

NEVADA STATE BOARD
of
DENTAL EXAMINERS

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING &
ADOPTION HEARING

JANUARY 22, 2016

9:00 A.M.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS II

PUBLIC BOOK

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Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners
6010 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite A1
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Dear Dr. Tim Pinther,

It is my understanding that the Nevada Board of Dental Examiners has an agenda item to review the ADEX Examination January 22, 2016. I wanted to take this opportunity to summarize the examination to aid in your review. As you probably know, when the Nevada Board of Dental Examiners first considered accepting the ADEX examination, I was asked by the board to testify in the Nevada legislature for the Board which was requesting the change to the Nevada statutes to accept the examination.

Since accepting the ADEX examination, Nevada has been an invaluable contributor to its evolution. The ADEX examinations remain today the most comprehensive initial licensure exams in both dentistry and dental hygiene. It is the only examination, which has a comprehensive, six hour case-based examination in dental diagnosis and treatment planning and medical considerations. It also remains as the only dental hygiene examination that comprehensively evaluates the dental hygienist's professional cognitive skills and judgment in evaluating their patient's in a case-based computerized platform.

ADEX currently has 34 member states, and the examination committee is comprised of over 60 members composed of dental examiners and educators. The examination committee has five subcommittees, restorative, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics, and scoring. Great care is taken to ensure that representation from the examining community, educators, and content experts are represented in each committee.

*Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Fellow of the American College of Dentists
Fellow of the International College of Dentists*

All examination issues are reviewed by independent psychometricians, who are not employees or on salary from ADEX. In fact, ADEX has utilized five different independent testing specialists in an effort to eliminate any conflict of interest in the evaluation of our examinations.

Approximately 2 years ago ADEX began score reporting utilizing the nationally accepted pass/fail reporting system, that the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations also uses. This was done to communicate the psychometric principle that initial licensing exams are not "ranking examinations" and are not constructed in that fashion.

The criteria scoring system has been "tightened" in all performance examinations on the advice of the content experts and examining community. The Prosthodontics Subcommittee has presented a complete revision of the prosthodontic criteria, which is currently being evaluated by the examiners that grade the prosthodontics performance examinations as well as the dental schools, for report back to ADEX in August.

ADEX has been evaluating the feasibility of reducing the criteria levels to two in 2017 so that the criteria would be more transparent reflecting the pass/fail examination. However, following a report from the Scoring Committee, ADEX will continue to grade the "SUB" category for over preparation, as this was determined to be an irreversible error and will therefore continue to contribute to the pass fail status of the candidate.

ADEX has also been improving our calibration system. Our calibration is now a computerized calibration format, which continually changes the images at each examination and for retakes, so that each calibration is new. Examiner performance is recorded and credentialing allowing an examiner to participate in the examination depends on performance at each and every calibration. ADEX has also implemented a rigorous Quality Assurance examiner performance protocol developed in consultation with psychometricians. An examiner performance profile is generated when a statistically significant number of encounters is registered. The profile is constructed so that agreement on "failing" candidates is the most heavily weighted statistic. This process requires the highest specific level of agreement on examiners of any analysis being utilized, to ensure the highest level of public protection. Examiner performance statistics are available to the Chief Examiner in the computer system in real time at all examinations.

ADEX remains the only test development entity that does not benefit in any way from "market share". The ADEX budget is fixed based on the costs of bringing the state dental board representatives and experts to its

meetings to develop the examinations. ADEX realizes no income based on the number of candidates that challenge the examinations. Therefore, ADEX can develop the examinations with out a conflict of interest, which will arise from a system of income that is dependent upon candidate numbers. ADEX develops its examinations for licensure, exclusively based on the input of its member representatives chosen directly by your state dental board.

I hope this information is helpful to you as you review the ADEX examination. Please feel free to contact ADEX at any time if you have any questions, and it would be happy to make a presentation at any of your upcoming dental board meetings at your request.

Sincerely,

Guy Shampaine, DDS
American Board of Dental Examiners, Incorporated (ADEX)
Chief Executive Officer