

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND RULE OF THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF
DENTISTRY
RULE 150-5-.02 QUALIFICATIONS FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Dentistry (hereinafter "Board") proposes amendments to Georgia Board of Dentistry Rule 150-5-.02 QUALIFICATIONS FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS (hereinafter "proposed amendments").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the rule including the proposed amendments and a synopsis of the rule including the proposed amendments, is being forwarded to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on an interested parties list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the rule including the proposed amendments, and a synopsis of the rule including the proposed amendments may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Department of Community Health at 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303. These documents will also be available for review on the Georgia State Board of Dentistry's web page at <http://gbd.georgia.gov/>.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM on November 4, 2022 at the Department of Community Health at 2 Peachtree Street NW, 6th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed amendments. During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcome. To ensure their consideration, written comments must be received prior to October 28, 2022. Written comments should be addressed to Executive Director of the Georgia State Board of Dentistry at 2 Peachtree Street NW, 6th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. You may email your comments to elacefield@dch.ga.gov.

The proposed rule amendments will be considered by the Georgia State Board of Dentistry during its meeting scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM on November 4, 2022 at the Department of Community Health at 2 Peachtree Street NW, 6th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Dentistry has the authority to adopt the proposed rule amendments pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A §§ 43-11-7(5) and 43-11-70.

At its meeting on August 5, 2022, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of these amendments do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed amendments cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A §§ 43-11-7 and 43-11-9.

At its meeting on August 5, 2022, the Board also voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§43-11-7 and 43-11-9 to adopt or implement differing actions for

businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these amendments will impact every licensee in the same manner, and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated and dominant in the field of dentistry.

For further information, contact the Board office at 404-651-8000.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. §50-13-4.

This 30th day of September, 2022.



Eric R. Lacefield
Executive Director
Georgia Board of Dentistry

Posted: _____, 2022

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY
RULE 150-5-.02 QUALIFICATIONS FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS.**

- Purpose:** To expand the number and types of examinations accepted by the Board for the purposes of licensure by examination.
- Main Features:** Elimination of the requirement for a human subject for all examinations.
Expansion of the number of examinations accepted by the Board for licensure by examination.

**DIFFERENCES OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY
RULE 150-5-.02 QUALIFICATIONS FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS.**

NOTE: Struck through text is proposed to be deleted. Underlined text is proposed to be added.

A copy of the draft rule approved by the Board is attached hereto.

Rule 150-5-.02 Qualifications for Dental Hygienists

- (1) No persons shall be issued a license to practice as a dental hygienist unless such person is a graduate of a school or college for dental hygienists recognized by the board and accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or its successor agency. Such school or college must conduct a course consisting of not less than two (2) academic years for dental hygiene graduation.
- (2) All applicants must show passage of all sections with a score of 75 or higher on a psychomotor, patient-based or simulated patient-based clinical examination administered by the board or a testing agency designated and approved by the board. Regional examinations must include evaluations in the following areas:
 - (a) Pocket depth detection;
 - (b) Calculus detection and removal;
 - (c) Intra oral and extra oral assessment.
- (3) The board will only ~~consider~~consider exam results from: ~~examination~~
 - (a) ~~results from~~The Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA) that were attained between February 22, 1993 and December 31, 2005. SRTA retake examination results will be accepted until December 31, 2006.
 - (b) ~~After December 31, 2005, the board will only consider the dental hygiene examinations as uniformly administered by the Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. (CRDTS), or any other testing agency designated and approved by the board.~~
 - (c) Notwithstanding the acceptance of simulated patient-based examinations provided in Rule 150-5-.02(2), after January 1, 2015 the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) dental hygiene examinations as uniformly administered by the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA), the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB), or the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA), provided such examination was taken with a human patient.
 - (d) After _____, 2022 January 1, 2021, the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) dental hygiene examinations as uniformly administered by the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA), the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB), or the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA).

(e) ~~-After January 1, 2021~~, 2022, the dental hygiene examinations as uniformly administered by Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA).

(f) ~~The Board may hold other examinations as may be required and necessary.~~

(4) ~~All~~ Applicants must also pass a jurisprudence examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of dental hygiene in the State of Georgia. Such examinations shall be administered in the English language.

(2) ~~The Board may hold other examinations as may be required and necessary.~~

(3)(5) Any candidate who fails any clinical examination three times must take a remedial course of study designated and pre-approved by the board.

(a) Once the candidate shows written proof of successful completion of the approved course of study, the Board will grant the candidate one additional attempt at successful passage of a clinical licensing examination approved by the board.

(b) After a fourth failure of any clinical examination, no further attempts will be authorized or scores recognized by the board for licensure in Georgia.

(4)(6) The applicant must provide the board with a copy of his or her score showing passage of all sections with a score of 75 or higher on the National Board Examination.

(5)(7) An applicant for dental hygiene licensure must provide the board with the following items:

(a) An official transcript under seal showing the date of graduation and degree awarded from an accredited dental hygiene school certified by the appropriate officials;

(b) A certified copy of the results of the clinical examination given by the board or a testing agency designated and approved by the board;

(c) Copies of score of the National Board Examination;

(d) Proof of current CPR certification;

(e) Copies of any and all National Practitioner's Data Bank reports pertaining to the applicant;

(f) Furnish a criminal background check. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the performance of a background check; ~~and~~

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- (g) Verification of licensure from all states where the applicant has ever held or currently holds a license to practice dental hygiene. All such licenses shall be unencumbered by any past or present disciplinary action; and.
 - (h) In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1, all applicants applying for licensure must submit an Affidavit Regarding Citizenship and submit a copy of secure and verifiable documentation supporting the Affidavit with his or her application.