

Overview of Regional and State Dental Hygiene Clinical Examinations

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American
Dental
Hygienists'
Association





Regional and state clinical dental hygiene examinations are administered to evaluate the clinical competency of candidates for dental hygiene licensure. Clinical examinations provide a reliable third party assessment of candidates' clinical skills and are used by state dental boards in making valid licensing decisions.

All exams consist of skill-specific patient treatment in a clinical setting. Additionally, some exams include a written or electronic patient-based component. Clinical licensure exams are administered at various times throughout the year at various host institutions.

This document was created by the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) to assist candidates for dental hygiene licensure by providing a general overview of regional and state clinical examinations required for licensure for the practice of dental hygiene.

Included in this Dental Hygiene Clinical Examination Summary are the regional testing agencies known as

- *Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA) – Administers ADEX Exam,*
- *Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS),*
- *Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) – Administers ADEX Exam,*
 - *Previously known as the North East Regional Board (NERB)*
- *Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA) and*
- *Western Regional Examining Board (WREB)*

This summary is intended for general comparison only. For specific exam protocol, procedure, requirements and forms, please refer to the complete Candidate's Manual for each examination or contact the agency responsible for the administration of the examination.



Clinical Exams Accepted for State Licensure

CITA

Alabama
 Colorado
 District of Columbia
 Illinois
 Kansas
 Kentucky
Louisiana
 Maine
 Massachusetts
 Minnesota
 Mississippi
 Missouri
 Montana
 Nebraska
 New Hampshire
 New Mexico
North Carolina
 North Dakota
 Oregon
 Pennsylvania
 Texas
 Vermont
*Virginia **
 Washington
West Virginia
 Wisconsin
 Wyoming

Independent

Delaware

CRDTS

Alabama
 Arizona
California
Colorado
 Connecticut
 District of Columbia
Georgia
Hawaii
 Idaho
Illinois
 Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
 Kentucky
*Louisiana **
lowa
Kansas
 Kentucky
*Louisiana **
 Maine
 Maryland
 Massachusetts
 Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
 Montana
Nebraska
 New Hampshire
 New Jersey
New Mexico
North Dakota
 Ohio
Oregon
 Pennsylvania
 Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
 Tennessee
Texas
Utah
 Vermont
 Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
 Wisconsin
 Wyoming

CDCA

Alabama
*Colorado **
Connecticut
District of Columbia
Florida
Hawaii
Illinois
Indiana
 Kansas
Kentucky
*Louisiana **
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Mississippi
*Missouri **
*Montana **
Nevada
 Nebraska
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
*North Dakota **
Ohio
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
 South Carolina
 Tennessee
 Texas
Utah
Vermont
 Virginia
*Washington **
West Virginia
Wisconsin
 Wyoming

CDCA (formerly
NERB)

SRTA

Alabama
Arkansas
 Colorado
 Connecticut
 Hawaii
 Illinois
 Indiana
 Kansas
 Kentucky
*Louisiana **
 Maine
 Massachusetts
*Mississippi **
 Missouri
 Montana
 Nebraska
 New Hampshire
 New Mexico
 North Dakota
 Ohio
 Oregon
 Pennsylvania
 Rhode Island
South Carolina
Tennessee
 Texas
 Utah
 Vermont
Virginia
 Washington
West Virginia
 Wisconsin
 Wyoming

WREB

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
 California
 Colorado
 Connecticut
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
 Indiana
Kansas
 Kentucky
*Louisiana **
 Maine
 Massachusetts
 Nebraska
 Michigan
 Minnesota
Missouri
Montana
 Nebraska
 New Hampshire
New Mexico
Nevada
North Dakota
 Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
 Pennsylvania
 Rhode Island
 South Dakota
 Tennessee
Texas
Utah
 Vermont
 Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
 Wisconsin
Wyoming

States that are bolded indicate member states. Please note that recognizing jurisdictions and licensing requirements are subject to change. *Additionally, certain examinations are only accepted within certain year periods. While this document is updated yearly, candidates are encouraged to contact the State Board where they wish to seek licensure to confirm information.

Exam Schedules

CITA

<http://www.citaexam.com/>

CRDTS

<https://www.crdts.org>

CDCA

<http://www.cdcaexams.org/>

SRTA

<http://www.srta.org>

WREB

<http://www.wreb.org>

Fees

\$950.00

Plus site fees
dependent on host
institution

\$995.00

Potential site fees
dependent on host
institution

\$975.00 for Full Exam
(Clinical AND Computer-
Based Exam)

Partial Exams:

\$525 – (Patient Clinical)
\$450 – (CSCE –
Computer-Based)
\$275 – (CSCE – Retake)

\$140 - Local Anesthesia
Computer-Based Exam

\$135 – Nitrous Oxide
Computer-Based Exam

\$ 1,000.00

Potential site fees
dependent on host
institution

\$750.00-\$950.00 Clinical
Exam

Local Anesthesia:

\$285.00-360.00 - Clinical
\$105.00 – Written Exam
\$50.00 - Pearson VUE

\$500.00-\$600.00 –
Restorative Exam

Plus site fees
dependent on host
institution

Re-Examination Fees

All as indicated above

All as indicated
above plus
additional
application fees

For only the
portion of the
exam you need to
retake

All as indicated
above plus
additional
application fees

All as indicated
above plus
additional
application fees

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Liability Insurance

CITA

Professional liability insurance coverage included in application fee.

CRDTS

Professional liability insurance coverage included in application fee.

CDCA

Professional liability insurance coverage included in application fee.

SRTA

Professional liability insurance coverage included in application fee. Coverage **not** extended to qualified practitioners providing local anesthetic services.

WREB

Professional liability insurance coverage included in application fee.

Application Requirements

Proof of graduation and transcripts from a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) OR Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) accredited dental hygiene program.

OR

Certification of Graduation Form from program director verifying candidate is sufficiently clinically competent, in good standing, and anticipated to fulfill school requirements within the school year. Candidates must also submit a Verification of Eligibility Form.

Proof of graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program.

OR

Letter of Certification completed by program director verifying anticipated graduation date within 60 days of examination

Confirmation of Training to Administer Local Anesthesia, if candidate intends to use local anesthetic.

Proof of graduation from a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) OR Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) accredited dental hygiene program.

OR

Written certification from Program Director verifying candidate is sufficiently prepared and expected graduation within 45 days of scheduled clinical exam.

Confirmation of Training to Administer Local Anesthesia, if candidate intends to use local anesthetic.

Proof of CPR Certification

Copy of candidate's diploma from a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental hygiene program.

OR

Letter from Program Director or Dean stating candidate is eligible, in the last semester, and anticipates graduation within 12 months of scheduled clinical exam.

Confirmation of Training to Administer Local Anesthesia, if candidate intends to use local anesthetic, included in previously described letter.

Proof of CPR Certification

An original letter (on school stationery), signed by the dean/director with the school seal affixed, indicating the candidate's projected dental hygiene graduation date or the degree earned.

OR

A copy of the candidate's Diploma or Official School Transcript indicating the dental hygiene degree earned.

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Treatment Selection Requirements

CITA

- Candidate must select 6-8 teeth upon which the candidate will designate twelve (12) surfaces of explorer-detectable subgingival calculus, plaque and stain for removal. No more than 4 surfaces may be on anterior teeth.
- Three of these teeth must have a pocket of 4mm or greater.
- Three of the teeth must be in posterior teeth; three of these posterior surfaces must be interproximal.
- Selected teeth must have at least one approximating tooth within a 2mm distance.

CITA prohibits:

- Full-banded Orthodontics
- Implants; banded, bonded or splinted, either orthodontically or periodontally
- Retained primary teeth

CRDTS

- Candidate must select 6-10 teeth, including no more than 3 anteriors, with at least 12 surfaces of qualifying subgingival calculus, 6 of which must have at least 1 surface qualify.
- Of the 12 qualifying surfaces, at least 8 must be on posterior teeth, and of those, at least 3 surfaces must be on molars. No more than 4 surfaces can be on anterior teeth.

CRDTS prohibits:

- Grade III or IV furcations
- Grade III mobility
- Ortho/Invisalign brackets and/or bonded retainers
- Implants
- Partially erupted teeth
- Retained deciduous teeth

CRDTS discourages:

- Faulty restorations
- Gross caries
- Extensive veneer crowns
- Multiple probing depths >6mm

CDCA

- Candidate must select 6-8 permanent teeth with 12 surfaces of subgingival calculus.
- 8 of the 12 must be on posteriors and molars; 5 must be mesial or distal surfaces of the posterior teeth within 2mm or less of an adjacent tooth. At least 3 must be located on mesial or distal surfaces on molars within 2mm or less of an adjacent tooth; only 1 can be located on a surface with no adjacent tooth; remaining 4 surfaces may be located on any surface in the case selection

CDCA prohibits:

- Partially erupted 3rd molars
- Retained deciduous teeth
- Implants

CDCA discourages:

- Probing depths >6mm
- Class III furcations or mobility
- Advanced periodontal disease
- Ortho brackets
- Bonded retainers
- Defective restorations
- Gross caries
- Extensive veneers

SRTA

- Candidate must select one full quadrant with at least 6 teeth plus two posterior teeth from a second quadrant.
- At least 2 natural, permanent molars; 1 located in the selected quadrant, 1 located in the second quadrant; one molar must have both a mesial and a distal contacting tooth. Must be free of excessive soft debris.
- 12 surfaces with heavy to moderate subgingival calculus; 8 of the 12 on molars and premolars; 5 of the 8 on mesial or distals; 3 of the 5 on mesial or distals of molars; 4 of the 12 on any tooth in the case selection.

SRTA discourages:

- Probing depths >6mm
- Class III furcations or mobility
- Advanced periodontal disease
- Ortho brackets
- Bonded retainers
- Faulty restorations
- Gross caries
- Extensive veneers
- Implants
- Partially erupted 3rd molars
- Retained primary teeth

WREB

- Candidate must select one full quadrant and up to 4 additional teeth and at least 6 natural teeth.
- Selection must include a minimum of 12 surfaces of qualifying subgingival calculus.
- At least 3 of the 12 surfaces must be on molars; no more than 4 of the 12 may be on mandibular anteriors; more than four (4) qualifying surfaces are acceptable on the maxillary anteriors.

WREB prohibits these treatment selections:

- Probing depths >6mm
- Class III furcations; Class III mobility
- Ortho bands
- Overhanging margins; temporary or faulty subgingival restorations
- Gross caries
- Crowns with rough subgingival margins

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Radiograph Component

CITA

Complete Mouth Series (exposed within 3 years) AND bitewings (exposed within the last twelve months) if the full mouth series is more than twelve months old.

AND

A panoramic radiograph (exposed within 3 years) and bitewings (exposed within the last twelve months).

IN ADDITION TO:

4 bitewings (exposed within 1 year)

Radiographs of poor diagnostic quality result in point deductions and could affect patient acceptability.

Radiographic technique is not being evaluated in this part of the examination.

CRDTS

Complete Mouth Series (exposed within 3 years)

OR

A panoramic radiograph (exposed within 3 years)

IN ADDITION TO:

Horizontal or vertical bitewing survey of 2 to 4 films.

OR

Panoramic bitewing images (exposed within 1 year)

Radiographs are non-graded; however radiographs of poor diagnostic quality will affect patient acceptability.

CDCA

Full-mouth periapical, including two or four bitewings, **or** a panoramic radiograph with two or four bitewings.

Periapical and panoramic images must be current within 3 years.

Bitewings must be current within 1 year; vertical or horizontal.

Duplicates, conventional, or digital radiographs are acceptable.

Candidate number, date files are exposed, and patient's name must be on the mount or digital printout; Teeth must appear on Universal Notation System (1-32).

Radiographs must be of diagnostic quality.

Radiographs of poor diagnostic quality will affect patient acceptability and can result in failure of the exam.

SRTA

Full-mouth and bitewings **or** a panoramic radiograph and bitewings.

Full-mouth - present 16-20 images, including 2 or 4 bitewings, depending on the number needed to show the mesial and distal surfaces, DEJ, and alveolar crestal bone of all posterior teeth.

Periapical and panoramic images must be current within 3 years.

Bitewings must be current within 1 year; vertical or horizontal.

Radiographs of the selected quadrant are reviewed for diagnostic quality.

Radiographs of poor diagnostic quality will affect patient acceptability and can result in failure of the exam.

WREB

Horizontal, vertical bitewings, or panoramic posterior bitewings with anterior and posterior periapicals that include all teeth in treatment submission.

Radiographs must be taken within 12 months; not necessarily exposed by candidate.

Radiographs are evaluated for diagnostic quality and technique and do not have to be exposed by you. The criteria pertain **only** to the radiographs for the treatment submission(s).

Computer Component

CSCE (Computer Simulated Clinical Examination) is an optional computerized exam for Hygiene candidates.

No computer-based exam included.

100 multiple-choice, simulated patient questions - 2 hours in length.

Taken at Prometric Testing Centers by appointment.

No computer-based exam included.

No computer-based exam included.

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Administration of Local Anesthesia

CITA

May use subgingival anesthetic gel or topical anesthetic only.

CRDTS

Admission of local anesthetic by candidate permitted as determined by each state practice act. Confirmation of local anesthesia training required.

Qualified practitioner may administer local in lieu of candidate.

A subgingival anesthetic gel may be used.

CDCA

Admission of local anesthetic by candidate permitted as determined by each state practice act. Confirmation of local anesthesia training required.

Candidates who are not qualified to administer local anesthetics may use topical anesthetics or anesthesia patches (Oraqix, etc.). The CDCA does not permit a third party, whether an examiner, dentist or licensed dental hygienist to administer local anesthetic for a candidate.

Not evaluated as part of the exam.

SRTA

Admission of local anesthetic by candidates who have successfully completed a course on local anesthesia from a CODA accredited program is permitted. This should include whether the candidate has been trained in infiltration techniques only or in both block and infiltration.

Candidates not qualified to administer local anesthetics may use topical anesthetics or anesthesia patches (Oraqix, etc.)

Qualified practitioner may administer local in lieu of candidate who is not qualified to administer.

WREB

Administration of local anesthetic by candidate is permitted. You must have one of the following:

Submit original local anesthesia course certification form, provide proof of current licensure/certification, provide proof of passing WREB Clinical Local Anesthesia Exam, OR a letter from the state board where the exam is held.

Qualified practitioner, as defined in candidate guide, may administer local in lieu of candidate

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Exam Scoring

CITA

Score of **75% or higher** each, required to pass:

Clinical Examination:

Calculus Detection: 90 pts

Subgingival

Calculus Removal: 6 pts

Treatment

Management: 4 pts

TOTAL: 100 pts

Penalty points may be assessed for:

- Treatment Selections that do not meet the described criteria.
- Infection control infractions.
- Patient management and treatment infractions.
- Areas that do not meet the described criteria for case acceptance.

CRDTS

Score of **75% or higher** each, required to pass:

Clinical Examination:

Extra/Intraoral
Assessment: 16pts

Periodontal Probing: 12pts

Scaling/Subgingival
Calculus Removal: 60pts

Supragingival Deposit
Removal: 12pts

TOTAL: 100 pts

Penalty points may be assessed for unacceptable Treatment Selections or a violation of Treatment Standards as defined in Candidates Guide.

A Critical Error of unprofessional conduct or time penalty will result in failure of the exam. Three *tissue trauma* errors will result in Critical Error.

CDCA

Score of **75% or higher** each, required to pass:

Computer Simulated
Clinical Examination:
(CSCE)

AND

Patient Treatment
Clinical Examination
(PTCE):

Calculus detection: 18pts

Calculus Removal: 54pts

Pocket Depth
Measurement: 18pts

Hard and Soft Tissue
Management: 10pts

PTCE TOTAL: 100 pts

Penalty point deductions are cumulative and may be assessed for violations of standards and behaviors as defined in Candidate's Manual.

SRTA

Score of **75% or higher** each, required to pass:

Clinical Examination:
Includes judgment and
clinical skills

Case Presentation: 4pts

Calculus Requirements:
5pts

Radiographs: 8pts

Calculus Detection: 18pts

Calculus Removal: 54pts

Minor tissue trauma: 3pts
Periodontal Assessment:
6pts

Final Case Presentation:
2pts

TOTAL: 100 pts

Major tissue trauma or a major infection control violation will result in automatic failure.

WREB

Score of **75% or higher** each, required to pass:

Clinical Examination:

Probing Depths/
Recession: 25 pts

Calculus Removal/
Tissue Trauma: 75 pts

TOTAL: 100 pts

Penalty points may be assessed for:

- X-ray penalty
- Non-Diagnostic Radiographs
- Patient Rejection
- Radiographic Technique Error
- Tissue Trauma Error
- Recession Error
- Probe Error
- Calculus Remaining
- No Patient Accepted (Failure of the examination)

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Contact Information

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