The issues

- The exam is not valid
  - There is no correlation between success in dental school and passing the exam.
- The exam is not reliable
  - Clinical exams are impossible to standardize because no two humans are the same.
- The exam tests a narrow scope of practice
  - The patient-based exam does not test all areas in which dentists should be knowledgeable.
- The exam does not put the best interests of the patient first
  - Patients will not necessarily receive follow-up or appropriate sequence of care.
- The exam needlessly places candidates in positions of moral distress
  - Candidates may fail the exam due to factors outside their control.

ASDA’s ideal exam

- Does not use human subjects in a live clinical testing scenario
- Is psychometrically valid and reliable in its assessment
- Is reflective of the scope of current dental practice
- Is universally accepted

ASDA believes this could be achieved by:

- Manikin-based kinesthetic assessment
- A non–patient based Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- Submission of a portfolio of comprehensive patient care

Available alternatives

- American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) all-manikin exam, including manikin–based periodontal scaling and restorative procedures utilizing CompeDont™ DTX.
- Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS) all–manikin exam. This exam is an option for the Periodontal and Restorative procedures traditionally administered on a patient.
- Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA) manikin–based restorative skills module using cutting–edge dental products that are highly effective in simulating a live patient’s dental procedures.
- Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) manikin simulation exam.
- Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE).
Dental Licensure

This brochure will explore the issues with the current live-patient clinical licensure examination, share what ASDA's ideal exam looks like, and provide information on available alternatives to the traditional live-patient clinical exam.

Contact advocacydept@ASDAnet.org with any questions