

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 exam results from:
 - (a) 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 dental hygiene examinations uniformly administered by the Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. (CRDTS).
 - (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 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, 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 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.
- (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.

- (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.
- (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;
 - (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.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2, 43-11-7, 43-11-9, 43-11-70, 43-11-71, 43-11-71.1, 43-11-73.