



Dental Admission Test (DAT) 2016 Program Guide

Read this *Guide* before submitting an application to test.

At the time of application, you will be required to acknowledge that you have read and understood this *Guide* and the policies and procedures contained within.



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America's leading advocate for oral health

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OVERVIEW

About this *Guide*

This document is the official guide to policies and procedures for participation in the Dental Admission Test (DAT) Program. It provides information about application and testing procedures, examination content and scoring.

You are required to read this document before you apply to take the test.

During the application process, you will be required to confirm that you have read this document, understood its contents, and agree to the policies and procedures contained herein.

Changes in the DAT Program may occur after publication of this *Guide* and will be posted at ada.org/dat. You will be subject to the policies and procedures currently in effect at the time you test.

About the DAT

The DAT is conducted by the American Dental Association (ADA) for applicants seeking admission to dental school. The DAT Program has been in operation nationally since 1950.

The DAT is designed to measure general academic ability, comprehension of scientific information, and perceptual ability. The DAT is administered year round at test centers operated by Prometric Inc.

While all dental schools require applicants to participate in the DAT Program, test results are only one factor considered in evaluating applicant admission potential. Validity studies have shown that test scores in conjunction with academic records are useful in predicting performance in dental school. The relative importance of these predictors in the admission process is determined by each dental school.

Information for Dental School Applicants	A common educational requirement for admission to dental school is completion of at least two academic years of liberal arts study; however, many dental schools in the United States require three or more years of college. Typical first-year dental school students have completed four years of pre-professional education and received a baccalaureate degree prior to admission to dental school. There are specific pre-dental courses that must be completed prior to dental school admission. Dental schools vary in the required prerequisite courses. Applicants should contact individual schools to understand admission requirements.
Ethical Conduct in Applying to Dental Education Programs	The ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct states the following: The dental profession holds a special position of trust within society. As a consequence, society affords the profession certain privileges that are not available to members of the public at large. In return, the profession makes a commitment to society that its members will adhere to high ethical standards of conduct. These standards are embodied in the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct (ADA Code). The ADA Code is, in effect, a written expression of the obligations arising from the implied contract between the dental profession and society. The above statement is pertinent for all individuals seeking admission to pre-doctoral dental education programs. The application process is the time to understand and begin to adhere to the ethical obligations of dentists. Members of the dental profession voluntarily abide by the ADA Code in the interest of protecting patients and maintaining the trust of society as a whole. Submission of an application to a dental education program is the first step in the process of becoming a member of the dental profession. With the application comes the obligation to uphold the highest level of honesty and ethical behavior. An applicant

Ethical Conduct in Applying to Dental Education Programs (Continued)	is held to the same high standards for truth, full disclosure, and accuracy in the application process to which a member of the dental profession is held in their capacity as a member of the profession. Applicants to pre-doctoral dental education programs are expected to understand and comply with the standards expressed in this statement in their applications for admission to dental school and their application to take the DAT. Behavior that results in misconduct or irregularity in the dental education program admissions process is a very serious matter. <u>An applicant who acts unethically risks being denied admission to dental education programs.</u> Moreover, such unethical actions can result in more serious outcomes if they are discovered after enrollment in a program or at the beginning of dental practice. It is important that applicants understand the significance of exhibiting professional behavior throughout their careers, beginning with the application process. The ADA and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) have developed the ADA Code in collaboration, as both organizations play important roles in the admissions process. The ADA sponsors the DAT, and the ADEA sponsors the Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (ADEA AADSAS). The ADEA AADSAS is a centralized, pre-doctoral application service in which the U.S. and Canadian dental schools participate. The ADA and ADEA expect strong ethical behavior in all current and aspiring dental professionals.
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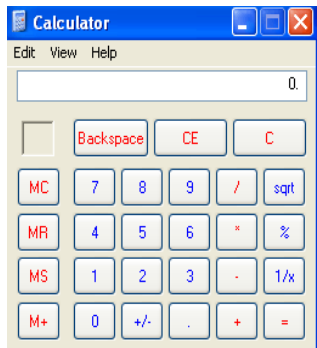
TEST CONTENT AND TEST PREPARATION MATERIALS

Scope of the Test	The DAT is comprised of multiple-choice test items presented in the English language. The test is developed according to established test specifications. The DAT consists of a battery of four tests: Survey of the Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension, and Quantitative Reasoning. In the DAT, both the U.S. customary system and the metric system (Imperial System, International System) of units are used. The following provides additional information concerning test content:
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SURVEY OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES (100 items)	
Biology (40)	
Cell and Molecular Biology	Origin of life, cell metabolism (including photosynthesis/ enzymology), cellular processes, thermodynamics, organelle structure and function, mitosis/ meiosis, cell structure, experimental cell biology, and biomolecules.
Diversity of Life	Biological Organization and Relationship of Major Taxa (Six-Kingdom, Three-Domain System) – plantae, animalia, protista, fungi, eubacteria (bacteria), archaea, and relationships.
Structure and Function of Systems	Integumentary, skeletal, muscular, circulatory, immunological, digestive, respiratory, urinary, nervous/ senses, endocrine, reproductive, etc.
Developmental Biology	Fertilization, descriptive embryology, developmental mechanisms, and experimental embryology.
Genetics	Molecular genetics, human genetics, classical genetics, chromosomal genetics, and genetic technology.
Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior	Natural selection, population genetics/ speciation, population and community ecology, ecosystems, and animal behavior (including social behavior).

General Chemistry (30)	
Stoichiometry and General Concepts	Percent composition, empirical formulae, balancing equations, moles and molecular formulas, molar mass, density, and calculations from balanced equations.
Gases	Kinetic molecular theory of gases, Dalton's, Boyle's, Charles's, and ideal gas law.
Liquids and Solids	Intermolecular forces, phase changes, vapor pressure, structures, polarity, and properties.
Solutions	Polarity, properties (colligative, non-colligative), forces, and concentration calculations.
Acids and Bases	pH, strength, Brønsted-Lowry reactions, and calculations.
Chemical Equilibria	Molecular, acid/ base, precipitation, calculations, and Le Chatelier's principle.
Thermodynamics and Thermochemistry	Laws of thermodynamics, Hess's law, spontaneity, enthalpies and entropies, and heat transfer.
Chemical Kinetics	Rate laws, activation energy, and half-life.
Oxidation-Reduction Reactions	Balancing equations, determination of oxidation numbers, electrochemical calculations, and electrochemical concepts and terminology.
Atomic and Molecular Structure	Electron configuration, orbital types, Lewis-Dot diagrams, atomic theory, quantum theory, molecular geometry, bond types, and sub-atomic particles.
Periodic Properties	Representative elements, transition elements, periodic trends, and descriptive chemistry.
Nuclear Reactions	Balancing equations, binding energy, decay processes, particles, and terminology.
Laboratory	Basic techniques, equipment, error analysis, safety, and data analysis.
Organic Chemistry (30)	
Mechanisms	Energetics, and Structure - elimination, addition, free radical, substitution mechanisms, and other mechanisms and reactions.
Chemical and Physical Properties of Molecules	Spectroscopy (^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, infrared, and multi-spectra), structure (polarity, intermolecular forces (solubility, melting/ boiling point, etc.), and laboratory theory and techniques (TLC, separations, etc.).

Stereochemistry (structure evaluation)	Chirality, isomer relationships, and conformations.
Nomenclature	IUPAC rules and functional groups in molecules.
Individual Reactions of the Major Functional Groups and Combinations of Reactions to Synthesize Compounds	Alkene/alkyne, aromatic, substitution/elimination, aldehyde/ketone, carboxylic acids and derivatives, and other. For <u>each</u> area listed above, the following sub-areas apply: general, one-step, and multi-step.
Acid-Base Chemistry	Ranking acidity/ basicity (structure analysis and pH/ pK _a data analysis), and prediction of products and equilibria.
Aromatics and Bonding	Concept of aromaticity, resonance, atomic/ molecular orbitals, hybridization, and bond angles/ lengths.
PERCEPTUAL ABILITY (90 items)	
The Perceptual Ability Test is comprised of six subtests: 1) apertures, 2) view recognition, 3) angle discrimination, 4) paper folding, 5) cube counting, and 6) 3D form development.	
READING COMPREHENSION (50 items)	
The Reading Comprehension Test contains three reading passages on various scientific topics. Prior understanding of the science topics is not a prerequisite to answering the test items. The reading passages require the ability to read, comprehend, and thoroughly analyze basic scientific information.	
QUANTITATIVE REASONING (40 items)	
Mathematical Problems	Algebra (equations and expressions, inequalities, exponential notation, absolute value, ratios and proportions, and graphical analysis); Numeric calculations (fractions and decimals, percentages, approximations, and scientific notation); Conversions (temperature, time, weight, and distance); Probability and Statistics; Geometry; and Trigonometry

Applied Mathematics (Word) Problems	A basic four-function calculator is available on the computer screen in the QRT section. 
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Test Preparation	<u>Practice Test</u> The DAT program offers a computer-based and paper DAT practice test to help you prepare. The questions on the practice test previously appeared on the actual test, but have been retired from active tests. The computer-based DAT practice test is timed and reflects the actual DAT testing time (4 hours and 30 minutes). Upon completion of the computer-based practice test you will receive a report indicating the number of questions that you answered correctly. The practice test provides an opportunity to become familiar with the DAT format and sample questions. The DAT practice test is not designed to provide information on how well you are likely to perform on the DAT, and as such DAT scores are not included in the aforementioned report. Visit the DAT page and look under Test Preparation Material to purchase either the computer-based or paper DAT practice test. The DAT Program does not endorse any test preparation courses and has no data on the content or efficacy of test preparation courses designed to prepare you to take the DAT. The DAT Program urges individuals considering participating in test preparation courses to carefully review course materials to ensure those materials reflect the current content of the DAT.
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Test Preparation (Continued)	<u>Tutorial</u> A tutorial to acquaint you with DAT administration procedures is available. The tutorial includes sample DAT items, and allows you to become familiar with the basic steps involved in proceeding through the test. At the Prometric Test Center you will be able to become familiar with the computer functions by taking a brief tutorial before beginning the test.
	<u>Test Drive</u> Additionally, you may become familiar with the testing experience through Prometric's Test Drive. In 30 minutes, you will experience an overview of the testing experience you will encounter on the actual testing day. During the overview, you may participate in: • The scheduling and registration process • The complete check-in process • Introduction to test center staff and surroundings • 15-minute sample test (generic test, not DAT) demonstrating the testing process • Full preparation for the real test Visit Prometric's Test Drive for further details and pricing. There are no shortcuts to the process of learning. You cannot bypass the extensive process of absorbing basic information through class participation and months of study.

Confidentiality of Test Materials	Current test items represent confidential, copyrighted intellectual property. Obtaining, using, and/or distributing current test items is strictly prohibited regardless of the method employed (i.e., whether by memorization, recording, copying, etc.). This prohibition includes the discussion, distribution, or online posting of remembered test questions or answers, in whole or in part. Use or sharing of current test content violates the Rules of Conduct and Testing Regulations. Such activities may provide unfair advantage to individuals or groups of individuals and threaten the validity and credibility of the test. Since all DAT items are copyrighted property of the American Dental Association, these prohibited activities also violate Federal Copyright Laws. The ADA investigates reports or allegations associated with the generation, use, or sharing of current test materials, and will pursue formal action against anyone who violates Test Regulations or Federal Copyright Law, which may include voiding of exam results or institution of legal action.
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SCORE INFORMATION

Scoring of Test	DAT scores are based on the number of correct responses obtained; applicants are not penalized for guessing. DAT results are reported in terms of scale scores. These scale scores are neither raw scores (number correct) nor percentiles. The conversion of raw scores to scale scores is accomplished using equating procedures. Using scale scores, it is possible to compare the performance of one applicant with the performance of all applicants. Scores used in the testing program range from 1 to 30. There are no passing or failing scores; a scale score of 18 typically signifies average performance on a national basis. Each test includes questions that enable the DAT Program to place different forms of the test on a common measurement scale, thereby adjusting the forms for differences in form difficulty level. Because of this adjustment, applicant scores have the same meaning regardless of the test form that was administered.
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Scoring of Test (Continued)	Other questions on the test are experimental and are not scored. The data collected on unscored questions is used in later test construction procedures, to ensure that these questions are appropriate before they become scored items. Unscored questions are presented in the same manner as scored questions.
Test Validity and Score Reliability	Reliability and validity are two means by which users can evaluate how well a test is performing relative to its purpose. Reliability refers to the degree to which test scores are consistent and free from random sources of measurement error. If test scores are reliable, then they are dependable and repeatable for an individual applicant. Annual studies clearly demonstrate that DAT scores are highly reliable. Validity refers to the extent to which the test measures what it purports to measure. Annual validity studies examining the relationship between test scores and dental grades have indicated strong predictive validity relative to performance in dental school programs. Click here and look under DAT Resources for the most recent study: Report of the Dental Admission Testing Program, Validity Study. A number of procedures are used to ensure that tests are fair to all applicants regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or regional background. The test construction process involves a review of questions to ensure that they are not differentially familiar to any groups of individuals. Further, as part of the test analysis process, data is analyzed from a fairness perspective. Any questions that may appear differentially familiar are evaluated and, if appropriate, modified or removed from scoring.
Score Reports	Upon completion of your testing appointment, you will receive an unofficial score report at the Prometric Test Center. In the unofficial score report, scale scores are reported. This report is your personal copy. No other score report will be sent to you. If you do not receive your unofficial score report after completing the DAT, please notify the DAT Program within five days via an e-mail sent to datexam@ada.org.

Score Reports

(Continued)

Once an applicant has taken any part of the DAT those scores cannot be voided at the request of the applicant.

Your personal copy of the score report issued by the Prometric Test Center is an unofficial report that is subject to audit as part of the quality review process. Falsification of score reports or misrepresentation of a score report may result in cancellation of your scores and a two-year wait to retest.

All U.S. dental schools require official DAT scores. Official scores are reported electronically (within 3-4 weeks of your test date) to the dental schools you select on your DAT application. You may review the schools you have requested by logging into the My Account page at www.ada.org/dat. When you select dental schools to receive your official scores, you grant the DAT Program permission to release your official scores to the dental schools selected on your DAT application. Scores will not be released without authorization.

If you test more than once, the results of your most recent testing attempts are reported. Please confer with your pre-dental advisor regarding test results. You can request that your scores be made available to your pre-dental advisor at no charge at the time of application. Scores are made available to the pre-dental advisor if indicated on your application. These reports are sent to pre-dental advisors on a periodic basis.

If your application requests that scores be sent to dental schools that participate in a standardized application service (ADEA AADSAS or TMDSAS), then the DAT Program will report your official scores both to the schools and to the application services (within 3-4 weeks of your test date). You must select at least one AADSAS or TMDSAS school to have your scores sent to that agency.

If your application has no dental schools selected, then you have not granted permission to release your official scores. Schools selected at the time of application are included in the DAT fee, regardless of the number of schools selected.

Score Reports (Continued)	Requests for additional score reports must be submitted using the score report request available at www.ada.org/dat. Additional fees apply when sending reports to dental schools or other recipients not selected at the time of application (see the Testing Fees section of this Guide). Score report fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. We suggest you send official scores to each dental school.
Score Imports	Your DAT scores will be imported into your ADEA AADSAS application if: - You indicated on your DAT application that you wanted your DAT scores sent to at least one ADEA AADSAS participating dental school and - You have entered your name, DENTPIN® and date of birth correctly in your ADEA AADSAS application. You can check to see if your DAT scores have been downloaded to your ADEA AADSAS application by: - Logging into your ADEA AADSAS application - In the “My Application Status” section, click on “Official DAT Scores” - Next to DAT, there will be a date indicating when your scores were imported into your ADEA AADSAS application. It may take 3-4 weeks from the date that you take the DAT for your scores to be transmitted to ADEA AADSAS. ADEA AADSAS receives updated DAT scores on a daily basis, imports them into your application, and transmits them to schools within one week of receipt.
ADEA & AADSAS Applications	When you completed the DAT application, did you select one or more dental schools among the ADEA AADSAS participating dental schools?

ADEA & AADSAS Applications (Continued)	If you did <u>not</u> but would now like your scores sent to ADEA AADSAS, then you must request a score report be sent to at least one ADEA AADSAS-participating dental school. Your scores will then be sent to ADEA AADSAS and imported into your application. Additional fees apply for reports not requested at the time of application (see the Testing Fees section of this <i>Guide</i>). - Did you record your DENTPIN® correctly in your ADEA AADSAS application? The DENTPIN® you used in your DAT application must match the DENTPIN® you reported in your ADEA AADSAS application. If your DENTPIN® is not reported correctly, you must login to your ADEA AADSAS application, go to the “Account Information” section, enter the correct DENTPIN®, and click “Save.” - Did you record your name correctly in your ADEA AADSAS application? The name you used in your DAT application must match the name you reported in your ADEA AADSAS application. If your name is not reported correctly, you must log in to your ADEA AADSAS application, go to the “Account Information” section, enter the correct name, and click “Save.” - Did you record your date of birth correctly in your ADEA AADSAS application? ADEA AADSAS matches your DENTPIN® and date of birth to import your DAT scores. Be sure that your date of birth is entered correctly in the “Biographical Information” section of your application. Note: It may take up to five business days to download your scores from the time you update your DENTPIN® and/or date of birth information in your ADEA AADSAS application.
Score Audits	Before official DAT scores are reported, we conduct a quality review of all results in order to confirm their accuracy. The DAT Program also reviews test center reports regarding irregularities and violations of Test Regulations. For a period of 30 days after your testing appointment, the DAT Program is willing to audit your DAT results. There is an additional charge for this service (see the Testing Fees section of this <i>Guide</i>). This process takes approximately four to eight weeks. The audit request form is available here.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The DAT Program does not discriminate based on race/ethnicity, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status.	
Successful participants in the DAT Program typically complete at least one year of college education, including courses in biology, and general and organic chemistry. Advanced level biology and physics are not required. Most applicants complete two or more years of college before taking the test.	
Dental school applicants are encouraged to take the DAT well in advance of the dental school admission cycle. Applicants seeking admission to Canadian dental schools should confirm the acceptability of the DAT by schools prior to applying for the test.	
Retest Eligibility	Applicants are required to submit a new application and fee for each retest.
	Applicants must wait at least 90 days from their last attempt, before retaking the DAT; there are no exceptions to the 90 day waiting period.
	Applicants who have three or more DAT attempts must apply for permission to test again, and from that point forward may retest only once per twelve-month period. A testing attempt occurs each time the applicant is seated at a workstation at a Prometric Test Center and starts the test by electronically agreeing to the confidentiality statement.
	Requests for additional testing beyond the first three attempts must be submitted in writing to datexam@ada.org and must include evidence of current (within the previous 18 months) intent to apply to dental school. Acceptable forms of evidence include the following (you need submit only one): ▪ Copy of a completed and submitted ADEA AADSAS application ▪ Letter of rejection from a dental school ▪ Letter on school letterhead from a dental school admissions officer encouraging you to retest ▪ Letter on school letterhead from a college/university health profession advisor/instructor verifying that you are applying to dental school

Retest Eligibility (Continued)	The results of the four most recent DAT administrations, as well as the total number of attempts, are reported on official score reports.
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Partial Testing	Partial testing is not permitted. Applicants are required to take all four tests of the DAT. The lowest possible scale score is reported for any assigned test not taken. Individuals unable to complete the DAT must submit a new application and fee to retest.
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TESTING INFORMATION

Test Centers	The DAT is administered by Prometric, Inc. at Prometric Test Centers in the United States and its territories, including Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The DAT is also administered in Canada. If your application is approved you will receive an email with scheduling instructions. You can visit Prometric or call 800.688.5804 to schedule a testing appointment. A list of test centers is also available at Prometric. The Prometric Contact Center will NOT schedule you before receiving authorization from the DAT Program. Additionally, local test centers cannot schedule, reschedule, or cancel appointments.
Testing Schedule	The table below identifies the DAT testing schedule. You have four hours and 15 minutes to respond to DAT questions (total administration time of five hours, including the tutorial, scheduled break, and survey). You must report to the testing center at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment. The optional break after the first two tests is the only scheduled break. When you take the scheduled break, the testing session will resume automatically after 15 minutes have elapsed. If you take a break at any other time, it will be considered an unscheduled break. During an unscheduled break, you may NOT access personal belongings or prohibited items, study, refer to notes or texts, use a telephone, eat food or beverages, or leave the test center. <u>LOCKER ACCESS DURING AN UNSCHEDULED BREAK IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.</u>

DAT Testing Schedule	
Optional Tutorial	15 minutes
Survey of Natural Sciences	90 minutes
Perceptual Ability Test	60 minutes
Scheduled Break (optional)	15 minutes
Reading Comprehension Test	60 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning Test	45 minutes
Optional Post Test Survey	15 minutes
Total Time	5 hours

Obtain a DENTPIN® and Apply to Test	Before you can apply to take the DAT or apply for admission to a dental school, you must obtain a Dental Personal Identification Number (DENTPIN®).
	The DENTPIN® is a unique personal identifier for individuals involved with the U.S. dental education system and standardized testing programs. The DAT, ADEA AADSAS, TMDSAS, ADEA PASS, ADEA CAAPID and National Board Dental and Dental Hygiene Examination programs all use the DENTPIN® for identification of individuals and for the confidential and secure reporting, transmission and tracking of test scores and academic data.
	Once you have a DENTPIN®, you may submit a DAT application from the DAT website page. A new application must be submitted each time you wish to take the DAT. If you meet the eligibility requirements for testing, your application will be processed. This processing takes place Monday through Friday during normal business hours. The DAT Program will forward your eligibility information to Prometric, and you will receive an email with scheduling instructions. To allow adequate time for Prometric to receive your eligibility information, <u>please wait 24 hours after receipt of this email before attempting to schedule a testing appointment.</u> After your application has been processed, you will be eligible to test for a six (6) month period. If you do not schedule a testing appointment and take the DAT during this period, you will have to submit a new application and fee in order to take the test.

Obtain a DENTPIN and Apply to Test (Continued)	The six (6) month eligibility period will not be extended, and you will forfeit your testing fee if you do not test within the six month period. All information you provide on your application must be accurate. You must use your legal name. When including a middle name, either the full middle name or initial is acceptable. If the name on your DAT application and your IDs does not match exactly, you will be denied admission to test. As a result, you will forfeit your testing appointment and application fee. You will be required to submit a new application and fee. Changes and corrections to your application (name, birthdate, etc.) must be completed at least two weeks prior to your scheduled testing appointment. <u>You are responsible for identifying any corrections or omissions and must notify the DAT Program at dentpin@ada.org.</u> If you modify your contact information (address, email address, etc.) by using the “Update Your DENTPIN®” feature at www.ada.org/dentpin, please note that any existing test applications and/or score report requests are not automatically updated. During the application and testing process you will be required to provide information that allows the DAT Program to identify you. This includes your name, DENTPIN®, address, year of birth, etc. This information must be provided accurately. <u>If it is determined that you have provided false information to the DAT Program or to the test center, your scores will be voided, and all dental schools will be notified.</u> You may also have to wait two years to retake the test, or you may be banned from retaking the DAT.
Privacy and Security	The ADA is concerned with maintaining the privacy and security of all candidate personal information. We take the responsibility for protecting your personal information very seriously, and use industry standard methods to secure and protect your confidential information. The DAT program collects and retains personal information for activities such as administering the DAT, fulfilling DAT Program responsibilities, maintaining the integrity of the test,

Privacy and Security (Continued)	detecting and preventing unlawful activity, and fulfilling legal requirements. DAT scores are retained indefinitely, along with testing records and corresponding personal data. Records of your individual results are released and/or reported to education programs or other entities only on your written authorization or designation by electronic means, through the application or score report request. Scores will not be reported to you or others by telephone, fax, email, or in person. The DAT Program may use test data for research purposes and to enhance the testing program. In such instances, the data are confidential and individual candidates will not be identified. Research of this type is reviewed by an institutional review board. The ADA uses data security procedures to protect the integrity of personal and test information at all times. Security safeguards include administrative, technical, and physical safeguards over data and data processing systems. For additional information, please refer to the Privacy Policy. By registering for the test, you consent to the collection, processing, use, and transmission of your personal information in accordance with the statements outlined in this <i>Guide</i>.
Schedule a Testing Appointment	After your application is processed, the DAT Program will send you an email with scheduling instructions. You may then call 800.688.5804 or visit Prometric to schedule your appointment to take the DAT. After your application is processed, Prometric will receive notification of your eligibility for DAT testing. To allow adequate time for Prometric to receive your eligibility information, please wait 24 hours after receipt of your eligibility email before attempting to schedule a testing appointment.
Reschedule or Cancel a Testing Appointment: Emergencies, Testing Problems, and No Show Policy	If you wish to reschedule a testing appointment, please contact Prometric or call 800.688.5804; additional fees apply (see the Testing Fees section of this <i>Guide</i>). The local test center cannot schedule, reschedule, or cancel your appointment. <u>No Show Policy</u> If you do not appear for your scheduled testing appointment and you do not cancel or reschedule your appointment in advance of the test date, you will forfeit all testing fees. You

**Reschedule or
Cancel a Testing
Appointment:
Emergencies, Testing
Problems, and No
Show Policy**
(Continued)

will be **required to submit a new application and pay the fee** to schedule a new appointment.

Be sure that you receive a confirmation notification when rescheduling your testing appointment. Retain a copy of this confirmation for your records.

Emergencies on the Day of the Testing Appointment

If an emergency on the day of the testing appointment prevents you from keeping your testing appointment, you may submit a written request for relief to the DAT Program. This request should include applicable documentation and be sent to testingproblems@ada.org within five business days of the appointment.

Examples of emergencies and applicable documentation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sudden illness on the test day: doctor's note or hospital records confirming that you were treated on the day of the test
- Death in the family on the test day: copy of obituary, program from funeral service, or death certificate confirming that the relative passed away on the day of the test

Testing appointments affected by emergencies occurring prior to the day of the actual testing appointment should be handled through the rescheduling and cancellation process indicated above.

Testing Problems on the Day of the Testing Appointment

If you experience problems with testing conditions during administration of the test, you must stop testing and notify the Test Center Administrator immediately.

Testing should not be resumed until the issue has been documented and resolved by the Test Center Administrator. Unresolved concerns must be submitted in writing **within five business days** of the testing appointment to testingproblems@ada.org.

Upon receipt of the information, we will conduct an investigation and notify you of the outcome. Candidates with documented, unresolved testing issues may be offered the opportunity to retest within 30 days.

Scores cannot be cancelled or adjusted under any circumstances.

Testing Fees

Fees are not refundable or transferable. All fees are in U.S. dollars. The following indicates current testing fees:

Title	Description	Fee
DAT fee	This fee includes official score reporting to all of the dental schools you have selected at the time of application, an unofficial score report issued at the testing center (no other score report will be sent to you), and score reporting to your pre-dental advisor (if selected on your application).	\$430
Score Report Fee (optional)	The fee for dental schools or other recipients NOT selected at the time of application.	\$35 per score report/school
Score Audit Fee (optional)	For a period of 30 days after your testing appointment, the DAT Program is willing to audit your DAT results.	\$65

Rescheduling fees are as follows:

Number of Days Prior to Testing Appointment	Fee
24 business hours before to 5 business days prior to the testing appointment.	\$100
6 to 30 business days prior to the testing appointment.	\$60
31+ business days prior to the testing appointment.	\$25

****Saturdays and Sundays are NOT business days****

Partial Fee Waiver	A limited number of partial fee waivers per calendar year (January-December) are available to DAT candidates, in cases of severe financial hardship. The waiver covers 50% of the DAT fee, which includes the fee for the test and any official score reports requested at the time of application. The waiver does not apply to any charges associated with rescheduling or score reporting after the time of initial application. Fee waivers are granted on a first-come, first-served basis at the beginning of each calendar year to eligible candidates who have submitted the required documents. Fee waiver requests will be granted beginning on January 1st and are generally exhausted within two or three months.
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Partial Fee Waiver (Continued)	You may obtain the forms from the DAT web page. The DAT Program will review all fee waiver requests and make final decisions regarding fee waivers. Candidates must register for a DENTPIN® prior to submitting a fee waiver request. <u>Eligibility Requirements for Partial Fee Waiver:</u> Candidates may qualify for a partial fee waiver if the following requirements are met: • Demonstrated financial hardship • First time taking the DAT • U.S. citizen or resident alien • Received financial aid at his/her educational institution <u>Applicants who have previously received a fee waiver or who have already taken the DAT are not eligible.</u> <u>Required Documents:</u> • Fee waiver financial information form (www.ada.org/dat) • Educational institution financial aid award letter Completed DAT application (submitted after approval/denial decision)
Testing Accommodations	The DAT Program provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for individuals with documented disabilities or a medical condition who demonstrate a need for accommodation and request an accommodation prior to testing. An individual is considered to have a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include seeing, hearing, speaking, walking, breathing, performing manual tasks, learning, caring for oneself, and working.

Testing Accommodations (Continued)	English as a second language, test anxiety or difficulty reading without an identified underlying physical or mental deficit, or failure to achieve a desired outcome are not generally covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Testing accommodations are offered to those with a qualified disability or a medical condition in order to offer equal access to testing. Candidates must request testing accommodations with each application, but will not be required to submit additional documentation for the same disability with subsequent retests. Candidates requesting the same accommodations offered previously by the DAT program need only submit the testing accommodations form found under Apply to Take the DAT. Information concerning testing accommodations will not be shared outside of the DAT Program and Test Center, and will not be indicated on test results, reported to dental schools, or provided to additional report recipients.
Request for Testing Accommodations and Appropriate Documentation	The following documentation will be used to help determine whether you qualify for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or as a result of a medical condition. The DAT Program requires a complete evaluation of the candidate, as well as a completed and signed Testing Accommodation Request Form. A health care professional appropriately qualified to evaluate the disability or medical condition must conduct the evaluation. If you have a documented disability recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act or a medical condition and require testing accommodations, you must submit an application to test, the testing accommodation request form, and the supporting documentation prior to testing. <u>Your submission is not complete until you have provided all three components.</u> You will schedule a testing appointment after a decision has been made concerning your testing accommodation request. <u>Testing accommodations cannot be added to a previously scheduled testing appointment.</u> If you schedule a testing appointment before the approval of testing accommodations, you will be required to cancel the appointment and pay a rescheduling fee.

**Request for
Testing
Accommodations
and Appropriate
Documentation**
(Continued)

Procedures for submitting a testing accommodations request are as follows:

1. When submitting your DAT application, select 'Yes' from the dropdown box on the application requesting testing accommodations. You must receive your eligibility email (with approved accommodations) before you can schedule a testing appointment.
2. Submit the following documents to testingaccommodations@ada.org:
 - a. **Testing Accommodation Request Form** (found under [Apply to Take the DAT](#)) signed and dated, indicating the disability or medical condition and the request for accommodations. Accommodations should align with the identified functional limitation so that the adjustment to the testing procedure is applicable to the identified impairment. A functional limitation is defined as the behavioral manifestation of the disability that impedes the individual's ability to function.
 - b. **Current evaluation report** (within the past five years) from an appropriate health care professional. The document must be on official letterhead and must include the **professional's credentials, signature, address, and telephone number**. The report must indicate the **candidate's name, date of birth, and the date of evaluation**. The report should include:
 - Information concerning the specific **diagnostic procedures or tests** administered. Diagnostic methods used should be appropriate to the disability or medical condition and in alignment with current professional protocol.
 - The **results of the diagnostic procedures** and/or tests and a comprehensive interpretation of the results.
 - The specific **diagnosis of the disability or medical condition**, with an accompanying description of the candidate's limitations due to the disability or medical condition.

Request for Testing Accommodations and Appropriate Documentation <i>(Continued)</i>	• A summary of the complete evaluation with recommendations for the specific accommodations and how they will reduce the impact of the identified functional limitation. c. Documentation of any previous accommodations provided by educational institutions or other testing agencies. If no prior accommodations were provided, the licensed professional should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodations were given in the past and why accommodations are needed now.
Unacceptable Forms of Documentation	Please do not submit the following documents; they will not be accepted. • Handwritten letters from health care professionals • Handwritten patient records/notes from a patient chart • Diagnoses on prescription pad • Self-evaluations • Research articles • Original documents; submit copies only • Previous DAT Program correspondence • Correspondence from educational institutions or testing agencies not directly addressed to the DTS

TESTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

About the Testing Rules	The DAT Program has established rules which govern the administration of the DAT to ensure that test results accurately reflect test taker's skills and that no candidate receives an unfair advantage on the test. Test Regulations are intended to preserve the integrity of the testing process by providing standard test administration conditions that yield valid and reliable results. Accessing test content prior to testing, breaching the confidentiality of the test content, or any attempt to subvert the testing process violates the purpose and principles of the test. Conduct occurring before, during, or after testing that violates these principles, or testing Rules and Regulations may result in invalidation of test results and/or other penalties, as appropriate.
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Rules of Conduct	You must be truthful in completing your application and must abide by all instructions regarding testing conduct. Failure to comply with these Rules of Conduct may result in a determination that an irregularity has occurred, and your test results may be withheld, cancelled, and/or considered invalid. If your scores are withheld as the result of an irregularity, you may be prohibited from testing for up to two (2) years and you may be subject to civil or criminal prosecution. By applying for the DAT, you agree to abide by the following: 1. You certify that you are the person who has registered for the test for the purpose of gaining admission to dental school or another health profession education program. You may not take the test for someone else, someone else may not take the test for you, nor may you take the test for any reason other than for the purpose of gaining admission to a dental or health profession education program. <u>You may not take the test to practice or to obtain an advance review of test content.</u> 2. You will not give, receive, or obtain any form of unauthorized assistance prior to the test, during the test (e.g. in the testing room or when on a break), or subsequent to the test. 3. You will maintain the confidentiality of the test at all times. You will not reproduce or attempt to reproduce test materials through memorization, recording, or other means. You will not provide information relating to current test content that might impact the test's ability to accurately reflect candidate skills, or that might provide an unfair advantage to other candidates. For example, you will neither make use of nor participate in the electronic posting or other distribution of information regarding current test content or answers. 4. You will not bring any unauthorized materials to the test center, or into the secure testing area (see the Test Regulations and Prohibited Conduct section of this <i>Guide</i>). 5. You will not remove information about the test (written/printed, recorded, or other) from the test center. 6. You will comply with test center rules and procedures. You will not create a disturbance in the testing center.
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Rules of Conduct (Continued)	7. You will not tamper with the testing equipment or the testing facility. 8. You will cooperate fully with any investigations of test irregularities. You also agree to have your test responses analyzed to detect aberrances. You may not disclose (in whole or in part) test content to anyone before, during or after the test, whether orally, in writing, on Internet chat rooms, blogs, or otherwise. The DAT is a secure test that is protected by U.S. copyright laws. Any unauthorized disclosure of test content could result in civil liability, criminal penalties, voiding of test scores or other appropriate penalty. You are encouraged to report any Internet or other activities that disclose information about test content, so that the DAT Program may investigate and take necessary action. Report such activity to the DAT Program at datexam@ada.org.
Test Center Procedures	Report to the test center at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time. If you report late you may not be allowed to test, depending on the time of your arrival and the scheduling of other testing appointments. Prometric Test Center administrators will determine whether there is adequate time and space to administer the test. <u>If you arrive late and cannot be seated, you will forfeit the test fee and must submit another application and fee.</u> In cases of inclement weather, natural disasters, or other conditions that may cause unavoidable interruptions to testing, Prometric will make reasonable efforts to notify you and reschedule your testing appointment. You are expected to understand and comply with the Prometric test center regulations. You can review test center information at Prometric. 1. When you arrive at the Prometric Test Center to take the test, two original, current (not expired) forms of identification (ID), one primary and one secondary, will be required.

Test Center Procedures

(Continued)

The primary ID must be a government issued ID with your photograph and signature. A government ID missing either a photograph or signature is unacceptable. Examples of acceptable primary IDs are a driver's license or a passport/passport card.

The secondary ID must contain your signature. Examples of secondary IDs are a debit card, a library card, or a credit card.

The name on your IDs must match exactly the name you entered on your DAT application. If the names on your IDs and application do not match exactly, you will be denied admission to testing, and you will forfeit your testing appointment and your application fee. You will be required to submit a new application and fee to test.

If including a middle name, either the full middle name or initial is acceptable.

Name changes are addressed as follows. Using the DENTPIN® Form, submit the request for a name correction (must be received 2 weeks prior to your testing appointment) by email to dentpin@ada.org with your DENTPIN®. Please also email any appropriate documentation such as a marriage certificate or court documents, and address it to the attention of DAT Name Change Request.

If you have any questions concerning types of acceptable identification, please call the DAT Program at 800.232.1694.

2. The Prometric Test Center will electronically record the identity of each candidate with a fingerprint and photograph. Electronic capture of this biometric data allows for easier and quicker return to testing after breaks. Biometric and other identification information will be retained by Prometric and will be made available for identity verification at potential future test administrations related to dental education and licensure. Additionally, the test center will use a detection wand to scan for electronic devices as part of the check-in procedures. You may view the Prometric check-in procedures [here](#).

Test Center Procedures (Continued)	3. You will have an opportunity to become familiar with the operation of the testing computer by taking a brief tutorial before the test. 4. You will be observed at all times while testing. This observation will include test center staff walking through the secure testing lab, and video recording of your testing session. Test center staff are required to report behavior that may violate the rules and regulations. 5. Test center staff are not authorized to answer questions regarding test content, testing software, or scoring. 6. The test administrator is responsible for the operations of the facility, maintaining order, and administering the test according to established procedures. The test center administrator is authorized to dismiss a candidate from a test session for violating the rules or regulations. 7. If you experience problems with testing conditions, you must notify the test administrator immediately; <u>do not proceed with testing unless the problem is resolved.</u> Unresolved concerns should be reported to testingproblems@ada.org within five business days of your testing appointment.
Test Regulations and Prohibited Conduct	Test regulations are in place to ensure that results can be interpreted with confidence as an accurate reflection of candidate skills. This is particularly important given the role of the test in helping to understand the cognitive skills and aptitude of individuals seeking to become health professionals. Violations of examination regulations undermine the ability of the examination to accurately assess candidate skills and fulfill the purpose of the examination. As such, the DAT Program treats violations extremely seriously. You must comply with the testing rules, regulations, and procedures. These preserve the integrity of the testing process and provide standardized conditions that ensure that no candidate receives an unfair advantage on the test. <u>It is your personal responsibility to understand and comply with the examination regulations indicated in this Guide.</u> Test administrators at test center facilities work with a large number of testing programs covering many fields and occupations. Each of those programs has adopted its own

Test Regulations and Prohibited Conduct

(Continued)

examination regulations and corresponding rules of conduct. If you are unsure of what would be considered appropriate and inappropriate (i.e., prohibited) conduct during test administration, seek clarification directly from the DAT Program in advance of testing. **The DAT Program bears no responsibility for inaccurate information or permissions received from test center administrators. If candidate conduct violates the terms set forth in this *Guide*, the DAT Program will act to strictly enforce its policies and procedures as indicated within this *Guide*.**

1. No personal items are permitted in the secure testing area. Any personal belongings brought to the test center must be stored in the designated locker; storage is limited. Upon reasonable suspicion, your personal belongings may be inspected. Notes or any materials accessed during testing or an unscheduled break may be confiscated.

Accessing personal belongings or your locker during an unscheduled break violates Test Regulations. Test administrators are not authorized to provide you with permission to access personal belongings or your locker during an unscheduled break.

2. Items that are prohibited from the secure testing area include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Books, notes, study materials, scratch paper, tissues, markers, earplugs or headphones not provided by the testing center
 - b. Slide rules, paper, calculating devices, rulers or other measuring devices (an onscreen calculator will be provided during the QRT section of the test)
 - c. Electronic devices such as cell phones, recording devices, iPods, tablets, and headsets/headphones
 - d. Tote bags, purses, wallets, backpacks, briefcases
 - e. Highlighters, pens, erasers, pencils, dictionaries, and translators
 - f. Food, candy, gum, and beverages

Test Regulations and Prohibited Conduct

(Continued)

- g. Outerwear, such as coats, jackets, gloves, or head coverings (except for religious purposes)
 - h. Good luck charms, statues, religious or spiritual items, or similar objects
 - i. Medicinal items (except as approved in advance under testing accommodations)
 - j. Watches (digital or analog) or timing devices (a timer is provided on the computer screen during testing)
 - k. Magnifying devices
3. The test center will provide two note boards and two low-odor fine tip markers to use during the test. Used note boards will be replaced by test center staff upon request. Scratch paper, pencils, or markers that have not been provided by the testing center are prohibited. You may not write on the note boards before the test begins or during scheduled breaks. The note boards cannot be used as measuring devices and cannot be folded, bent, distorted, or mutilated in any manner. You may not remove the note boards from the secure testing area. You may not use the markers on any surface other than the note boards. You may not touch the monitor during testing. All items must be returned to the test administrator before leaving.
4. You must not engage in conversation with others during testing or while on an unscheduled break, and you are strictly prohibited from discussing the test.
5. Test center administrators will report the activity of candidates who take unscheduled breaks.
- During an unscheduled break, you may NOT access personal belongings or prohibited items, study, refer to notes or texts, use a telephone, eat food or beverages, or leave the test center. Test administrators are not authorized to provide you with permission to engage in these activities**
6. Although the test is administered under strict supervision and security, test irregularities may sometimes occur. Test scores may be voided based upon a breach of test security, invalid test conditions, or test taker violations of the regulations or rules.

If cheating is detected during the test—or evidence of irregular behavior is disclosed either when the tests are

Test Regulations and Prohibited Conduct (Continued)	scored or afterwards—those involved will have their test scores voided. 7. If you think you may require any medicinal items during the testing session (e.g., aspirin, ibuprofen) you must receive permission from the DAT Program in advance of the testing session. This permission is obtained through adherence to the DAT Program’s testing accommodation procedures.
	Failure to comply with the regulations and rules may result in a determination of an irregularity and your test results may be withheld, cancelled, and/or considered invalid, or another appropriate penalty may be imposed. You may also be directed to leave the test center before you have completed the test. If your scores are withheld or invalidated, or you are otherwise penalized as the result of an irregularity, you may be prohibited from testing for up to two years.

TESTING IRREGULARITIES AND MISCONDUCT

The DAT Program strives to report scores that accurately reflect the skill and performance of each candidate. The standards and procedures for administering each test are intended to give each candidate a comparable opportunity to demonstrate his/her abilities, and to prevent any candidate from gaining an unfair advantage over others.	
Reasons for Withholding, Voiding, or Invalidating Scores	The DAT Program reserves the right to withhold, void, or invalidate any score when, in the Program’s judgment, it is reasonable to question the validity of your score or the score of any test taker to whom you have provided prohibited assistance. Reasons for withholding, voiding, or invalidating scores may include, but are not limited to, the following: • Unusual answer patterns • Atypical score increases from one testing attempt to another • Discrepancy in, or falsification of, a candidate’s identification • Information indicating that a candidate has engaged in misconduct or violation of the rules and regulations

Reasons for Withholding, Voiding, or Invalidating Scores (Continued)	• Sharing of remembered test questions or answers. This includes sharing through social media platforms and online discussion forums • Falsification of application information or supporting documents • Falsification of the candidate's score report • Any other information indicating the results may not be valid • Inconsistent performance on different sections of the test from one testing attempt to another • Improper access to secure test content • A test administration irregularity
Candidate Notification and Appeal Process	When the DAT Program voids or invalidates test scores, it notifies the candidate in writing. The notice includes information about the decision and the procedure for appeal. Scores will remain voided until an appeal process has been completed, or the time for appeal has expired. When the DAT Program voids a score that has already been reported, score report recipients will be notified that the score has been voided.
Consequence of Irregularity	If it is determined that you engaged in irregular behavior, information regarding this determination becomes a part of your DAT record. At its sole discretion, the DAT Program may elect to send a summary report documenting the incident to legitimately interested parties. This would include all parties to whom you have instructed scores be sent (both current and future). In situations where an irregularity has occurred, individuals who are involved or implicated with respect to the occurrence of the irregularity, or who are reasonably believed to have witnessed the irregularity, may be asked to provide information concerning the irregularity. The DAT Program reserves the right to pursue other remedies, including prosecution of anyone whose conduct unlawfully undermines the security of the DAT or the integrity of the testing process.

Irregularities and Appeals	An irregularity is defined as a situation in which there is a question about the validity of test results in accurately reflecting the ability and skills of a candidate. For example, such questions may be raised when: • There is communication between candidates during the testing session • Unauthorized assistance occurs • Candidates have inappropriate access to current test content (e.g. remembered test questions or answers are shared by email or online posting) • Conduct prohibited by the testing rules and regulations occurs, or test administration disruptions are present (including natural disasters and other emergencies)
	When an irregularity is identified, scores for the candidate(s) involved will be voided pending resolution of the corresponding appeal(s). If an appeal is denied or no appeal is filed, the scores of the candidate(s) involved will remain voided or other appropriate remedies imposed. Candidates whose scores are subject to being voided are notified by written correspondence and provided with a copy of the <i>Dental Admission Test Appeal Process</i>. An appeal must be submitted in writing and must include adequate documentation that supports the appeal. The appeal should include documentation that the candidate believes supports his/her appeal. The appeal should also indicate the specific relief requested. Appeals must be submitted within 30 days of notification of the irregularity.
	The candidate will be notified of the DAT Program's decision approximately 60 days after receipt of the appeal. When considering an appeal, the DAT Program strives to ensure that examination results accurately reflect candidate skills, and that all candidates have an opportunity to demonstrate their ability and potential for success in dental school that is equal to, but not greater than, the opportunity provided to other candidates. The DAT Program will void scores when there is a reasonable and good faith basis to do so. If the DAT Program determines that voiding scores is not warranted under the circumstances, the scores will be released.

Irregularities and Appeals (Continued)	Candidates should be aware that the DAT Program considers irregularities other than natural disasters and emergencies beyond the control of the candidate to be a serious breach of the testing process. The DAT Program handles irregularities in a confidential manner and does not voluntarily share details regarding irregularities. However, candidates should be aware that reports of irregularities may have consequences beyond the voiding of scores or the imposition of other appropriate penalties, if information regarding the irregularities is brought to the attention of school authorities, regulatory agencies, or other entities by other sources. Candidates are encouraged to report suspicious activity or observations of violations of testing regulations to the DAT Program at datexam@ada.org.
Arbitration Requirement	Arbitration has become an increasingly common way to resolve legal differences. Generally speaking, the advantages of arbitration over traditional lawsuits are that arbitration is less expensive and issues are resolved in less time. If a candidate wishes to pursue a dispute that has not been resolved by the appeal process mentioned above and detailed in the <i>DAT Program Appeal Process</i>, the candidate must use the procedure described in the following Agreement to Arbitrate.

AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE

- 1) In the event that any legal dispute arises between you and the American Dental Association in connection with your participation in the Dental Admission Test where that dispute is not resolved by the appeals process detailed in the *DAT Guide* and elsewhere, you agree that the exclusive means for resolving the dispute shall be Binding Arbitration as described by the terms of this Agreement. This means that you waive the rights you may have to resolve the dispute in a court of law, or by any other means that might otherwise be available to you.
- 2) The American Dental Association (“ADA”) agrees to be similarly bound except that the ADA reserves its full rights to pursue injunctive and other appropriate relief in any state or federal court in cases of unfair competition or violations of, or threats to violate, any intellectual property rights of the ADA. With respect to any action filed by the ADA pursuant to this paragraph 2, you consent to submit to the jurisdiction of the state or federal court in which the ADA seeks relief.
- 3) Arbitration proceedings initiated pursuant to this Agreement to Arbitrate shall be conducted in accordance with the then current rules of the American Arbitration Association. The Arbitration and any proceedings relating to it shall be held in Chicago, Illinois. The arbitrator’s award shall be binding and may be entered as a judgment in any court of competent jurisdiction. Information about the American Arbitration Association, 335 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017-4605.
- 4) In the event of Arbitration, the parties shall bear their own costs and attorneys’ fees associated with the Arbitration proceedings, unless the arbitrator directs one of the parties to pay the other’s costs, or attorneys’ fees, or both.
- 5) To the fullest extent permitted by law, no Arbitration brought pursuant to this Agreement shall be joined to any Arbitration involving any other party whether through “Class Arbitration” proceedings or otherwise.
- 6) This Agreement is part of the Application to take the Dental Admission test. Your assent to be bound by it is a requirement for taking the test, but you can only sit for the test if you also fulfill all other conditions imposed by the American Dental Association.