. The selection of this patient as well as the final treatment for this patient shall be considered in the final grade.</p> <p>D. The Board may automatically disqualify any person who may be detected using or attempting to use any unfair assistance during the exam.</p> <p>E. Dentists licensed in any state or territory of the United States may be issued a license to practice dentistry in this State if the applicant complies with the provisions of Regulation 39-1(B) and Section 40–15–275 and pays a fee for licensure by credentials. The Board may waive a portion of the fee upon agreement with an applicant to practice exclusively in a rural county for not less than two consecutive years.</p> <p>F. The Board may charge fees as shown in South Carolina Code of Regulations Chapter 10–12 and on the South Carolina Board of Dentistry website at http://lr.sc.gov/POL/Dentistry</p> <p>39–4. Examination of Dentists and Dental Hygienists.</p> <p>(Statutory Authority: 1976 Code §§ 40–1–40, 40–15–40, and 40–15–140)</p> <p>All applicants for the general dentistry examination, and all applicants for the dental hygiene examination applying for licensure by examination in South Carolina must have passed the National Board (Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations).</p> <p>39–4.1. Re-examination.</p>
--	---

	<p>A. In case of failure at any examination, the applicant shall have the privilege of a second or third examination with the payment of the regular fee.</p> <p>B. If the applicant has not met the Board's criteria for passing the examination after three takings, applicant shall not be permitted to retake the examination, and any score received after three takings shall not be considered, except by special permission of the Board. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to petition the Board and to successfully complete at least one year of additional dental or dental hygiene education in an American Dental Association approved dental school or residency, as applicable, or explain in detail any special or compelling factors presented by the applicant to the Board the applicant wishes the Board to consider.</p>
License by Credential/Endorsement Requirements	<p><u>South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 40 - Professions and Occupations, Chap 15 Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Dental Technicians</u></p> <p>SECTION 40-15-270. Reciprocity for dentists and dental hygienists licensed in other states.</p> <p>The board may grant licenses to licensees of other states who are members of regional testing services of which the board is also a member without further examination and may make all necessary regulations and agreements for the reciprocal recognition of licenses issued by other states.</p> <p>SECTION 40-15-275. License by credentials; requirements.</p> <p>(A) The board may issue a license by credentials to an applicant who has been licensed to practice dentistry in any state or territory of the United States if the applicant complies with the provisions of Regulation 39-1 B. and produces evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) satisfactorily passed a state or regional clinical board examination approved by the board and a jurisprudence examination on the laws of this State and regulations as they relate to the practice of dentistry as approved by the board and administered in the English language; (2) a current license to practice dentistry issued by another state or United States territory that is not revoked, suspended, or restricted; (3) been actively practicing dentistry for a minimum of five years immediately preceding the date of application. "Actively practicing" means working a minimum of twelve hundred hours a year in a private practice or public health or military clinical setting or the combination of twelve hundred hours a year of clinical instructing at a Commission on Dental Accreditation approved dental school and private practice; (4) completed seventy hours of continuing education over the past five years; (5) not been the subject of any final or pending disciplinary action in the military or in any state or territory in which the applicant has held any other professional license; (6) no felony convictions and no other criminal convictions that would affect the applicant's ability to render competent dental care; (7) signed a release allowing the disclosure of information from the National Practitioner Data Bank and the verification of registration status with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration; (8) agreed to submit to substance abuse testing if requested by the board; (9) agreed, upon request of the board, to provide proof that the applicant has no physical or psychological impairment that would adversely affect his or her ability to practice dentistry with reasonable skill and safety. <p>(B) The board may conduct examinations and interviews to test the qualifications of an applicant and may require additional information to ascertain the applicant's ability to render competent dental care including, but not limited to, requiring substance abuse testing or proof that no physical or</p>

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.

	<p>psychological impairment exists that would adversely affect the applicant's ability to practice dentistry with reasonable skill and safety. The board may refuse to issue a license by credentials to an applicant who the board determines is unfit to practice dentistry.</p> <p>(C) If a licensee has not established an active practice in this State within two years of receiving a license by credentials, the license is automatically revoked.</p> <p>(D) In order to provide the means of carrying out and enforcing the provisions of this section and the duties of the board, the board is authorized to charge and collect fees as established in regulation.</p>
Specialty Practice	<p><u>South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 40 - Professions and Occupations, Chap 15 Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Dental Technicians</u></p> <p>SECTION 40-15-130. Advertisement of services; display of name and licensed area of practice; practice under trade names. Dentists may advertise their services so long as these public communications are not false, deceptive, or misleading and do not attempt to create any impression, unsupported by fact, of superior skills or qualifications of those who practice thereunder. Licensed dental specialists may announce their specialization and may advertise their services so long as the public communications are not false, deceptive, or misleading. Every dentist practicing dentistry under a trade name and every dentist practicing as an employee of another licensed dentist or a partnership or of a professional association shall cause his name and licensed area of practice to be conspicuously displayed and kept so displayed in a conspicuous place at the entrance of the place where the practice is conducted. Dentists may practice or continue to practice under trade names so long as the names are not false, deceptive, or misleading and do not attempt to create any impression of superior skills or qualifications of those who practice thereunder.</p> <p>SECTION 40-15-220. License to practice specialty. A special license shall be required for the practice of each special area of dentistry recognized by the American Dental Association, in order for a dentist to hold himself out to the public as limiting his practice to, being a specialist in, or giving special attention to any special area of dentistry. No dentist shall announce or hold himself out to the public as limiting his practice to, or as being a specialist in or giving special attention to, any special area of dentistry without first having obtained a special license therefor from the board as herein provided. The volume of business performed in any limited area of dentistry and the restriction of a licensed dentist's activity to any one or more limited areas of dentistry shall not in themselves constitute a holding out to the public that the dentist is a specialist.</p> <p>SECTION 40-15-230. Applicant for license to practice specialty must be licensed to practice dentistry. Before an applicant can be licensed to practice a specialty, he must first have been licensed to practice dentistry in the State.</p> <p>SECTION 40-15-240. Application for license to practice specialty. Every person who desires to obtain a license to practice a specialty of dentistry shall apply therefor to the board in writing and upon blanks prepared and furnished for the purpose not less than forty-five days before the board meets.</p> <p>SECTION 40-15-250. Examinations for licensing as specialists. Examinations for licensing as specialists are held annually or as the board may determine. The examinations must be theoretical and practical. The theoretical examinations shall include subjects represented in that recognized</p>

	<p>special area of dentistry in which the applicant desires to specialize. The examination must be given either orally or in writing, or by requiring a practical demonstration of the applicant's skill, or by any combination of the methods as the board may require. The fee for the examinations and special license is prescribed in the regulations of the board. Any applicant who fails to pass the examination may apply for a subsequent examination, in which case he shall pay to the secretary a fee prescribed in the regulations of the board for each subsequent examination. A diplomate of a national certifying board recognized by the American Dental Association may be granted a specialty license without examination by the board after satisfactory completion of the application and submission of fees applicable to other applicants. A dentist now holding a valid South Carolina specialty license is not required to be reexamined for that specialty license after April 13, 1968.</p> <p>SECTION 40-15-260. Issuance, recording, and reregistration of license to practice speciality.</p> <p>The board, upon satisfactory proof that the applicant has satisfied the then current educational requirements as set forth by the American Dental Association for ethical announcement of a practice limited to that specialty and has complied with all requirements of the board, may issue a license to such a dentist authorizing him to hold himself out or announce to the public that he is a specialist in, limits his practice to, or gives special attention to such recognized special area of the dental profession. Such special license shall be reregistered in the same manner as provided in this chapter for a license to practice dentistry.</p> <p><u>South Carolina Code of Regulations Chap. 39 Advisory Opinions</u></p> <p>5.H. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIALIZATION AND LIMITATION OF PRACTICE. A dentist may ethically announce as a specialist to the public in any of the dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association including dental public health, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, and prosthodontics, and in any other areas of dentistry for which specialty recognition has been granted under the standards required or recognized in the practitioner's jurisdiction, provided the dentist meets the educational requirements required for recognition as a specialist adopted by the American Dental Association or accepted in the jurisdiction in which they practice *.</p> <p>Dentists who choose to announce specialization should use "specialist in" and shall devote a sufficient portion of their practice to the announced specialty or specialties to maintain expertise in that specialty or those specialties. Dentists whose practice is devoted exclusively to an announced specialty or specialties may announce that their practice "is limited to" that specialty or those specialties. Dentists who use their eligibility to announce as specialists to make the public believe that specialty services rendered in the dental office are being rendered by qualified specialists when such is not the case are engaged in unethical conduct. The burden of responsibility is on specialists to avoid any inference that general practitioners who are associated with specialists are qualified to announce themselves as specialists.</p> <p>5.H.1. DUAL DEGREED DENTISTS. Nothing in Section 5.H shall be interpreted to prohibit a dual degreed dentist who practices medicine or osteopathy under a valid state license from announcing to the public as a dental specialist provided the dentist meets the educational, experience and other standards set forth in the Code for specialty announcement and further providing that the announcement is truthful and not materially misleading. In</p>
--	---

	<p>the case of the ADA, the educational requirements include successful completion of an advanced educational program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, two or more years in length, as specified by the Council on Dental Education and Licensure, or being a diplomate of an American Dental Association recognized certifying board for each specialty announced.</p> <p>5.H.2. SPECIALIST ANNOUNCEMENT OF CREDENTIALS IN NON-SPECIALTY INTEREST AREAS. A dentist who is qualified to announce specialization under this section may not announce to the public that he or she is certified or a diplomate or otherwise similarly credentialed in an area of dentistry not recognized as a specialty area by the American Dental Association unless: 1. The organization granting the credential grants certification or diplomate status based on the following: a) the dentist's successful completion of a formal, full-time advanced education program (graduate or postgraduate level) of at least 12 months' duration; and b) the dentist's training and experience; and c) successful completion of an oral and written examination based on psychometric principles; and 2. The announcement includes the following language: [Name of announced area of dental practice] is not recognized as a specialty area by the American Dental Association. Nothing in this advisory opinion affects the right of a properly qualified dentist to announce specialization in an ADA-recognized specialty area(s) as provided for under Section 5.H of this Code or the responsibility of such dentist to limit his or her practice exclusively to the special area(s) of dental practice announced. Specialists shall not announce their credentials in a manner that implies specialization in a non-specialty interest area.</p> <p>5.I. GENERAL PRACTITIONER ANNOUNCEMENT OF SERVICES. General dentists who wish to announce the services available in their practices are permitted to announce the availability of those services so long as they avoid any communications that express or imply specialization. General dentists shall also state that the services are being provided by general dentists. No dentist shall announce available services in any way that would be false or misleading in any material respect³.</p> <p>5.I.1. GENERAL PRACTITIONER ANNOUNCEMENT OF CREDENTIALS IN INTEREST AREAS IN GENERAL DENTISTRY. A general dentist may not announce to the public that he or she is certified or a diplomate or otherwise similarly credentialed in an area of dentistry not recognized as a specialty area by the American Dental Association unless: 1. The organization granting the credential grants certification or diplomate status based on the following: a) the dentist's successful completion of a formal, full-time advanced education program (graduate or postgraduate level) of at least 12 months duration; and b) the dentist's training and experience; and c) successful completion of an oral and written examination based on psychometric principles; 2. The dentist discloses that he or she is a general dentist; and 3. The announcement includes the following language: [Name of announced area of dental practice] is not recognized as a specialty area by the American Dental Association.</p> <p>5.I.2. CREDENTIALS IN GENERAL DENTISTRY. General dentists may announce fellowships or other credentials earned in the area of general dentistry so long as they avoid any communications that express or imply specialization and the announcement includes the disclaimer that the dentist is a general dentist. The use of abbreviations to designate credentials shall be avoided when such use would lead the reasonable person to believe that the designation represents an academic degree, when such is not the case.</p>
--	---

³The 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.

	<p>NOTES: 1. A third party is any party to a dental prepayment contract that may collect premiums, assume financial risks, pay claims, and/or provide administrative services. 2. A full fee is the fee for a service that is set by the dentist, which reflects the costs of providing the procedure and the value of the dentist's professional judgment. 3. Advertising, solicitation of patients or business or other promotional activities by dentists or dental care delivery organizations shall not be considered unethical or improper, except for those promotional activities which are false or misleading in any material respect. 4. Completion of three years of advanced training in oral and maxillofacial surgery or two years of advanced training in one of the other recognized dental specialties prior to 1967.</p>
Continuing Education	<p><u>South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 40 - Professions and Occupations, Chap 15 Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Dental Technicians</u></p> <p>SECTION 40-15-145. Continuing education for dentists on the prescription of Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances.</p> <p>As part of the biennial continuing education required by the board or pursuant to law, including Regulation 39-5, South Carolina Code of State Regulations, a dentist authorized pursuant to state and federal law to prescribe controlled substances shall complete at least two hours of continuing education every two years related to approved procedures of prescribing and monitoring controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV of the schedules provided for in Sections 44-53-210, 44-53-230, and 44-53-250.</p> <p><u>South Carolina Code of Regulations 39-5. Registration of Licenses or Certificates</u></p> <p>A. Every licensed dentist or dental hygienist and every registered technician shall keep the Board informed of their current mailing address.</p> <p>B. The Board will notify any dentist, dental hygienist or technician of the expiration of his/her license or certificate.</p> <p>C. Any person whose license or certificate has expired and who wishes to have the same reinstated must notify the Board of this in writing. Such notification must set forth the reasons for seeking to have the same reinstated and the reasons why the same has expired. Thereafter the Board may require a reexamination of the person whose license or certificate has expired or may require the person to appear before the Board and explain why the license or certificate has expired.</p> <p>D. In Section 40-15-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, there is a requirement that affects your license: "The license of a dentist or dental hygienist who does not either reside or practice in South Carolina for a period of six successive years shall be deemed inactive. Provided, that the time spent in active service by any person in the armed forces or public health service of the United States or with the Veterans' Administration shall not be construed as absence from or failure to practice in the State. Relicensing after an absence of over six years can be made at the discretion of the Board upon proof of high professional fitness and moral character."</p> <p>E. Relicensing can be made at the discretion of the Board upon proof of high professional fitness and moral character.</p> <p>F. Each licensed dentist, licensed dental hygienist and registered dental technician shall complete as a requirement for relicensure the following accredited continuing education on a two-year continuous cycle basis. The licensee/registrant shall certify on the relicensure/registration form that he/she has taken and can verify the required number of hours specified below. Verification shall be in the form of a record of courses taken, continuing hours earned, the date, sponsor and subject matter of the courses. This material</p>

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.

	<p>shall be maintained for a period of three years from the date of verification to the Board upon licensure/reregistration and, upon request of the State Board or its representative, the licensee/registrant shall provide documentation in the form of certificates or attendance or letters from course sponsors as proof of attendance.</p> <p>(1) All dentists shall complete a minimum of fourteen (14) continuing education hours per year or twenty-eight (28) continuing education hours over two (2) years; dental hygienists shall complete a minimum of seven (7) continuing education hours per year or fourteen (14) over two (2) years; dental technicians shall complete a minimum of four (4) continuing education hours per year or eight (8) continuing education hours over two (2) years, in order to be eligible for relicensure or reregistration. Upon licensure by examination of this State, dentists, dental hygienists and dental technicians shall be exempt from continuing education requirements for the first relicensure period. Fifty percent (50%) of the required continuing education hours must be obtained via live, in-person attendance. Interactive webinars are considered live or in-person continuing education hours. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the required continuing education hours can be earned via online computer seminars.</p> <p>(a) All licensed dentists and dental hygienists must have at least two (2) hours of their required continuing education be dedicated to sterilization and infection control.</p> <p>(b) It is the responsibility of all dentists to ensure that their auxiliary staff who may be exposed to blood and other body fluids require and provide two (2) hours biennially of continuing education on sterilization and infection control and maintain records of such training.</p> <p>(2) The continuing education hours must be courses related to the procedures approved for each licensee/registrant such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) medical and scientific subjects; (b) clinical and technical subjects; (c) risk management and infection control; (d) dental radiology; (e) CPR, diet and nutrition. <p>(3) All dentists and dental hygienists must have completed an approved CPR course within two (2) years of licensure or renewal. Thereafter, all dentists and dental hygienists must be recertified in CPR once every two (2) years. Yearly recertification is not required, but can be used as continuing education hours any time.</p> <p>(4) Programs that meet the general requirement of Section 2 may be developed and/or endorsed by organizations and agencies such as: (a) the American Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, American Dental Hygienists' Association, American Dental Assistants' Association, National Association of Dental Laboratories, or their local societies and associations; (b) national, state, local, district dental specialty organizations recognized by the American Dental Association; (c) dental colleges or schools accredited by the American Dental Association; (d) other organizations, schools, and agencies approved by the State Board of Dentistry.</p> <p>(5) Each dentist, dental hygienist and dental technician licensed/registered by the Board who is not exempt from this regulation, at the time of filing his application for renewal of his license/registration, shall certify on the reregistration form that he/she has taken and can verify the required number of hours. A record of the courses taken, continuing education hours earned, date, sponsor, and subject matter shall be retained for a minimum of three (3) years</p>
--	---

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.

	<p>from the date of attendance. Upon request, the applicant shall provide documentation in the form of certificates of attendance or letters from course sponsors, to the Board as proof of attendance.</p> <p>(6) Failure to comply with this mandatory continuing education requirement may result in disciplinary action by the Board against the applicant.</p> <p>(7) In individual cases involving extraordinary hardship or extenuating circumstances, disability or illness, all or any part of the requirements may be waived, modified or extended by the Board. Any applicant shall be eligible for waiver or extension who, upon written application to the Board and for good cause shown, demonstrates that they are unable to participate in a sufficient number of regular continuing educational programs for licensure/registration.</p> <p>(8) The Board shall have the authority to decide if a course meets its accreditation criterion, if a question arises.</p>
--	---