

## SCORE INFORMATION

<p><b>Scoring of Test</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Scoring of Test</b> <i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Test Validity and Score Reliability</b></p>	<p>Reliability and validity are two means by which users can evaluate how well a test is performing relative to its purpose.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 <a href="#">here</a> and look under DAT Resources for the most recent study: Report of the Dental Admission Testing Program, Validity Study.</p> <p>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.</p>

## 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](mailto:datexam@ada.org).**

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. Please keep a copy of your eligibility email as a record of which schools you requested. You may also review the schools you have requested by logging into the My Account page at [www.ada.org/dat](http://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 retest, the results of the four most recent testing attempts are reported. Please confer with your pre-dental advisor regarding test results. You can request that a score report be sent to your pre-dental advisor at no charge at the time of application. Scores are mailed 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