

DENTAL ADMISSION TEST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Obtain a DENTPIN® and Apply to Test

What is a DENTPIN®?

The DENTPIN® is a unique personal identifier for applicants and students involved with the U.S. dental education system and standardized testing programs. The DAT, ADEA AADSAS and TMDSAS, plus ADEA PASS, ADEA CAAPID, the Dental Match and the National Board Dental and Dental Hygiene Examination programs all use the DENTPIN® for identification of individuals. You must obtain or retrieve a [DENTPIN®](#) before proceeding with your DAT application or score report request. You must also obtain a DENTPIN® to apply for admission to a dental school.

I completed an electronic application, but did not receive a confirmation email.

Your payment status is viewable on the My Account page under Applications. If your application status is Payment Failed, your transaction did not go through and your application has not been received. You will need to resubmit your application. If your application status is Payment Received, your payment was successful and our office has received your application.

Any questions regarding transaction payments should be emailed to datexam@ada.org.

I am not in Prometric's system, but my credit card has been charged.

The Department of Testing Services (DTS) processes applications Monday through Friday during normal business hours. It can take up to 48 hours from the time your application is processed by the DTS for Prometric to upload your application into their system, thereby allowing you to schedule your testing appointment. If you are unable to schedule after two business days, you should email the DTS at datexam@ada.org to verify that your application has been processed.

I was billed twice for my electronic application. How do I get a refund?

Submit a brief explanation and copy of your credit card statement to datexam@ada.org. Please include your name (as it appears on your application), [DENTPIN®](#) and daytime contact information. Address the email to the attention of DAT Refund Request.

Corrections/Changes to My Application

I have not yet taken my test, can I update my address?

Go to the [DENTPIN®](#) website and click the Update Your DENTPIN® in the left navigation. Once you log in, you may make your changes there. Your information will be updated in your DENTPIN® the same day.

My name is reversed or has changed. Can I correct it?

Using the [DENTPIN® Form](#), submit the request for a name correction (must be received prior to your testing appointment) by email to dentpin@ada.org with your DENTPIN® number. 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 your name is reversed (or simply missing a middle name/initial), please send your DENTPIN® and a copy of your government issued ID only.

General Information

What is on the test?

The Dental Admission Test (DAT) consists of multiple-choice items distributed across a battery of four tests: the Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry), Perceptual Ability Test, Reading Comprehension Test, and Quantitative Reasoning Test. The Test Specifications list the topic areas covered in each of the four tests and are located in the [Guide](#).

How long does the test take?

Please refer to the [DAT Guide](#) for detailed information on the administration of the test.

Dental Admission Test	
Optional Tutorial	15 minutes
Survey of Natural Sciences	90 minutes
Perceptual Ability Test	60 minutes
Optional scheduled break	15 minutes
Reading Comprehension Test	60 minutes
Quantitative Reasoning Test	45 minutes
Optional Post Test Survey	15 minutes
Total	5 hours

Where can I find study materials?

The *DAT Guide* includes sample test items and test specifications. [Tutorials](#) are designed to familiarize examinees with the format of the questions on the test.

The Dental Admission Testing Program does not endorse any commercial test preparation courses and has no information on the content or efficacy of test preparation courses designed to prepare examinees to take the DAT. The Department of Testing Services urges individuals considering participating in test preparation courses to review carefully the course materials to ensure that they reflect the current content of the DAT.

The DAT program offers a complete DAT Practice Test. The DAT Practice Test is available in a Web-based format and a print format; both are the 2009 edition. The Web-based DAT Practice Test is a timed test (four hours and 30 minutes in length) which reflects the actual DAT testing time. **If the time expires before you complete the DAT Practice Test, it must be purchased again.** Immediately upon conclusion of the

practice test, the test-taker will receive a printout of the number of correct answers (raw scores). The report includes the total number of items as well as the number of correct responses (raw scores) for each of the four tests and the three sections (biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry) under the Survey of Sciences (SNS).

Before purchasing the Web-based DAT Practice Test, review [general information about the test](#). Also download [Prometric's recommended computer system requirements](#). After your review of both documents, click on the link below and submit the appropriate fee with a valid credit card.

- [Web-based DAT Practice Test](#) 2009 edition

To purchase the print format DAT Practice Test, complete the PDF form below and submit the appropriate fee with a money order or certified check.

- [DAT Practice Test Order Form](#) (PDF) **Print format**, 2009 edition
- [DAT Sample Test Items](#) (PDF) 2007 edition (free download)

Examinees are cautioned that obtaining or sharing confidential, unreleased test content violates test regulations and carries significant penalties. Further, material obtained from sources such as Internet chat rooms, blogs or information-sharing sites may be inaccurate and/or outdated and could mislead or disadvantage test-takers.

Retesting

How long do I have to wait to retest?

You must wait 90 days between testing attempts. Examinees who have tested three or more times must apply for permission to take the test again. In particular, you must demonstrate that you are actively applying to dental school. Please refer to the *DAT Guide* for specific details on this additional eligibility requirement.

If I do not show up on my test day or cancel my appointment, do I have to wait 90 days?

No. If you do not test within your 6 month of eligibility or if you do not show up for your test date, that information is not sent to dental schools and does not count as a testing attempt. A testing attempt is when a student sits for a test at the testing center and has accepted the confidentiality agreement at the beginning of the test.

If you do not take an exam under your application, you can submit an application without any waiting period.

Refunds

Are refunds available?

Test fees are **non-refundable and non-transferable**.

Scheduling a Testing Appointment

When/Where is the DAT offered?

The DAT is administered through Prometric Test Centers in the United States and its territories (Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands), and Canada. Testing appointments are available year-round.

How do I schedule a testing appointment with Prometric?

You will receive an email that contains instructions for how to schedule your testing appointment after your application has been processed. If you do not receive an email, contact the DTS to verify that your application has been processed. Scheduling can be completed by contacting [Prometric](#) or use their Call Center at 800.688.5804.

I called the Prometric 800 number, but I cannot get through. What can I do?

You can schedule at the [Prometric](#) website. Otherwise, please call Prometric when call volume is low. Call volume is higher on Mondays and Tuesdays and hold times are considerably less after Tuesdays. The Call Center is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Prometric says I am not in their system, what can I do?

If it has been more than 48 hours since your application has been processed, please contact Prometric's Candidate Care hotline at 800.853.6769.

Scoring/Score Reports

How is the test scored?

DAT scores are based on the number of correct responses; therefore, examinees are not penalized for guessing.

DAT results are reported in terms of scale scores. The scale scores are neither raw scores (number correct) nor percentiles. Using scale scores it is possible to more readily compare the performance of one examinee with the performance of all examinees. Scores used in the testing program range from 1 to 30. There are no passing or failing scores; a scale score of 17 typically signifies average performance on a national basis.

Each test includes certain questions that play a special role within the testing program. Some questions enable us to place different forms of the test on a common measurement scale, thereby adjusting the forms for any differences in form difficulty level. Because of these questions, examinee scores have the same meaning regardless of the particular test form that was administered. Other questions on the test are experimental and are not scored. The data collected on unscored questions is used in later test construction processes, to ensure that these questions are appropriate before they are included among the scored items.

Is the DAT scored on a curve?

DAT performance is based on an ability-referenced system and reported in standard scores. The test is not scored on a curve. Standard scores provide normative information about examinee knowledge and problem-solving skills, allowing a direct comparison of an examinee's ability with other examinee's abilities.

When will I receive my score report?

Unofficial score reports, generated at the test center, are provided for the examinee upon completion of the test. Official score reports are reported to those schools requested on the application approximately three to four weeks after the test.

If I take the DAT and do not do as well as I would like, can I get my scores voided?

Once you have begun testing, the resulting scores become a part of your permanent record and cannot be voided.

Do I need to select more than one dental school to report my scores to if my selections are AADSAS participating schools?

All U.S. dental schools require official DAT scores for each examinee. Official scores are reported electronically to the dental schools you select on your DAT application. When you select dental schools to receive your official scores, you grant the Department of Testing Services permission to release your official scores to the dental schools you selected on your DAT application.

Additionally, when you select dental schools on your DAT application that participate in a standardized application service (ADEA AADSAS or TMDAS), the Department of Testing Services will report your official scores to the application services. If your DAT application has no dental schools selected, then you have not granted permission to the Department of Testing Services to release your official scores and your official scores will not be forwarded to the standardized application services.

Schools selected at the time of application are included in the DAT fee regardless of the number of schools selected. You can also request that a score report be sent to your pre-dental advisor at no charge at the time of application. The DTS encourages students to select an inclusive list of schools to which you may apply to. **Once your application has been submitted, your school list cannot be altered.**

Requests for additional score reports must be submitted using the score report request available at www.ada.org/en/dat. Additional fees apply to send reports to dental schools or other recipients not selected at the time of application (see the Testing Fees section of the DAT Guide).

How will I know when my Official Scores have been uploaded and are being sent to the schools and ADEA AADSAS?

Go to www.ada.org/en/dat and select My Account on the left hand navigation. Once your Official Scores have been posted by the DTS, a new line titled Date Tested will appear on your Account Summary. This line will inform you of the status (posted) and the exam

date of your DAT. Scores will be sent within 1-2 business days to schools, ADEA AADSAS and alternate addresses on your application or pending score requests.

How will I know if my DAT scores have been imported into ADEA AADSAS?

Your DAT scores will be imported in your ADEA AADSAS application if:

- You indicated when you completed the DAT application that you wanted your DAT scores sent to an ADEA AADSAS participating dental school(s).
- You have entered your DENTPIN® and date of birth in your ADEA AADSAS application.

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 that your scores were imported into your ADEA AADSAS application.

It may take 3-4 weeks from the date that you take your DAT for your scores to be reported to and verified by the American Dental Association, and for your scores to be transmitted to ADEA AADSAS. ADEA AADSAS receives updated DAT scores on a weekly basis, imports them into your application, and transmits them to schools within one week of receipt.

Why have my DAT scores not been reported in my ADEA AADSAS application?

There may be several reasons why your scores have not been reported to your ADEA AADSAS application:

- **Did you select the ADEA AADSAS participating dental schools when you completed the DAT application?** If, when you completed the DAT application, you did not indicate an ADEA AADSAS-participating dental school(s) to receive your official DAT scores, you must visit the [DAT](#) website, and request a score report be sent to the ADEA AADSAS-participating dental school(s). Your scores will then be sent to ADEA AADSAS and imported into your application. A fee will apply.
- **Did you report 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 log-in to your ADEA AADSAS application, go to the “Account Information” section, enter the correct DENTPIN®, and click “Save”.
- **Did you report 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 report 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 two business days to download your scores from the time you update your DENTPIN® and/or date of birth information in your ADEA AADSAS application.

I have not tested yet; can I change the schools that I selected on my DAT application?

No, once your application has been submitted, you cannot alter your school list on your application.

Requests for additional score reports must be submitted using the score report [request](#). Additional fees apply to send reports to dental schools or other recipients not selected at the time of application (see the Testing Fees section of the DAT Guide).

I have tested more than once; can I choose which scores are sent out?

You cannot choose to send any one particular set of scores. The scoring system reports the four most recent sets of scores.

Can I view my scores in the My Account feature?

The Department of Testing Services prohibits reporting scores via Account Summaries.

How do I submit an electronic request for additional score reports?

You may use the electronic score [request](#).

How can I view the schools I have requested my scores to be reported to?

Go to the [DAT](#) website and select My Account on the left hand navigation. Schools selected at the time of application will be displayed in the Applications Details and additional requests will be displayed under the Score Report Requests Details.

Test Center Procedures

What constitutes proper identification for the test?

When you arrive at the Prometric Test Center to take the test, two original, current forms of identification (ID), one primary and one secondary, will be requested and must be presented. The primary ID must be a government issued ID, bearing a photograph and a signature. Examples of acceptable primary IDs (bearing a photograph and signature) are a driver's license or a passport. *At least one ID must have both a picture and a signature.* Examples of secondary IDs (IDs requiring only a signature) are a debit card,

a library card, a credit card, etc. Both forms of ID must be current (not expired).

The name on your primary and secondary IDs must match exactly with the name on your DAT application. If the names on your IDs and DAT 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.

Address or name changes must be submitted in writing to datexam@ada.org or fax to 312.587.4105 at least two weeks prior to your testing appointment. If you have any questions concerning types of acceptable identification, please call the DTS at 800.232.1694.

What can I bring with me into the test center?

No personal or miscellaneous items are permitted in the secure testing area. Any personal belongings brought to the test center must be stored in a designated locker. Storage facilities are limited. Your personal belongings may be inspected. Notes or any materials accessed during testing or unscheduled breaks that appear to contain test content may be confiscated. Accessing personal belongings during an unscheduled break violates Test Regulations.

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, or markers not provided by the testing center. Personal earplugs or headphones are also prohibited.
- b. Slide rules, paper, calculating devices, rulers or other measuring devices (an onscreen calculator will be provided during the Quantitative Reasoning 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, water or other beverages.
- g. Outerwear, such as coats, jackets, gloves, or head coverings (except for religious purposes).
- h. Good luck charms, statues, religious or superstitious talismans.
- 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.

Violations may result in your test scores being voided and a possible two year wait time to retest. Please refer to the *DAT Guide* for more specific information.

The DAT Program reserves the right to withhold, void or invalidate any score when, in our judgment, there is a good-faith basis to question the validity of the scores for any reason. Cause for withholding, voiding or invalidating scores may include, but is not

limited to:

- Unusual answer patterns
- Atypical score increases from one test to another
- Inconsistent performance on different parts of the test
- Improper access to secure test content
- A test administration irregularity
- A discrepancy in, or falsification of, an examinee's identification
- Information indicating that an examinee has engaged in misconduct or violation of the rules and regulations
- Falsification of the examinee's score report
- Any other information indicating the results may not be valid
- Falsification of application information or supportive documents

If it is determined that an examinee engaged in irregular behavior, information regarding this determination becomes a part of the examinee's DAT record. In its sole discretion, the DAT Program may elect to send a summary report documenting the irregular behavior, with a brief statement provided by the examinee immediately following the decision by the DAT Program to report, to legitimately interested parties, including all persons or agencies to which the examinee has instructed that scores be sent, both presently and in the future.

Testing Accommodations

I require accommodations for testing, what do I need to do to receive accommodations?

If you have a documented disability recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require testing accommodations, you must:

1. At the time you submit your DAT application and prior to scheduling a testing appointment check the box that indicates you are requesting testing accommodations. You must submit an application to test **and** the testing accommodation request form **and** the supporting documentation. The process is not complete until you have submitted all three components. You will schedule a testing appointment after your testing accommodation request has been approved. Testing accommodations cannot be added to a previously scheduled testing appointment. If you schedule a testing appointment before your request for testing accommodations is approved, you will be required to cancel the appointment and pay a fee.
2. Submit the following (scanned) documents as one attachment by email to testingaccommodations@ada.org:
 - a. The [Testing Accommodation Request Form](#) signed, and dated, describing the disability and the need 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 the appropriate professional. The document (must be on official letterhead) should include the professional's credentials, signature, address, and telephone number. The report must indicate the examinee's name, date of birth, and date of evaluation. The report must include:
- The specific **diagnostic procedures or tests** administered. Diagnostic methods used should be appropriate to the disability 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**, with an accompanying description of the examinee's limitations due to the disability.
 - A summary of the complete evaluation with **recommendations for the specific accommodations** and how they will reduce the impact of identified functional limitation.
- c. Documentation of any previous accommodations provided by educational institutions or other testing agencies. If no prior accommodations were provided, the professional completing the submitted evaluation report should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodations were given in the past and why accommodations are needed now.

Please refer to the [DAT Guide](#) for further details.