DAT Update for the 2016 Cycle

Dr. Kathleen J. Hinshaw
Sr. Manager, Operations
Department of Testing Services

ADEA Annual Session
Admission Officers and Advisors
March 7, 2015
American Dental Association’s Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) is responsible for policies and issues related to:

- dental licensure
  (includes Committee on Dental Admission Testing / CDAT)
- continuing dental education/CE course listing/ADA CERP
  (CE Provider Recognition)
- specialty definitions/certifying board recognition/requirements/policies
- anesthesia guidelines/policies
- allied dental career recruitment material
- dental/specialty/allied dental education policies.

CDAT oversees policies and procedures of the DAT Program and provides direction to the ADA Department of Testing Services (DTS).
COMPOSITION

Five members appointed based on knowledge/experience of:

- dental education
- dental school admission procedures
- testing

One year term (4 maximum terms)

Three liaisons

- National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP)
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)
- Canadian Dental Association (CDA)

PROCESS

CDAT

- Solicits/reviews nominations
- Makes recommendations to CDEL

CDEL

- Reviews CDAT recommendations

ADA Trustees/House of Delegates

- Approves CDAT appointments
CDAT Committee

Members

Dr. Diane Hoelscher, Chair and CDEL member
Michigan

Dr. Steven J. Filler (2015)
Alabama

Dr. Jennifer Barnes McCants (2018)
Kentucky

Ms. Stephanie L. Perry (2015)
Georgia

Mr. Sean Rowan (2016)
California

Liaisons

Dr. Lewis Reich
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry - Representative

Dr. Euan Swan
Canadian Dental Association - Representative

Ms. Cassandra (Cassie) S. Flambouras
NAAHP - Representative

Dr. Carolyn Booker
American Dental Education Association - Representative.
Foundation upon which the test is built; in operation (nationally) since 1950.

Designed to measure general academic ability, comprehension of scientific information, and perceptual ability. While all dental schools require examinees to participate in the Dental Admission Testing Program, test results are only one factor considered in evaluating the admission potential of an examinee.

Drives:
- Test content
- Administration policies and procedures
- Scoring, Reporting, and Interpretation

Validity studies shown that test scores (in conjunction with academic records) are useful in predicting performance in dental school. The importance in the admission process is determined by each dental school.
DAT Program Operating Principles

- Set/maintain standards for profession.
- Valid, reliable, and credible test.
- Complies with *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*; incorporates industry best practices.
- Uphold security and protection of content/intellectual property.
- Examinees given reasonable opportunity to demonstrate ability/achievement. Opportunity is fair and equitable.
- Cost effective.
## DAT Format and Content

- Computer-based, administered by Prometric
- United States and territories (Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands)
- **Detailed Test Specifications (DAT Guide, page 6)**

### Testing Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Testing Schedule</th>
<th>Number of Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional tutorial—15 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey of Natural Sciences</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual Ability</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional scheduled break—15 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Comprehension</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional post test survey—15 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>280</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes to Test Content

DAT Test Specifications are found in the DAT Guide and outline specific test content details. Any future changes will be outlined within the Test Specifications and posted in December of the calendar year that changes become effective.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURVEY OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES (100 items)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cell and Molecular Biology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origin of life, cell metabolism (including photosynthesis/ enzymology), cellular processes, thermodynamics, organelle structure and function, mitosis/ meiosis, cell structure, and experimental cell biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diversity of Life</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Organization and Relationship of Major Taxa (Six-Kingdom, Three-Domain System) – plantae, animalia, protista, fungi, eubacteria (bacteria), archaea, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure and Function of Systems</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integumentary, skeletal, muscular, circulatory, immunological, digestive, respiratory, urinary, nervous/ senses, endocrine, reproductive, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Developmental Biology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilization, descriptive embryology, developmental mechanisms, and experimental embryology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Genetics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular genetics, human genetics, classical genetics, chromosomal genetics, and genetic technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural selection, population genetics/ speciation, cladistics, population and community ecology, ecosystems, and animal behavior (including social behavior).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes to Test Content: Critical Thinking

- There are many different ways to define the concept of critical thinking. Those definitions often involve the application of cognitive skills such as problem solving, interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and inference.
- Critical thinking is not a specific content area to be mastered, but is perhaps best thought of as a rational, reasoned approach to the processing of information in order to reach conclusions and derive solutions.
- Critical thinking involves information processing, and the type of information that is being processed can vary greatly (e.g., reading comprehension content, quantitative content, science content). In essence, particular content areas provide a platform for the application of critical thinking skills that vary in complexity.
- Critical thinking skills can be assessed either through a separate content section, or through embedding higher cognitive processing requirements within an existing content structure. The DAT Program has taken the latter approach, and chosen to incorporate critical thinking into the DAT’s Quantitative Reasoning Test section.
Changes to Quantitative Reasoning Test (QRT) Specifications

In the 2016 calendar year, changes will be introduced to QRT to incorporate additional critical thinking into this section. Critical thinking will be embedded in the following areas:

- Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Sufficiency (NEW)
- Quantitative Comparison (NEW)
- Probability and Statistics (more items)

Note: while items have been discarded in certain areas (e.g., Geometry and Trigonometry) the removal of these items does not imply that items in the QRT section no longer require knowledge in those areas. Items written in areas such as “quantitative comparison” and “data analysis, interpretation, and sufficiency” can still utilize underlying content in geometry and trigonometry.

Additional information will be posted at: www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test#.
Test Construction

- Ongoing process.

- Multiple test forms prepared annually.

- Both new and previously used items. Items drafted by TCC.
  
  • Review and revise items.
  • Adhere to *Test Item Development Guide*.
  • Ensure accuracy and relevance.
  • Evaluate item quality/performance via item level statistics (item discrimination and difficulty).
  • Select items per test specifications.

- New items are pretested and reviewed. Items that don’t meet standards are revised/retired.

- TCCs suggest content changes. Changes approved by DAT Committee.
## TCC Representation

### Sample Representation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Illinois (Chicago, IL)</th>
<th>Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH)</th>
<th>New Mexico State University (Albuquerque, NM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xavier University (Cincinnati, OH)</td>
<td>Lincoln Land Community College (Springfield, IL)</td>
<td>University of Detroit–Mercy (Detroit, MI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA)</td>
<td>University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC)</td>
<td>University of San Diego (San Diego, CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern University (Chicago, IL)</td>
<td>Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI)</td>
<td>Wingate University (Wingate, NC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wisconsin (La Crosse, WI)</td>
<td>Bemidji State University, (Bemidji, MN)</td>
<td>Seminole State College (Sanford, FL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico State University (Albuquerque, NM)</td>
<td>Randolph College (Lynchburg, VA)</td>
<td>Murray State University (Murray, KY)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Apply for TCC

Quality Control

- DTS quality control procedures:
  - Multiple quality control procedures during test development and publishing.
  - Score audits.
  - Review post test surveys.
  - Major infrastructure improvements:
    - Application and score reporting system (Aptify).
    - Item banking software (Zoomorphix).
Reliability and Validity

Reliability
• Precision or consistency of test scores.
• Permits meaningful descriptions of the abilities measured.
• DAT reliability coefficients within acceptable range and typical of standardized tests and the DAT program since the 1970s.

Validity
• Degree to which the test measures what it claims to measure.
• Evidence supports the use of scores for making a critical decision (e.g. admission to dental school).
• Includes content validity, external correlational, and reliability evidence.
  o Content validity: how well test items cover areas in undergraduate curriculum.
  o External correlational: extent to which future level is predicted from prior test performance (DAT scores and 1st/2nd year dental school grades).
  o Reliability evidence: the precision/consistency of scores.
Test Administration and Fees

- Electronic process; 6 month eligibility.
- Administered nationwide on any business day at Prometric Test Centers.
- 285 professional level testing centers in North America with 5,179 available seats.

https://www.prometric.com/en-us/Pages/home.aspx

### 2015 Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAT includes:</th>
<th>$415</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• unofficial personal report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• official reports to schools, selected at time of application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• pre–health advisor report, selected at time of application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional score report (per entity)</td>
<td>$34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Request</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Testing Checklist

**Make sure these issues do not create problems for you on testing day!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two original, current IDs</th>
<th>Follow instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Photograph and signature government issued ID (driver license or passport; not expired)</td>
<td>• Store personal items in locker and DO NOT access during testing or unscheduled breaks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Signature ID (social security card, credit card, debit card, library card)</td>
<td>• No cell phone use during testing or unscheduled break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Empty pockets.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID name MUST match application name</th>
<th>Testing condition problems; notify test administrator immediately</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Match: Joseph Anthony Smith and Joseph A. Smith</td>
<td>Concerns not resolved must be submitted in writing to DTS within 5 business days of testing appointment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Non-match: Joseph Anthony Smith and Joseph Smith-Johnson (hyphenated last names)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADA American Dental Association®
DAT Monthly Testing Volumes

[Bar chart showing DAT Monthly Volumes from 2010 to 2014. Peaks are visible in August for all years, with the highest volume in August 2014.]
Testing accommodations are offered to those with a qualified impairment/medical condition to offer equal access to testing. Examinees must request testing accommodations with each application, but will not be required to submit additional documentation for the same impairment with subsequent retests. Examinees requesting the same accommodations offered previously by the DAT program need only submit the testing accommodations form.

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, nor provided to additional report recipients.

Submit the following (single attachment) to testingaccommodations@ada.org:

- Testing Accommodation Request Form indicating the impairment/medical condition and the request for accommodations.
- Current evaluation report from an appropriate health care professional. The report should include:
  - Specific diagnostic procedures/tests administered.
  - Results and interpretation of the diagnostic procedures/tests.
  - Diagnosis of the impairment/medical condition, with description of limitations.
  - Recommendations for testing accommodations.
Testing Accommodation Volume
(data is inclusive of 4 out of 5 testing programs)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Reports</th>
<th>Scoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unofficial score report provided at test center.</td>
<td>Based on the number of correct answers provided by the examinee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit procedures conducted.</td>
<td>Number of correct answers (raw scores) converted to scale scores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official scores reported electronically 3 - 4 weeks after testing appointment.</td>
<td>Equating process adjusts for differences in difficulty among test forms and permits comparison of scores over time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrations monitored for irregularities.</td>
<td>Committee on Dental Admission Testing reviews performance to understand trends and potential changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penalties for misconduct and cheating.</td>
<td><strong>DAT Guide, <em>Testing Irregularities and Appeals</em></strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detailed score analysis provided in DAT User’s Manual
http://www.ada.org/~/media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/dat_users_manual.ashx
Frequency Table/Demographic Listing

Frequency Table Schedule:
• Sent to deans
  July – June data, sent 3rd quarter (e.g., September)
  January – December data, sent 1st quarter (e.g., March)

Demographic Listing Schedule:
• Sent to deans
  January – December data, sent in January/February.

Contact Dr. Chien-Lin Yang (yangc@ada.org) for additional questions.
Retesting

90-day wait required between retests.

Three or more testing attempts, must apply for permission to retest and provide evidence of current application to dental school.

Acceptable evidence includes:

- ADEA AADSAS application or
- Rejection letter from a dental school or
- Letter from dental school admission officer/pre-health advisor.
Reschedule Policy

Permits last minute rescheduling.

Contact Prometric directly and pay a fee directly to Prometric.

Contractual agreements require DTS payment for no-show appointments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rescheduling Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day before to 5 business days prior to the testing appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 30 business days prior to the testing appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31+ business days prior to the testing appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday and Sunday are NOT business days</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reschedule and No Show Volume

2014 Total
- Rescheduled appointments: 8,137
- No show appointments: 770
Testing Irregularities and Appeals

Definition of Irregularity: there is a question about the validity of test results accurately reflecting the ability/skills of an examinee.

Reasons for withholding scores include, but are not limited to:

- Unusual answer patterns.
- Atypical score increases from one testing attempt to another.
- Inconsistent performance on different parts of test.
- Improper access to secure test content.
- Test administration irregularity.
- Discrepancy/falsification of personal identification.
- Engaged in misconduct or violation of rules/regulations.
- Falsification of application information/supporting documents.
- Falsification of score report.
- Information indicating the results may not be valid.

Irregularities detection and investigation:

- Testing vendor Irregularity reports.
- Information sources (e.g., anonymous tips, routine audit procedures)
- Conduct investigation
- Take action to applicable regulations/rules; withhold score and wait to retest

Notification/Appeal Process

- Examinee notification; 30 days to submit appeal.
- Appeal received; forwarded to Chair for screening (60 day deadline to respond to examinee with final decision).
- Chair grants/denies/or forwards appeal to CDAT for ballot.
- Examinee notified of decision.
### DAT Examinee Satisfaction Survey Results: Prometric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appointment date</td>
<td>1307</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpfulness of test center staff</td>
<td>1287</td>
<td>67.1</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance of testing system</td>
<td>1284</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promptness in seating them</td>
<td>1296</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test center total testing environment</td>
<td>1278</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total experience of taking DAT</td>
<td>1279</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>50.9</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What?</th>
<th>Where?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counsel with your Pre-health Advisor</td>
<td>Undergraduate academic institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proposed dental school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Guide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAQs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score Reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Accommodations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Checklist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prometric Test Centers</td>
<td><a href="https://www.prometric.com/en-us/Pages/home.aspx">https://www.prometric.com/en-us/Pages/home.aspx</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAQs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice Test - online</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What to Expect on Test Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DENTPIN

DENTPIN Registration
DENTPIN Retrieval
DENTPIN Password Retrieval
Update Your DENTPIN
My Account

About DENTPIN

The DENTPIN (DENTal Personal Identifier Number) is a unique personal identifier for professionals and students involved with the U.S. dental education system and standardized testing programs. If you tested or applied to test, a DENTPIN has been assigned to you and you can retrieve it by selecting DENTPIN Retrieval from the navigation bar on the left.

You must retrieve or register for a DENTPIN from this site and use it to apply to a dental education program or application service, apply to test, or request a score report.

The name on your identification card(s) (IDs) must match exactly with the name in your DENTPIN record. If the name in your DENTPIN record and the name on your IDs do not match exactly, you will be denied admission to testing and will forfeit your testing appointment and fee. You will be required to submit a new application and fee.

To avoid delays in processing your application and score request, be sure that the information you provide to the following programs/organizations is accurate and identical (legal name, date of birth, and DENTPIN).

The following programs use the DENTPIN to identify professionals and students for the confidential, secure reporting, transmission and tracking of test scores and testing data:
Website
Contact Information

Dental Admission Testing Program
800-232-1694
datexam@ada.org

David M. Waldschmidt, Ph.D.
Director
Department of Testing Services
waldschmidt@ada.org

Nicholas B. Hussong, B.S.
Manager, Test Administration
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Kathleen J. Hinshaw, L.D.H., Ed.D.
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